

Responses to Public Questions for Council 11 March 2024

a) Gerald Hyder, Ascot & Sunninghill ward will ask the following question of Councillor Reynolds, Cabinet member for Communities and Leisure

Windsor is one of the world's most popular tourist destinations. It would be a major blow to visitors and residents, including schoolchildren, if Windsor's prestigious and popular museum (60,000+ visitors per year, and has recently received full Arts Council accreditation) were to close. Would Cllr Reynolds please explain what is being done to ensure they remain open?

Written response:

When this administration took over the council in May 2023 we discovered that the budget for the museum was only funded for that year. Meaning there were no prior plans to pay for the museum past March 2024.

We understand the importance of having a thriving visitor economy in Windsor & Maidenhead, which is part of the reason we're developing a new 5 year visitor plan for the Borough.

We are committed to keeping a museum service within Windsor, and options for the museum are currently being explored with stakeholders. The Windsor and Royal Borough collection is a vital part of our history, and we want to ensure that residents still have access to our local heritage.

We're also exploring how we can get the museum to different community groups.

Contrary to social media reports, since 2020 0 school trips have been booked into the museum. Therefore, we're exploring whether we can send the collection out to schools and care homes so more of our residents can learn about the history of The Borough.

b) Sir Brian Donohoe from outside the borough will ask the following question of Councillor Werner, Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Community Partnerships, Public Protection and Maidenhead

RBWM entered into a £90,000 settlement on 24/11/2006 with a part 20 defendant in consolidation action number WC049023. This protected the defendant from all future liability, and included a non-disclosure clause.

Why does RBWM have a policy which allows such contracts in child abuse cases?

Written response:

I have been advised by the Council's Legal Team that in the case referred to in the question, the Council (via it's insurers and insurers lawyers) settled with a Part 20 Claimant out of court as part of the civil claim relating to the negligent running of Green Field House by the former Berkshire County Council. As is customary in such settlements, the Council agreed to waive all liability for future civil claims and agreed that the details of the settlement would not be disclosed. The Council does not have a policy in relation to such agreements, these agreements being customary during civil claim settlements and being made on a case by case basis.

This Settlement Agreement (including the non-disclosure clause) related to the civil negligence claim only; it did not relate to any criminal prosecution of the Part 20 Defendant

and it did not prevent the Council from providing evidence in relation to the Part 20 Defendant in any criminal proceedings.