

COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 2022

At 7.00 pm

in the

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, MAIDENHEAD,

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
10.	<u>MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</u> Written responses	3 - 6

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a) Councillor Singh asked the following question of Councillor Bhangra, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Parks and Countryside:

The pond, waterway cascade feature and wooden bridge in Kidwell's Park has been in a disgraceful state of disrepair over 2.5 years now. Previously I have been told that the money has run out to maintain these features, please can the lead member advise if and when these will be maintained, repaired and brought up to the previous high standard?

Written response: *Officers have been exploring options for these features to look at what would be possible to bring them back into use. Unfortunately the cost of repairing the upper pond and associated streams is not something that can be covered. However, following options appraisal for the leaking top pond and associated streams at Kidwell's Park, we are now in a position to have the pond and streams removed. The bottom pond and fountain will remain, still giving park users a sensory water experience while the top pond/streams/bridge which have been out of repair for some time, will be removed and laid back to grass. This is a low cost solution with simpler maintenance going forward.*

b) Councillor Singh asked the following question of Councillor Haseler, Cabinet Member for Planning, Parking, Highways & Transport:

The upper floors of the Broadway car park still remain a no-go area for residents to park vehicles and continue to be closed off due to out of control ASB. Please can you explain in detail what the plan is to deal with this issue and when will the upper floors be deemed safe and reopen for public use?

Written response: *There are currently no plans to reopen the upper floors of Nicholsons ahead of the full closure of the car park due. The closure was put in place in order to protect public safety following two serious ASB incidents where a lump of masonry and more recently a door were thrown from the roof level onto public areas below. This preventative action is with the full support of the police and shopping centre management.*

There is sufficient parking capacity within Hines Meadow to cover this shortfall which will be strengthened by the opening of Vicus Way Multi Story Car Park for daily parking in mid-December 2022.

c) Councillor Davey asked the following question of Councillor Rayner, Cabinet Member for Business, Corporate & Residents Services, Culture & Heritage, & Windsor?

What plans do you have to make the Windsor Town Forum engaging enough for residents to want to attend?

Written response: *The terms of reference for the Town Forums set out that they provide a means whereby the council can consult with local communities including residents, businesses, Parish Councils, Chambers of Commerce, Residents' Associations, etc., any of whom may be invited to attend and contribute to the discussions. The Forum may consider local issues including policing, planning*

consultation, youth services, transport issues, highways, libraries and information services, leisure, heritage and arts, and environmental initiatives.

The meetings of the Windsor Town Forum are scheduled for the municipal year; this means dates are currently available on the website up until May 2023. The terms of reference for the Forum and contact details for Members of the Forum and the clerk are readily available on the same webpage.

In advance of every meeting (which are scheduled every other month) the Communications team promote the upcoming meeting through the residents' newsletter and the council's usual social media channels. Members of the public are invited both to attend the Forum meetings and to submit suggested topics for discussion at future meetings. The suggestions are submitted to the clerk and initially discussed with me as Chairman. I will often correspond directly with the member of the public, ensuring I understand fully the issue they have suggested. I then liaise with the clerk to identify the right officer – or sometimes external partner – to provide a report or a presentation at a meeting.

As we have seen at many previous meetings, when an issue of interest comes before the Forum, members of the public and interested parties do attend, either in person or virtually. I use my discretion as Chairman to ensure those wishing to speak on an issue have the opportunity to do so, but also ensuring a good debate between Members of the Forum.

Each meeting agenda includes an item to allow attendees to consider the work programme for the Forum. Members of the Forum include ward councillors for the relevant area who will be best placed to be aware of issues of concern or interest to their constituents. The work programme item is an opportunity for all Members of the Forum to put forward suggestions that will be engaging for residents and I would encourage Members to do so. I would also suggest Members regularly promote the meetings on their own social media channels and encourage residents to put forward item suggestions and to attend future meetings.

d) Councillor Price asked the following question of Councillor Cannon, Cabinet Member for Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, and Public Protection:

Back in May there was a consultation with residents from the Community Safety Partnership on safety matters, asking for their concerns. The results have not been published. One of the Corporate Plan Values is “working openly and transparently, listening to our residents, communities and partners.” Why has this not been published?

