

Responses to Public Questions Council – 21 November 2023

a) Thomas Wigley of Clewer East ward will ask the following question of Councillor K Davies: Lead member for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Windsor Town Council

I understand that air pollution data is being gathered by a specialist company to help inform RBWM's choice of location for the three new atmospheric particulates monitoring stations. Can the air pollution data which is currently being collected be made available to the public please?

Written response:

I am very pleased to advise that the additional sensors to monitor PM10 and PM2.5 are scheduled to be installed in the first week of December 2023. Subject to data collection and validation processes, we will disseminate the provisional hourly datasets online as and when they are provided during 2024. In the meantime, our Annual Status Report (which will contain 2022 data) is available online at: <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/environment-and-waste/environmental-health/air-quality-annual-status-report-asr>. The council is currently exploring whether the independent air monitoring data gathered to inform the choice of sites for the additional sensors can be provided and shared publicly and I will provide you with an update on that once available.

b) Shay Bottomley of Oldfield ward will ask the following question of Councillor Jones, Deputy Leader of Council and Lead member for Finance

The nature of floodlit artificial pitches offer an opportunity for residents to enjoy sporting and leisure facilities throughout the year, and in all sorts of weather conditions. As such, when was the last time the council conducted maintenance for its AstroTurf pitches in Maidenhead, and how much money is allocated to maintenance as part of the current budget?

Written response:

The council agrees that floodlit artificial pitches are important as they provide residents with an increased opportunity to participate in sport and physical activity. Council owned AstroTurf pitches in Maidenhead (at Cox Green, Furze Platt, and Braywick Park/Leisure Centre) are included as part of the leisure contract so we do not pay for or maintain them directly, just for their replacement.

Repairs are financed from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funded Leisure Centre annual maintenance budget or from separate capital bids depending on the specifics. Spend to date since April 2023, has been at Furze Platt which required a complete seam repair to extend the life of the pitch equating to £6,240 (excluding VAT). The pitches within the leisure contract are subject to specialist maintenance work on a quarterly basis in addition to regular tasks undertaken by leisure centre staff.

What's in the budget for maintenance of Astro Turf pitches?

- We directly manage one Astro pitch, this is at Dedworth School. We collect £3.5k of income each year which we use to cover reactive maintenance at the site, an example of which is the floodlight maintenance.*

- *Floodlight maintenance varies depending on bulbs and ballasts needing replacement, annual maintenance paid in 2022/23 was £1,870.28. 2023/24 will probably be more, 3 bulbs and ballasts need replacing at present.*
- *Capital of approximately 450k annually (it can vary) is used for everything required under the Leisure contract terms which is basically anything which breaks and wouldn't fall out if you turned the asset upside-down. As this is for reactive maintenance rather than future planning it is hard to predict what it will be spent on. We have requested conditions surveys for all our Astro pitches to get an up-to-date picture of lifespans and expected costs.*

c) Shay Bottomley of Oldfield ward will ask the following question of Councillor Reynolds, Lead member for Communities and Leisure

Recently, Maidenhead Golf Club emailed its members to confirm it will be required to vacate the site by December 31, 2025. Naturally, the new inhabitants will need sport and leisure facilities for the benefit of their wellbeing. What provisions is RBWM making to ensure there will be adequate such facilities in time for the influx of thousands of new residents?

Written response:

The Council's Sport and Leisure Strategy, Playing Pitch Strategy, and Indoor Built Facilities Strategy are aimed towards identifying requirements across the borough to support sport and physical activity participation. They are produced following consultation with national governing bodies, sports clubs and other organisations and council departments with similar or shared objectives, and include population growth projections and the associated expected demand for facilities. These documents assist the council in working with clubs and other organisations to obtain funding to access, protect and develop existing facilities, whilst looking at opportunities to increase provision in the most efficient and effective manner within legal, financial and other resource limitations.