



COUNCIL MEETING – 25 September 2019

Questions by the Public **under Council Procedure Rule 15(1)**

- Each questioner will each have 2 minutes in which to ask their question. The order of the questions to be asked is as set out below and an officer will pass a microphone to the questioner when their name is called by the Mayor. There is a timer at the front of the meeting room which will count down the 2 minutes once the questioner has started to speak.
- 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 question or the reply.
- The total time allocated for questions will *normally* be limited to 20 minutes.

Questioner

- 1 Brian Sowter
- 2 Dr Mike Warwick-Sanders
- 3 Ruth Wardell
- 4 Patrick Davies
- 5 Paul Andersen
- 6 Beccy Read
- 7 Ian Tait
- 8 Bill Bullen
- 9 Iona Maclean
- 10 Alison Dudgeon
- 11 Rupert Pitt
- 12 Elizabeth Harrison
- 13 Jaimie Mills
- 14 Steve Pagani
- 15 Lesley Cranham
- 16 Don West
- 17 Gordon and Julia Clyne
- 18 Sarah Gooding
- 19 Giles Gooding
- 20 Edward Mills



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QUESTION 1

From: Brian Sowter

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“I would like to add a couple of suggestions which would add to the already good work of reducing traffic in the centre. Park and ride, increasing public transport, clean air days etc. Efforts to promote the use of electric cars however could be increased by the following:

1. Provision of a small number of electric only car spaces in the central car parks in the same way as we have disabled spaces. Charge points are not necessary for this idea which is simply to get the message across that we need to minimise air pollution in the city centre. I think most shoppers would be charging their cars at home. The number needs to be small to start with and could be increased perhaps eventually to 100%.
2. Provision of signage at pollution hot spots asking people to turn off their engines instead of idling.
3. Provision of overnight slow charge points in permit parking areas. This can be done using bollards and lamp posts. 50 such charge points have already been provided in Portsmouth and many more in several London boroughs. The finances of this are not too horrendous particularly as these points produce a revenue stream.

It is essential that there is publicity associated with these actions. I believe that even the majority of motorists do not realise that city air quality is a problem for many of us.”



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QUESTION 2

From: Dr Mike Warwick-Sanders

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask these questions to the council. I would be most grateful if you could address the following:-

1. Why are all new dwellings in Winchester not required to have a zero lifetime carbon impact? Solar panels, home batteries electric heating/cooling and electric car charging are effectively cost neutral to install at time of development. Heating bills can be in the low 10's of pounds annually for homeowners (not £1000+). Builders and planners do not understand the technology available to heat and power homes sustainably. They build homes in the same way they always have done - seemingly because doing so doesn't affect their business model currently.
2. Why has Winchester Council not applied for funds from central government for on street parking infrastructure? All householders should be able to charge their car overnight even if they do not have an off street parking space. If Winchester City Council has declared a climate emergency but not used the funds available from central government to put charging points in the streets around the city, this could rapidly be remedied. Current charging infrastructure can retract into the pavement when not in use, not inconveniencing pedestrians.”



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QUESTION 3

From: Ruth Wardell

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“I would like to ask a question related to where I live. I live at Micheldever Station.

There is currently a proposal that south west trains would like to buy some of the land that is currently a green field site and turn it into a car park. With your wish to improve the Environment and be more green, how is destroying the natural environment which is identified as an area with an important biodiversity logical.

I understand the need for people to be able to park their cars to use the train. But there is already a car park and this is not the solution. Is there really a need for an addition 150 car parking space? I think this should be based on need and not greed. It doesn't make sense to encourage more people to drive their car to the station. I think that a more environmentally solution should be looked at. Such as a bus service. Or parking for car sharing. There are many proven ways to encourage people to reduce there carbon footprint without destroying our environment and replacing it with a car park.

I look forward to hearing your reply on this subject. We need to protect the environment for our children not destroy it.”



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QUESTION 4

From: Patrick Davies

To: The Leader of the Council (Cllr Thompson)

“Why was the first meeting of the new Station Approach Open Forum arranged for 16 September, four days AFTER the scheduled Planning Committee at which outline planning permission was being recommended which would settle the size, height, scale and fundamental principles of development and therefore prevent any meaningful public involvement in the future of this area?”



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QUESTION 5

From: Paul Andersen

To: The Leader (Cllr Thompson)

“Is the Leader of the Council, and any Cabinet Member, willing to explain to the Winchester electorate the reasons for their confidence in the statement below taken from Winchester City Council's documents for the proposed office development of Station Approach?”

‘The Economic Case for the development prepared by Grant Thornton in March 2019, submitted with the outline planning application, sets out that the total benefits generated by the scheme are estimated to be between £199,824,101 and £799,296,404. They estimated that the office space could deliver between 760-1234 direct annual FTE jobs and the retail space could deliver between 18-24 direct annual FTE jobs.’



