



COUNCIL MEETING – 20th August 2026

Questions by the Public under Council Procedure Rule 19.1

- Each questioner will have 2 minutes in which to ask their question (or may simply state to “refer to the order paper”). The order of the questions to be asked is as set out below and an officer will direct the questioner to the microphone when their name is called by the Mayor.
- If a questioner who has submitted a question is unable to be present, the Mayor may ask the question on their behalf, or invite another Councillor to do so, or indicate that a written reply will be given and published on the website following the meeting. or decide, in the absence of the questioner, that the question will not be dealt with.
- Please note that following the response given by the Councillor, the questioner may also ask a supplementary question which must arise directly out of the original reply.
- The **total** time allocated for questions will *normally* be limited to 20 minutes.
- Written answers will be published to questions submitted (but not supplementary questions) following the meeting and all members of the public who have asked a question will be notified accordingly.

	From:
1	Sam Parsons
2	Kim Gottlieb
3	Patrick Davies
4	Andy Craig
5	Mike Thorpe



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City Council

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QUESTION 1

From: Sam Parsons

To: Cllr Becker (Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities)

Before approximately £740,000 of public funding is committed to a commercially operated Reformer Pilates facility, can the Cabinet Member explain what engagement the Council undertook with existing local providers, why no open process was undertaken to invite alternative proposals or partnership models, what assessment was made of the proposal's impact on existing provision and the wider local economy, and how the Council has satisfied itself that the decision-making process has been sufficiently transparent to maintain public confidence that all reasonable alternatives have been properly considered?



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QUESTION 2

From: Kim Gottlieb

To: Cllr Becker (Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities)

Nearly a decade ago, I was a non-voting member of the committee that was set up to oversee the design and development of the new leisure centre. A concern raised at the time, and since, was the overall financial picture. This concern was raised for several reasons, not least because in the previous 40 years the Council has never made a penny out of the River Park Centre. All the Council ever did was to pour large sums of money into River Park. Yet it still ended up with something that was in such poor order, the most logical solution was to build a new sports and leisure centre.

After the contract with Everyone Active was signed, I half joked that the Council was sitting on an £80 million 'time bomb', which was roughly the full extent of the Council's potential liability including capital expenditure and interest payable in the years ahead.

From memory, the Council was not expecting a positive cash flow, in terms of income over interest, until around the 10th year of the contract. I don't know if this is still the case, but a further concern was what would happen when the present contract expires. By then Bar End might seem a little run down and outdated, as happened with River Park, and the operator would be in a strong position to renegotiate terms.

The Council is now proposing to vest another large sum of the public's money into Bar End. There are separate questions to be answered as to whether this is an appropriate use of CIL monies, and why all the other sports facilities in town are not being subsidized in the same way.

But my question is,

Would the Council, before it spends any more money on Bar End, please make public the complete financial picture of the project, to include all the money it has spent and borrowed from the outset; all the monies it has received, and its financial projections for the years ahead. This is all the public's money, and the public is entitled to know how, for good or bad, it is being used.



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QUESTION 3

From: Patrick Davies

To: Cllr Becker (Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities)

Why is the Council proposing to allocate around three quarters of a million pounds of CIL money for a particular and exclusive use at the Winchester Sports and Leisure Park and how is this decision consistent with its agreed policies for the timing of such allocations and the fair distribution of CIL funds?

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QUESTION 4

From: Andy Craig

To: Cllr Becker (Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities)

Sport Winchester (Winchester Community Sports Alliance), is a local charity, representing over 25 sporting clubs and organisations across Winchester, who collectively have over 10,000 players, members and volunteers within these clubs. Our objective is to constructively work with all stakeholders to increase the provision of sporting resources and facilities, and to increase participation across all ages, abilities and levels throughout and for the healthy benefit of our community. Sport Winchester actively and positively supported the council in the preparation of the recently completed Pitch Playing Strategy report published in March this year. This comprehensive research document clearly identified community sporting resource needs and is fully incorporated within the recently published Local Plan.

Our question therefore is

Why has the Council Cabinet chosen to use £740,000 (33% of available) CIL funding to adapt an existing good facility into a wellness and Reformer Pilates centre, which is not identified or mentioned once within the 2026 Pitch Playing Strategy report which was incorporated into the Local Plan, rather than use the funds to support and create new additional sport facilities that are clearly defined and needed within the Pitch Playing Strategy report?



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QUESTION 5

From: Mike Thorpe

To: Cllr Learney (Cabinet Member for the Climate and Nature Emergency)

I belong to Safer Limits on Winchester's Roads — known as SLoWR. A community group made up of residents from across the city. We live in different areas of Winchester, but we found we were all facing the same problem.

Due to Winchester's historic nature, many of the roads and pavements in the city are narrow and were never designed for today's volume and speed of traffic. When vehicles travel too fast, or leave too little space, walkers, wheelers, and cyclists are put at risk.

SLoWR exists to change that. We're campaigning for appropriate speed limits. We're pushing for enforcement and awareness of the limits we already have. And we want to see more action from Hampshire County Council, in partnership with Winchester — so that everyone who lives, works, and visits Winchester can do so safely.

Winchester City Council allocated funding at the start of this financial year to conduct a Speed Indicator Device feasibility study in 20 sites across the city. We have representation from across the city and know that residents strongly support introducing SIDs to help make traffic safer. The positive impact of SIDs is well evidenced.

Please can Winchester City Council provide an update on what actions have been completed so far in the SIDs feasibility study and when the study will be completed?