

CABINET – 21 JULY 2020

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions	Answers
<p>COUNCILLOR MATHEW</p> <p>How many trees has Oxfordshire County Council cut down in the last five years and how many of those were replaced. How many new plantings were there all together?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council have had to remove 2297 trees on the highway verge it is responsible for as Highway Authority. This figure includes some trees that have failed during adverse weather conditions (but not necessarily all) or due to factors beyond our control. In that period, the council have planted 75 trees. There has been no funding for tree replacements or new planting.</p> <p>Currently there is no budget allocation for tree planting. The only tree related budget is for Highway Tree Maintenance.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>The east riverbank along the Thames towpath above Osney Bridge behind Abbey Road was beautifully reinforced by the County Council about 10 years ago. It is part of the Thames Path and classed as highway. Unfortunately, in some places the timber has rotted or been damaged and the bank has eroded or been scoured out. It is now quite dangerous in places and I fear that an accident could happen any day. This stretch of towpath is now really popular and well-used, especially by people exercising or avoiding public</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LIAM WALKER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS DELIVERY AND OPERATIONS</p> <p>This stretch of Thames towpath behind Abbey Road is being put forward as a potential scheme to be funded by the DfT Covid Recovery programme under Tranche 2.</p> <p>If funding is secured from the Tranche 2 allocation, work will commence as soon as possible. If not, it will be added to the Infrastructure Operations capital programme and it's priority will be assessed alongside other pending schemes.</p> <p>In the meantime, Officers will continue to monitor the situation and are working with Oxford City Council, who now own this land, and the Thames</p>

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<p>transport. If the temporary bus gates go in, it will be even more heavily used.</p> <p>Please can it be repaired urgently?</p>	<p>Path National Trail team to remove encroaching vegetation to move use away from the river edge and reduce the risk this poses to the public. This section of Thames towpath is well known to us and as the Councillor notes, was repaired using a technique called willow spilling, which was promoted by the Environment Agency at the time but has had mixed results on this highly trafficked route.</p>