

## **Councillor Questions Dated 25 April 2023**

**a) Councillor Larcombe will ask the following question of Councillor Johnson, Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Growth & Opportunity**

After more than four years the ancient ordinary watercourse known as the Wraysbury Drain remains blocked. Under FWMA 2010 RBWM is responsible for this channel. When will RBWM take action to reinstate the flow please?

The Council undertook clearance of part of the channel at the Dive Centre in March 2022. Engagement and enforcement work is currently underway along another section where riparian owners have recently taken action to further clear the channel. The Council provides updates on the work along the Wraysbury Drain at the bi-monthly Flood Liaison Group and will continue to use a range of measures to manage any flood risk associated with the Drain.

**b) Councillor Larcombe will ask the following question of Councillor Johnson, Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Growth & Opportunity**

Parking on pavements and verges looks bad and is a safety problem for pedestrians, prams, wheelchair users and the environment. What action does RBWM intend to take to discourage this problem please?

The council like many local authorities was hoping that the Pavement Parking Bill would pass through parliament which would amend the law relating to parking on verges and footways in England outside of Greater London and in Wales, however this has not yet happened. Without such powers we are unable to enforce against pavement or verge parking unless restrictions are already in place. We are inviting Ward Councillors, Town and Parish Councillors and residents to advise the council of areas that have a particular problem with footway parking so that individual parking restrictions can be considered. To enable this to happen we would need the following information:

- A clear outline of the parking restriction to be implemented/amended including days and times of any restriction must be supplied.
- Evidence that the parking restriction to be implemented/amended is supported by over 50% of all affected residents.
- Evidence that the parking restriction to be implemented/amended is supported by Ward Councillors, Lead Member for Parking and if necessary, the Parish or Town Council.

**c) Cllr Bond will ask the following question of Councillor Haseler, Cabinet Member for Planning, Parking, Highways & Transport**

How many residents have successfully navigated the Ringo system to add the one hour free parking in Hines Meadow or Victoria Street car parks please?

The resident parking discount scheme was extended from 3 April to include Hines Meadow and Victoria Street car parks. During March and April a total of 343 residents have added either Hines Meadow or Victoria Street to their discount permits. There are now 10,456 individual discount permits issued across the borough.

**d) Councillor Bond will ask the following question of Councillor Bhangra, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Parks and Countryside**

Could we have an update please on saving proposal PLA06S (Operational changes in parks) in the budget for 2023/24?

PLA06S relates to

Review of the operation of parks including:

- Provision of public conveniences and / or consideration of charging.
- Closure of gates
- Pets corner on Ray Mill island and whether there are alternative provision arrangements.

Each of the proposals are currently being fully scoped and discussions have commenced with our contractors to ascertain the value of savings which may be achieved. On some areas, further consultation may be required before any operational changes can be implemented.

**e) Councillor Singh will ask the following question of Councillor Haseler, Cabinet Member for Planning, Parking, Highways & Transport**

The Closure of Nicholson Car Park is having a huge negative impact on residents and businesses, leaving many housebound or leaving the town. Please can you update us in detail on the current situation and plans to move forward?

We all acknowledge the impact the current car park closure is having on businesses and individuals, the closure over the New Year was necessary on health and safety grounds due to spalling concrete.

The council has been working with appointed contractors and specialists to fully assess the structure of the Broadway Multi-Story Car Park. It is evident from these investigations that the building has significant defects and reached the end of its usable life, however officers of the council need to carefully consider the available options and associated cost with what happens next. The council has not made any decision at this stage about the car park, A report for consideration will be brought to Cabinet as soon as practicable. Please be assured RBWM will update interested partners and stakeholders as soon as there is information to share.

In light of the closure, we have focussed more attention on raising the standard of cleansing and overall user experience in Hines Meadow. Deep cleansing has been taking place on all levels over the last few weeks with a significant improvement now being seen. The Town Centre Manager, in partnership with the Town Partnership has also been working on enhanced signage at Nicholson's to redirect people and temporary wayfinding to support people's journeys in the town centre.

**f) Councillor Singh will ask the following question of Councillor Haseler, Cabinet Member for Planning, Parking, Highways & Transport**

The promised report and plans for the Town Hall have still not been made available to opposition Councilors or members of the public despite it being petitioned on the issue over a year ago. Please can you explain what the current plans are and why this report is being withheld?

Response to follow

**g) Councillor Brar will ask the following question of Councillor Cannon, Cabinet Member for Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, and Public Protection**

Strande Park has a longstanding license with unchanged conditions including access to the adjacent field and car parking. Residents are deeply concerned as the new owner of the field has taken a drastic action against the licence condition. Will RBWM use all of its statutory powers reinforce the current licence immediately?

Thank you for the question. The Council's Residential Services Team recently visited Strande Park on two separate occasions, one of which revealed non-conformance with the site licence conditions in relation to recreational space, car parking and the felling of trees. The Council have taken action by way of serving a Compliance Notice requiring the site licence conditions are complied with by the new site owner. Once the compliance date on the Compliance Notice has passed, the Council will revisit to determine if the notice has been complied with and will take further action, where required.

**h) Councillor Luxton will ask the following question of Councillor Carroll, Deputy Chairman of Cabinet & Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Health, Mental Health, & Transformation**

Could the Lead Member for Public Health Services please update me on the status of the proposed medical centre in Sunningdale?

Thank you for your question and thank you for your tireless and passionate campaigning on this vital local issue. It is much appreciated and I totally support your efforts and endeavours.

I have continually spoken to our partners in the NHS and they have asked me to relay this update. We would like to reassure residents, our partners and stakeholders, that we continue to be committed to the Sunningdale Health Hub Development to offer the best possible care for patients in a meticulously designed building to meet both present and future health needs. We appreciate the support we have received locally to get us to the point of having planning permission approved. We will continue to update the webpage on a monthly basis - <https://www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk/about-us/transforming-the-way-we-work-improving-services-local-to-you/sunningdale-health-hub/>.

The planning application for the Sunningdale Health Hub was approved in March 2022 by the planning committee of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. As part of the governance around investing public funds an outline business case for the development was submitted at the time. To continue to progress the development, amongst other things, we will submit a full business case, which will need to include a refreshed economic and financial case which is expected to change due to the timeline and market forces on costs of new developments. As with all Public Funding, this business case is still subject to approval both locally within the Integrated Care System (ICS) and also through national organisations such as NHS England and the Department for Health and Social Care. Whilst we focus on the business case, there is now a national pause on the Estates Investment Programme, which locally we have no control over, but we continue to highlight the importance of this facility as an essential to patient care in our fast growing community.

I wish to emphasise that I have raised this issue with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on your behalf and also made representations to The Treasury given the critical importance of this investment for the local community. I am also aware of misinformation being circulated suggesting the council has somehow not been active and proactive in this matter. That is plainly and totally incorrect. I am therefore pleased to set the record straight again and to note with some emphasis this is a vital priority, and we will continue to work with our NHS colleagues to ensure this investment pulls through with some efficiency.