

CABINET – 15DECEMBER 2015

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions received from the following Members:

1. Question from Councillor Jean Fooks to Councillor David Nimmo Smith

"White lines are fading or all but invisible across much of Oxfordshire. I am told that the budget for this financial year is already overspent so no refreshing of existing markings can be done for at least another four months or even longer. As these lines and markings were largely installed for safety reasons, it is highly regrettable that they are not being maintained. Would you ask officers for a safety audit to be undertaken as a matter of urgency, before accidents occur which could be attributed to the lack of clear markings on the road?"

Answer

"Your concerns over the hazards posed by road markings not being maintained are very understandable, and priority is given within the limited resources available to refresh markings where the possible safety implications of not doing so are greatest.

In the reports on injury accidents received from the police, information is provided by the reporting officer on the contributory factors they have judged relevant to an accident. The factor relating to 'inadequate or masked road signs or road markings' is in fact selected only in a small minority of incidents (under 1%) and looking over the last 10 years (to 31 October 2015), there is no clear trend either upwards or downwards in the number of such accidents. This data however will continue to be very closely monitored.

Officers are correct in telling you that the budget for this financial year is already spent so no refreshing of existing markings can be done for at least another four months or even longer. That is because they have determined that the best way to stretch their limited resources is to carry out the majority of the re-marking in the summer months when the roads are dry and free from salt and other winter detritus."

2. Question from Councillor John Tanner to Councillor David Nimmo Smith

"The residents in my division would like to thank the Cabinet for the sensible recommendation and anticipated decision to keep open the Redbridge recycling centre in Oxford for the time being. Will Councillor David Nimmo-Smith now reconsider the inconvenient ban on pedestrians from the local area using the centre?"

Answer

"The County Council strive to ensure the Household Waste Recycling Centres are managed to protect the wellbeing of all visitors and operate reasonable and proportionate measures to prevent accidents from occurring particularly where a hazard is identified.

None of Oxfordshire's HWRCs are able to allow pedestrian access because they do not have pavements that provide access, nor dedicated walkways around the site. As such, we are unable to guarantee the wellbeing of visitors arriving on foot.

As part of any future works at Redbridge or if the site is replaced pedestrian access will be considered but not guaranteed."