

Item 4:

Public Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 2 September 2021.

Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.

(a) **Question submitted by Nigel Foot to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education:**

"Can West Berkshire Council say what measures they taking to provide free, or minimal cost, structured activities for the young people of Newbury?"

(b) **Question submitted by Ian Hall to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

"Excluding the cost of land provision from Newbury Rugby Club , what figure has been allocated for construction of stands and facilities and do the councillors consider that this represents good value for money , when weighed against any CIL payments from the existing pitch?"

(c) **Question submitted by William Beard to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:**

"Government has changed public procurement to only place contracts with companies with a published carbon reduction plan. What plans do WBC have to do something similar?"

(d) **Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

"Does the statutory duty of the Council under Section 41(1) of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the highway still apply if works are carried out on a part of a highway by a contractor or under a Section 278 agreement?"

(e) **Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:**

"If the council does set up its own housing development Company do you envisage that this would entail the sale or transfer of Council owned land to this Company?"

(f) **Question submitted by Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture:**

"Following the council leader's comments about questions from the public (February), when will there be an improvement to the format of questions to the council or executive, or an alternative way for the public to question the strategies or decisions of the council."

(g) **Question submitted by Vaughan Miller to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

"How much did the recycling centre permit scheme and booking system cost to create and what is the annual cost to administer it (including cost of officer hours)?"

(h) **Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:**

"Is there any reason for the difference in treatment of a formerly empty and now partially empty council investment building in Newbury park and that of an empty building in Faraday Rd?"

(i) **Question submitted by Mrs.Sam Coppinger to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

"I am concerned regarding the unacceptable increase in traffic movements at night. Please can the council confirm the details of any hours of work planning restrictions for 20 ton aggregate tipper trucks operating out of Membury Airfield Industrial Estate (MAIE)?"

(j) **Question submitted by Bridgette Jones to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

"Has WBC assessed the cumulative impact of the recent Western Area Planning Committee Decisions and developed a critical infrastructure master plan for Membury Airfield Industrial Estate (MAIE) that includes: road networks & traffic, all environmental issues-air, light and noise pollution, the localised flooding, drainage, power and connectivity to meet the council's climate change and sustainability policies?"

(k) **Question submitted by Nigel Foot to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education:**

"Can West Berkshire Council say what measures they have, or are, putting in place in schools to help teaching staff identify struggling students and whether they are training up volunteers to act as mental health support staff, to provide help for these students?"

(l) **Question submitted by Ian Hall to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

"Why has there been no measuring of the water table on the existing football pitch?"

(m) **Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

"Why have the works to install two sets of dropped kerbs on Henwick Lane in Thatcham not been completed in over a year, when there is no impediment to them being completed?"

(n) **Question submitted by Mrs Sam Coppinger to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

"Is the council confident that planning officers have sufficient experience and relevant qualifications to give accurate screening opinions on the LRIE and Membury Airfield Industrial Estate (MAIE)?"

(o) **Question submitted by Bridgette Jones to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

"Has the council any concerns on the Membury Airfield Industrial Estate (MAIE) that developers are avoiding the requirement for an EIA by salami slicing applications - for instance, the tarmac batching plant development?"

- (p) **Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

“Which party is contractually responsible for arranging the moving of utility poles needed for the completion of the pavement on Henwick Lane to the north of Henwick Worthy field, which has also not been completed in over a year?”

- (q) **Question submitted by Nigel Foot to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

“Could the Members of the Executive tell me which body is responsible for the removal of dead trees, branches and other debris, that has fallen into the River Kennet as it passes through Newbury from the Red Lock area in Northcroft to the west, through to the Newbury Marina area in the east?”

- (r) **Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

“Does the Council have a written policy or standard for the assessment of the state of maintenance of pavements, and does the assessment include the Council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people (including those using wheelchairs) as well as safety?”