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QUESTION 6

From: Beccy Read

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“The height of the proposed development on the Carfax site, agreed at the Planning Committee 12th Sept., will trap within Gladstone Street carbon monoxide produced by its air conditioning units and the queues of traffic waiting along the length of the Street for the City Road lights to change. The impact of this will be a significant increase in pollution levels in both Gladstone Street and other neighbouring residential streets.

My question is:

How can the new Lib Dem City Council justify the building of such a monolithic structure on the Carfax site, currently open plan, and the consequent removal of many carbon-consuming mature trees, having put the Climate Emergency firmly at the top of its list of urgent issues?”



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QUESTION 7

From: Ian Tait

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

“Has any consideration been given to re-introducing a committee which can deal specifically with matters relating to the Council’s housing stock and New Build Program rather than any relevant items being dealt with through a variety of other committees?”



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QUESTION 8

From: Bill Bullen

To: The Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing (Cllr Porter)

“Energy Efficiency in Homes

Winchester has a particularly high proportion of homes that have listed status. This presents a considerable constraint on the ability of residents to make their homes more energy efficient. I have recently had a planning application to improve the energy efficiency of my home turned down because it involved taking off plaster from the inside of the walls.

Whilst I understand the desire to maintain our heritage, I think this has to be tempered with ensuring that we have a housing stock fit for purpose in the twenty-first century. I think it is essential to change the guidelines on which planning applications for listed buildings are judged.

If you are serious about becoming carbon neutral, some difficult decisions need to be made, and they need to be made soon.”



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QUESTION 9

From: Iona Maclean

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“Is there scope to introduce community composting schemes, especially for residents without access to a private garden?”



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QUESTION 10

From: Alison Dudgeon

To: The Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing (Cllr Porter)

“Will your new Local Plan ensure that local residents are more important than students? And pending the outcome of the review, will you suspend any further expansions in student accommodation developments? ”



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QUESTION 11

From: Rupert Pitt

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

“Winchester City Council says that that it will build right homes in the right places. Good, but I feel there is something profoundly wrong with the housing market. Would not the City Council be better off considering the state of the housing market generally as well as building council houses.

Below is a letter I am just about to send off to the Chronicle which outlines an analysis of the housing market, I hope you can read this to consider reforming the housing market as well as building council houses. They are all interrelated.”

Dear Mr Sutter

There are important areas of our lives involving necessities which are making the rich richer, and the poor poorer.

In the Times Aug 20 this article appeared “House price growth is slowing but buying still beats renting”. To quote

“The monthly cost of paying the interest on a new mortgage is now 62 per cent lower than renting, according to Capital Economics, a research consultancy. It found that the average monthly rent for a property was £859, compared with the £323 average monthly interest on a new mortgage.

In comparison, between 2010 and 2018, the average interest on a mortgage was 55 per cent lower than the average rent. Paying the interest on a mortgage in the 2000s was only 27 per cent cheaper than paying the rent.”

There is something wrong in this. If you are rich enough to buy a house it is cheaper than renting, and you will receive your money back on the sale of the house. However if you cannot afford to buy a house you loose the money you pay in rent. In Winchester the average cost of renting a room is from £400 to

£500 a month so you lose approximately £6000 a year. This is grossly unfair on those who are not rich enough to buy a house.

The housing market is not a free market unlike say Computers, cars or clothes where you can usually buy what you can afford. The housing market is a rigged market as supply is limited by planning laws.

What is needed are stable house prices and I believe that Professor Danny Dorling of Oxford University has written a paper showing the prices in Berlin did not rise for 30 years.

There should be a tax on the gain in house prices, it has not been earned, as the seller of the property has not earned this money, he has relied on the purchaser borrowing more money. There is already a tax to pay on the gain in share prices, why not on property?

The money raised should be spent on social housing so those who are not rich enough to buy a house do not lose their earnings in paying rent.



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QUESTION 12

From: Elizabeth Harrison

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“As part of your Greenest campaign, please can you consider banning the use of LEAF BLOWERS? They blow leaves about into piles but the wind does this. Leaf gathering is an excellent form of exercise.... & can even be fun if done with others! Finally they use unnecessary energy whether rechargeable electric (originally from fossil fuel) or directly fossil-fuel powered.

For larger amounts of leaves, I believe that the council uses vacuum-bag type leaf-gatherers (e.g. Billy Goat) which at least end up with the product achieved.”



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QUESTION 13

From: Jaimie Mills

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“I live in Teg Down and am often caught in the terrible traffic around Stockbridge Rd and Chilbolton Avenue. I am still somewhat surprised that the planned changes to Andover Rd were signed off, the partial closure/diversion through the new estate and also the reduction of the speed limit on that diversion to 20 mph (if I have understood the proposals correctly). I do not understand why one of the major arteries in and out of the City will be purposefully changed to create a bottle neck. The traffic along that road is already horrific and this will just make it worse. Especially given the crazy number of houses being built in Barton Farm, as this will mean an influx of an equal amount of new cars in the area (2,000 plus maybe)?

