

CABINET – 17 DECEMBER 2019

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</p> <p>Noting the recent trials by Skanska, contractors of graphene enhanced asphalt road resurfacing near Witney, on the Oxfordshire County Council website and the cost savings to Oxfordshire County Council thereafter, of the new tarmac treatments - will the Cabinet member for Environment consider the next trials at Warwick Road in Banbury Ruscote. The Cabinet member will note a similar question as parts of the Warwick road continues to fail.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The recent trial using the Graphene material was undertaken at a location that was selected as it was already in the capital programme and was suitable for a trial to be undertaken.</p> <p>Although the issues in Warwick Road are known to officers it is not yet a confirmed scheme in the capital programme. I do note your appetite for a trial within your division, and I will ask officers to note this enthusiasm and progress similar trials if suitable opportunities arise.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</p> <p>Could the Cabinet member for Environment, Councillor Yvonne Constance urgently look at funding a strategy to stop grass verges and areas of land like Prescott close in Banbury Ruscote, being totally ruined by cars or vans in the winter time. Highway officer's hands are totally tied due to the lack of funding from Oxfordshire County Council. I feel long term strategy needs to be considered going forwards in the form of either</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I understand the problems and damage caused by vehicles parking and driving on verges. Unfortunately, given our current budget pressures, this isn't a priority for the highway service, particularly given the often high cost of installing bollards or parking bays. However, where there are specific areas causing a safety concern then officers will investigate to determine if there is a feasible and affordable solution.</p>

Questions	Answers
bollards or parking bays.	
<p>3. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</p> <p>Could the Cabinet member for Environment, Councillor Yvonne Constance urgently look at a different strategy on storm drainage in Banbury Ruscote. Currently FixMyStreet reports are made, quite rightly, by members of the public on blocked storm drainage, to local members for Ruscote or to officers. In essence, what's needed is a whole scale rolling maintenance programme, so that storm drainage gets pumped out yearly by OCC contractors, especially like parts of Warwick Road that has tree proximity, which over time is clogging up storm drainage that with heavy rainfall will consequently flood. Something needs to be done, as we will see more flooding with climate change'.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I am informed that officers are investigating where drainage issues have been reported and ongoing problems recognised. This work will include more than just clearing the gullies, but it will also involve ensuring the system is running effectively and removing any obstructions, such as tree roots.</p> <p>I have also asked officers to ensure that the scheduled gully emptying programme targets areas where there are known flooding issues.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Have you noticed the grubbiness of the road signs in Oxfordshire and do you not think that signs on major roads in the county at least should be cleaned twice a year, to uphold the pride of Oxfordshire County Council?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I agree that grubby road signs can be unsightly. Funding pressures do mean that we cannot clean signs routinely but I can assure you that statutory signs are cleaned when required so that people can move safely around the network. We are already working closely with our District and City colleagues as well as our local communities to see how we can resolve these issues and</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>create a better look and feel for our local towns and villages. We do currently have a number of locations where this is happening across the county, and I am keen to see this approach extended further within a structured and safe working environment.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Should the abundance of commercial advertisements attached to or on OCC property (ie roads/signs) be subject to a monthly charge for use of those assets?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Any commercial advertising does require planning permission and approval from the highway authority to ensure it is acceptable and safe. I agree it is worth exploring charging and will ask officers to investigate this, along with District Council colleagues, as well as looking at how we can ensure that any unapproved commercial advertising is removed. The agency agreement with Cherwell District Council allows the District to undertake the removal of illegal signage on the highways and also for then to manage the advertising on roundabouts in the local area. Where any illegal signage is on OCC property we will remove if the signage does not have the required permission, is inappropriate or deemed to create a highways related safety issue.</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Filming in Merton Street /Oriel Square, Oxford took place over two days in September this year by Pinewood Studios. How much were they charged for freeing of those areas from traffic?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>£3069.75</p>

Questions	Answers
<p data-bbox="203 221 714 248">7. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p data-bbox="203 331 904 587">What discussions did the Cabinet member have with Councillors about the closure of Walton Street, and the possible extension of that closure, between 12th September - the date of her answer to my question on the subject - and the announcement of the extension of the closure for an experimental period of up to 18 months?</p>	<p data-bbox="931 221 1890 288">COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p data-bbox="931 331 2040 437">I can confirm that I relayed the request to consider an extension of the closure to officers, should such an opportunity arise. I was satisfied with this approach as the Experimental Order allows for continuous feedback from residents.</p> <p data-bbox="931 480 2018 660">We are now monitoring the impact of the closure on cyclists and other road users. I am aware that the current closure has caused issues within the Walton Manor area of your division and that Officers are working closely with key residents and other internal teams to try and find a solution to the issues that are being experienced.</p>