



COUNCIL MEETING – 26 February 2026

Questions by Councillors under Council Procedure Rule 19.1

- Each questioner will have 2 minutes in which to ask their question.
- 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 Leader, a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair, the questioner may also ask a supplementary question which must arise directly out of the original reply.
- The **total** time allocated for Councillor questions will normally be limited to 40 minutes.
- Written answers will be published to questions submitted (but not supplementary questions) following the meeting.

	From Cllr:
1	Langford-Smith
2	Rutter
3	Warwick
4	Clear
5	Bolton
6	Murphy
7	Batho
8	Cunningham



Winchester
City Council

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QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Langford-Smith

To: Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan)

In April 2025 I met with Cllr Tod and discussed some significant enforcement issues in Denmead. On one of them, an enforcement notice was issued in 2018, nothing has progressed on that case, nor seemingly any of the others since.

Across the District residents are outraged at the lack of enforcement – cases include new habitable accommodation in the countryside, the tarmacking of fields and change of use of land from uses suitable to a countryside location.

This is a blight on our precious countryside and threatens our strategic gaps. Most of us comply with the rules and apply for planning permission, however, there are those who don't which makes a mockery of the planning system.

What are the administration doing to ensure compliance, protect our chalk streams and clean up our countryside?



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QUESTION 2

From: Councillor Rutter

To: Councillor Reach (Cabinet Member for Good Homes)

How is the plan to bring on board new Council Homes in Kings Barton going, and how many are expected to come through by the end of next year please?



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QUESTION 3

From: Councillor Warwick

To: Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan)

The City Council closed its call for Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) sites outside of the South Downs National Park area in November last year. When will the list of submitted sites be available to members?



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QUESTION 4

From: Councillor Clear

To: Councillor Becker (Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities)

Would the Portfolio holder please provide an update on recent progress on River Park Pavillion. I would be grateful for any information.



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QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Bolton

To: Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan)

How can the Council claim to be 'protecting' the River Itchen when it fails to even monitor the level of nutrient pollution pouring into our rare chalk stream from 15 of its own 17 sewage works?

By refusing to measure the 'poison' entering the water, the Council is operating in a data vacuum; yet it still has the audacity to sell 'nutrient credits' to developers to build 70 more homes. Will the Portfolio Holder stop hiding behind estimates, commit to immediate water quality testing at every council-owned sewage treatment works, and publicly release a 'League Table of Polluters' so residents can finally see the true impact of these 15 neglected assets on the environment?"



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QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Murphy

To: Councillor Reach (Cabinet Member for Good Homes)

Winchester City Council declared a climate emergency back in June 2019, an action my late wife Councillor Lynda Murphy was very proud to have championed. As a council we have taken many steps to reduce our carbon footprint. A key action for carbon footprint reduction is the retrofitting of our Council housing stock. These retrofits also have additional benefits in reducing the living costs of our residents. Can the Cabinet member provide an update on the progress that has been made with the retrofit, and the plans we have in place for the rest of the retrofit programme.



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QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Batho

To: Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan)

How does Winchester City Council respond to speculative development?



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QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Cunningham

To: Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan)

The allocation SS01 in Sutton Scotney for up to 60 homes is being included in the final version of our Local Plan Review. It was included without any proper consultation with the Parish Council or local residents and even though evidence was provided that an entirely different site would be acceptable. The developer needs 120 homes on the site to make it viable, which would add an unsustainable 20% more homes to the village. Can the portfolio holder provide any reassurance that our planners will be able to resist an application for 120 homes that the developer wants to put on this site if the allocation is only for 50-60?

