

## CABINET – 24 MAY 2022

### ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p><b>1. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</b></p> <p>At the last Cabinet meeting you spoke passionately about trees, and Cabinet endorsed the new tree policy, so I know this question is of significance.</p> <p>During 2019 a vast swathe of council-owned trees was removed by Taylor Wimpey from alongside the highway on the A4155 at Shiplake in order to facilitate a housing development at Thames Farm. There was an obligation on the developer to undertake a major tree replanting programme by 2020. However, due to problems with the site, development has not yet commenced (other than the roadworks) and neither has the tree replanting programme. The consequence of this is that what was a pleasant, leafy rural road is now a bare urban landscape. What pressure can be brought to bear on the developer to commence the tree replanting programme regardless of the problems with the site itself?</p> <p>('Before' and 'After' pics supplied.)</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>Landscaping proposals for the development known as Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, have been approved under Reserved Matters planning application by South Oxfordshire District Council. The planning condition that specifically relates to Landscaping requires only that these works are to be carried out in accordance with approved plans and Landscape management Plan; there is no specific trigger date for this landscaping to be delivered by. Enforcement of planning conditions is a matter for the Planning Authority and unfortunately OCC have no jurisdiction over on-site planning matters in this respect. It is however the case that OCC are concerned about lack of progress and will shortly be writing to Taylor Wimpy in this regard, particularly in relation to the newly constructed access that remains un-used, un-finished and un-adopted.</p>

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<p><b>2. COUNCILLOR FREDDIE VAN MIERLO</b></p> <p>Since the county has taken responsibility for on-street parking offences, how many fixed penalties have been issued? Can the cabinet member provide a breakdown of where these penalties have been issued, and where patrols have taken place?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>The information requested is set out in a table below.</p>
<p><b>3. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</b></p> <p>As part of the bus grant, we are required to find the means of speeding up bus travel. What steps are being taken to ensure the traffic in Frideswide's Square at busy times of day does not prevent buses reaching the Station and the Botley Road from Park End Street due to other vehicles sitting across the non-roundabout circles?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Information on our proposals for core schemes that are likely to impact on traffic levels in the area identified to the west of the city centre and across the city as a whole can be found <a href="#">here</a>. The Core Schemes proposed are expected to improve bus flow across the city, as a result of a reduction in through traffic. Further engagement and consultation is expected to be undertaken over the coming months.</p>
<p><b>4. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</b></p> <p>What steps can the county council take to ensure that inflation doesn't erode the nutritional value or portion size of school meals served in state schools across Oxfordshire?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES</b></p> <p>All of the school food provision in Maintained schools and new Academy schools (since 2015) in Oxfordshire, <u>should</u> be subject to the Government Guidelines set out in the School Food Plan, which came into force in January 2015. These standards specify which types of food should be served in schools and how often, and include the directive that 'Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services' should be adopted when purchasing ingredients.</p>

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	<p>The School Food Guidelines dictate appropriate portion sizes for all food that can be served in both Primary and Secondary Schools.</p> <p>The Government Buying Standards for Food set out the clear technical specifications for food purchasing and production, covering aspects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production, processing and manufacturing Production standards, Traceability, Authenticity, Origin of meat and dairy, Animal welfare, Eggs, Higher environmental production standards, Palm Oil, Fish and Seasonal produce</li> <li>• Nutrition Reducing salt intake, Increasing salt intake, Meal deals, Reducing Saturated fat, Increasing fibre, Reducing sugar intake, Breakfast cereals, Fish, Savoury snacks, Confectionary, Beverages</li> <li>• Resource Efficiency Water, Reducing landfill, Food waste, Energy management, Catering equipment, Paper products</li> <li>• Social-economic Ethical trading, Inclusion of SME, Equality and diversity</li> </ul> <p>The buying standards further include Best Practice standards.</p> <p>I can therefore confirm that for all of the 58 Maintained schools, Nurseries and Academies who are signed up to Oxfordshire County Council's in house catering operation, the</p>

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	<p>rise in inflation will have no impact on either nutritional content or portion sizes.</p> <p>For schools who have their own arrangements with third party suppliers, it might be wise for them to seek a similar assurance from their current meal provider.</p>
<p><b>5. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Highways Management assure me that he will lobby central government for more funding for highway maintenance for Oxfordshire County Council? As I recently received an email from highway officers that Edmonds Road resurfacing was delayed another year due to high cost of materials and funding for the financial year. This is the second time parts of Edmonds Road have had no road resurfacing since the early 1990s when I attended Drayton school.</p> <p>Furthermore roads like Warwick Road also need further road maintenance. This is important for local people cycling and all road users in general.</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>My predecessor wrote to central government on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 making the case for extra funding. Having recently been appointed to Cabinet Member for Highway Management portfolio, I can confirm that I will use this as an opportunity to introduce myself and further make the case for much need additional finding for Highway Maintenance.</p>