What I suspect may happen is it will just encourage more people to clog up the Stockbridge Road route, as people try to bypass the changes and head out to the A34 via Littleton/Harestock. So rather than improving traffic in and out of the City, it will inevitably be made worse.

I do understand the idea of the closure is to encourage the people of Barton Farm to integrate and be part of Harestock and Fulflood. Encourage people to walk their children to school etc but I think it is poorly considered. The distance is just a little too far, especially given the weather in the UK for half of the year. We have friends in Barton Farm and they drive most everywhere, with no plans to change.

I appreciate the plan is to build another out of town car park/bus service there but I would suggest that most people in this day and age live such a rushed life they will inevitably prefer to drive. Myself as an example, on a Tuesday and Friday I drop my children at school (Western) and then have to get into Basingstoke for 9:30. I would love to be able to walk them to school, walk home and then make it into work but it is simply not possible.

Then also imagine my horror, reading the plans to add another huge influx of housing, after the closure of the nearby army base, and all the additional traffic that will bring too. I appreciate we need more housing but it needs to be more considered and the infrastructure improved alongside of it. If this is not possible, doesn't that suggest the number and scale of housing is not appropriate – this type of building approach will kill what makes Winchester such a lovely place to live.

Apologies if I rambled slightly, getting to the point, what is the chance of the road closure being reflected on? Could a bridge be a better solution? Is it really necessary to slow/restrict traffic out of a major road?"



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QUESTION 14

From: Steve Pagani

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“Mine is simply on recycling. We in Winchester seem to recycle far less than other parts of the country. For example, our friends who visit from North Wales -- a far less affluent area -- are amazed that we cannot recycle yoghurt containers, and Tetrapak juice or milk cartons, among other things.

Can we make some more progress on this please -- time is of the essence.”



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QUESTION 15

From: Lesley Cranham

To: The Cabinet Member for Local Economy (Cllr Weir)

“I would comment that Winchester is just managing to look well tenanted shop wise. It would be crazy to introduce any further retail premises, as empty shops would make the city look depressing like so many other cathedral towns appear these days.

Building residential property would make sense.”



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QUESTION 16

From: Don West

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“What plans does the council have to make the city cycle friendly?”



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QUESTION 17

From: Gordon and Julia Clyne

To: The Cabinet Member for (Various)

“1. Please do not close the river park leisure centre when the new one at Bar end opens. There is more than enough demand for both.

2. Please allow solar panels on grade 2 listed buildings especially if they can not be seen from the ground (e.g. princess court at the end of St peter street) allowing a case by case basis is a good idea, not a blanket ban.

3. The weeds on city centre streets are making the city look shoddy, especially parchment st, upper brook st, middlebrook st, and around friars gate, (understand it is to be renewed but when!!)

4. Do we have enough police on the streets?, especially late at night when the late clubs spill out and the drunks kick over bins and basically know they can break things for fun at that time of night.

5. Drugs and begging. We all know the usual suspects here begging on the streets, and then using their mobile phones to arrange drug deals. As a tourist destination, Winchester needs to do better to police the spots in town like the passage from the butter cross to the cathedral, the wall between Raymond Blancs and the discovery centre, and a few other choice places.

6. Loose paving stones. All over the city there are loose, cracked and wobbly trip hazards especially inside the one way system area, and many of the curbs at some of the tight turns like the left turn at the top of St george Street, and the right turn from jewry st into north walls where heavy trucks have minced the pavements are a menace to our visitors.”



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QUESTION 18

From: Sarah Gooding

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“I would like to ask about reducing carbon emissions from transport in the district:

The Winchester movement strategy fails to go far enough to tackle the climate emergency and has not yet been implemented. What steps are being taken to reduce overall carbon emissions from transport within the city and in the wider district and by how much will emissions be reduced in the next 3 years? In particular, what concrete measures are being taken in the next 12 months to ensure a shift in the number of journeys under 3 miles made by public transport, on foot and by bicycle; how many miles of segregated cycle lanes are being built; how many pedestrian schemes will be undertaken; and how will you ensure that residents in the district are able to use public transport every day of the week to get to work, school and for leisure purposes?”



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QUESTION 19

From: Giles Gooding

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“Since Winchester City Council has declared a Climate Emergency the environment should be top of every agenda and central to every decision the Council makes. Can you confirm that every time a decision is made the council will evaluate the environmental cost and how they will mitigate that cost?”



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QUESTION 20

From: Edward Mills

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

“How will a Winchester Housing company solve the housing crisis in winchester and not build more unaffordable homes that people who have been born and raised in Winchester can buy or rent?”