

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>Can vehicles now park in CPZs in my Division with impunity even when trailers and caravans and not displaying index plates associated with the vehicle towing them?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Following on from Cllr Howson's Question to CMD in July we are still investigating the possibility of being able to enforce existing powers to enable us to take action with regard to non-motorised vehicles parking in Controlled Parking Zones. Officers are speaking with other authorities to ascertain how they deal with similar situations. We will update Cllr Howson by end October.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I have to say disappointed at the slowness of the way in which officers are speaking. This was a matter that I raised originally at a Cabinet in July and it appears we won't get resolution until October. In the same vain, three of the Controlled Parking Zones in my division have been selected by Oxford City Council for a scheme of providing innovative electric charging points. The scheme sounds interesting and innovative, but could the Cabinet Member please explain to me when approval was granted by the County Council as the Highways Authority for this scheme and why nothing was said to either City Councillors or County Councillors about the scheme.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I don't know. It is as simple as that, I didn't have any notice of your question dealing with electric charging points so I couldn't find out that date. I will find out for you and on the question of the parking of trailers and caravans, you have brought it to my attention on many occasions Councillor Howson. There isn't a definition within the regulations that fits, which is why officers are now, you think, too slowly, but they are enquiring about how this matter is dealt with in other authorities. We have not abandoned you, we will come back to you with an answer on both points.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>What is the possibility of the Cowley Branch returning to passenger service in 2019, as has been suggested in some quarters?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>There is no realistic prospect of this service operating next year given the funding and work needed to bring it about, but it is being considered as part of the Oxfordshire Rail Connectivity Study work</p>

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	and remains an important scheme.
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>In terms of the Cowley Branch there has been some publicity in the press that this would be opening in 2019. I think partly sponsored by Councillors on the City Council. In view of her answer could she make it absolutely clear that the Cowley Branch will not now be opening in 2019 and could she give us some date as to when it might open.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Repeating the formal answer to question there is no realistic prospect of it opening next year. That doesn't ignore the fact that it is an ambition of everyone in the Oxford County, Railways, Science Park, everybody wants the Cowley Station. It is a project that has as much priority as funding will allow. I can't pretend that I will know when that funding will be found, but you are quite right to raise it and keep attention on this topic, there is every intention but not yet a prospect of delivering it.</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>What is the current view of the future of Northfield School?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>The current view of Northfield school is that it remains a key school in the provision of specialist provision for the children and young people of Oxfordshire, in particular for those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs and/or Autistic Spectrum.</p> <p>Over the summer we have been working to carry out the essential safety works required to the Northfield school building. There is still work to do before the building will be ready for pupils to return, and this work has not been completed by 05 September 2018, but is still on track for all pupils to return after the October Half Term holiday.</p> <p>We have worked closely with the school's leadership team and the Interim Executive Board to keep the school operational for Term 1 (September – October). This means some alternative</p>

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	<p>arrangements are needed, until the building work is completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a 5-day timetable. • The teaching content for Term 1 will be restricted, with some teaching/activities supported by external providers. • Some pupils will continue to be educated at Hill End. • Some pupils will continue to be educated in temporary classrooms on the Northfield site. <p>We are still planning for all pupils to return to the Northfield school building for Term 2 in October, and continue their education at Northfield school.</p> <p>In conjunction to this work an Options Appraisal has been conducted to secure the long-term future of Northfields school as it is a vital part of enabling sufficiency of places for children and young people who require this provision. The Appraisal Paper along with the SEND Sufficiency of Places paper is being presented to the Cabinet in the coming weeks to secure a decision in relation to the rebuilding of Northfields School.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you very much for the answer. I just would point out that at the Cabinet meeting in June it was agreed that there would be a public consultation on two ways forward. How was that public consultation going to fit in to the paper that is being presented to Cabinet presumably at the next Cabinet meeting to secure a decision in relation to rebuilding.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Councillor Howson. The options paper will come through Informal Cabinet and Cabinet as I understand it. At the moment there is one outstanding option which is way and above any other that we have been looking at and that is to rebuild the school. So we need to discuss with the officers as we take this process forward how we will deal with that but at the moment it looks very clear that we will see to rebuilding on that site.</p>

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<p>4. COUNCILLOR EMILY SMITH</p> <p>When highways work (resurfacing for example) is planned a Road Traffic Notice is published and emailed to local members. But if the resurfacing work is postponed residents and members are not always told. Can the cabinet member please explain the councils process for notifying residents and local members when works are delayed and whether she is satisfied the current arrangements are sufficient?'</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Highway works are undertaken by Ourselves, Developers, or Utility companies and can need to change at very short notice in some circumstances. Formal publication of changes to a Road Traffic Notice does not need take place providing the works and associated traffic management restrictions are undertaken within the period already published.</p> <p>That said, I accept that more can, and should be done, regarding informing local members and residents when start dates or duration of work changes, particularly in regard to county council led works, and is something I have requested senior officers to take action on. In addition, Performance Scrutiny is also looking into Customer Satisfaction with regard to roadworks.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you Chair, I am very pleased that the Cabinet have come round to Liberal Democrat requests to invest more in highway maintenance, but what is the Cabinet Member doing to ensure that the our contractors can deliver on time and that our officers have the additional resources they need to keep communications working well?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>The best I can tell you is that it is noted and I do endlessly request and even require that officers inform local members at least, we don't of course always control the timing of utility works and I think that sometimes the utility works are the ones that cause most problems. They are very disruptive of traffic, they always claim that they are emergencies. I do my best to find out if they really are emergencies, but of course that enables them to work without notification to us and thus none to you. But with our own works we really should do better and I am doing my best to require that it is the first thought that officers have it to inform the local member.</p>