Written response: *The survey that was conducted by the Community Safety team was undertaken to support work needed to create our Local Needs Assessment in relation to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) priorities and was never intended to be published. The results of the survey will help inform where further actions or targeted activity could be identified to the CSP for consideration and/or inclusion under the most relevant CSP priorities and the delivery plan.*

We were also waiting for the resident survey results from the RBWM wide survey conducted by an independent company so we could compare the results for the safety section.

The latest resident's survey shows that:

75% of women feel safe at night (although still the gender gap compared to 89% of men)

27% of residents indicated they are concerned about anti-social behaviour in their local area, 40% are not concerned.

We would be happy to share the results of the Safety survey with anyone that requested it as there is no sensitive information within its content.

e) Councillor Hill asked the following question of Councillor Stimson, Cabinet Member for Climate Action & Sustainability:

Has the Lead Member for Climate Action & Sustainability applied to central government for grant money to install comprehensive air pollution monitoring throughout the Borough?

Written response: Unfortunately, no application was made this year. There were internal discussions with Transport concerning a joint bid with Environmental Protection although the bid would have required a 10% match funding and use of an external consultant to carry out the air monitoring and manage the projects (estimated to cost £150K, although this may have been covered partly or entirely by the grant).

Anecdotally, DEFRA are not keen to award grants for air quality monitoring alone. Successful bids are generally linked to awareness campaigns, usually with schools in conjunction with promoting active travel plans. The council will review future grant funding and consider an application if the eligibility criteria can be met in full.

f) Councillor Price asked the following question of Councillor McWilliams, Cabinet Member for Digital Connectivity, Housing Opportunity, & Sport & Leisure:

Please could you give an update on residents acting as hosts for Ukrainian Refugees in different parts of the Borough, including the current numbers hosted and having left hosts and the reasons why, plans to encourage hosts to continue beyond six months, and what happens to the Refugee family if a host cannot continue?

Written response: There are currently 144 host families, with a total of 318 guests. Since the implementation of the scheme 34 households have left their original hosts

- 18 have returned to Ukraine*
- 5 Relationships between hosts and guests have broken down. (Despite attempts to mediate and support each party)*
- 3 Households have been rematched with other hosts*
- 8 Households have been successfully supported into longer term private rented accommodation.*

The Welfare Officers have developed a very good rapport with both hosts and guests. In many cases Welfare Officers have worked with both parties to ensure support is in

place to extend the relationship beyond 6 months, whilst seeking options for longer term move on accommodation. All options will be considered and discussed prior to any request for temporary accommodation including accessing the funding to support households secure accommodation in the private rented sector. The consistent point of contact for hosts and guests with our Welfare Officers is proving successful, reducing temporary accommodation placements and relationship breakdowns.

The end of a relationship between the host and the guests depends on various reasons that can be complex. The Welfare Team offer a person-centred approach dealing with individual circumstances appropriately. The following outcomes confirm the approach taken if the relationship cannot continue:

- *Rematch with an alternative host*
- *Secure private sector accommodation*
- *Seek support from alternative friends and family*
- *Place into suitable temporary accommodation*

g) Councillor Larcombe asked the following question of Councillor Haseler, Cabinet Member for Planning, Parking, Highways & Transport:

The Datchet Neighbourhood Plan is approaching the finishing line. What are the target dates for referendum and adoption please?

Written response: The Datchet Neighbourhood Plan was submitted for examination on the 10th November 2022 and is currently with the Inspector for consideration. Adoption cannot take place until after a referendum. The Council would hope to hold the referendum at the same time as the Local Elections in May 2023, however the timetable to achieve this is tight and dependent on the data of receipt of the Inspectors report.

h) Councillor Larcombe asked the following question of Councillor Haseler, Cabinet Member for Planning, Parking, Highways & Transport:

How many 5G masts have been erected within the Borough without 'prior approval' permission?

Written response: The Council is not aware of any 5G masts which have been erected within the Borough without following the proper prior approval process set out within the General Permitted Development Order.

Since January 2022 there have been outcomes on 12 applications. Six were approved, five were refused and one was permitted due to the passage of time as set out within the legislation.