



COUNCIL MEETING – 26 February 2020

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Becker

To: The Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management (Cllr Learney)

“Can the Cabinet Member please confirm what progress is being made in respect of the necessary cleaning and protection works for Winchester's heritage assets, such as St Maurice's Covert, the Buttercross and Hyde Gate?”

Reply

“The preservation of our Historical Assets is one of our top priorities. A detailed survey was undertaken at the end of last year for all of our Scheduled Ancient Monuments. From this a repairs strategy will be formulated.

I can provide a specific update on a number of our most important assets.

St Maurice Covert (Tower) – Recently it had been reported small sections of mortar are falling from the Tower from high level. As a precaution the front of the Tower has been cordoned off. A structural survey has been carried out highlighting repairs required which will be subject to a report to Cabinet in due course. .

Wider improvements to the Covert involving the resurfacing of the area adjacent to Market Lane, new street furniture and a drinking fountain are already underway with the remainder of the enhancement works planned for later this year.

The Buttercross - Weekly cleaning of the Buttercross takes place and we are aware that fouling from pigeons is a regular issue.

The recent survey indicated some repair work is necessary and we are currently developing the best approach to take care of this important city centre landmark.

Hyde Abbey Gateway - Again, fouling from pigeons is an issue at this site we are currently reviewing options for improving the protection from pigeons.

In addition, a broader scheme of improvements works is being developed in the form of a landscape scheme which will involve a re-design the public realm around the Gateway by the designers who undertook the public realm works at the D Day Museum in Southsea.

With any work to the Buttercross and Hyde Abbey Gateway it will be necessary to gain a Schedule Ancient Monument consent.”