

Item 4:

Public Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 6 July 2023.

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 Gareth Beard to the Portfolio Holder for Climate Action, Recycling and Biodiversity:

"What top three environmental improvements is the Liberal Democrat Administration going to deliver on top of the existing environment strategy. When will the improvement materialise and what benefit will it have on the West Berkshire Environment?"

B. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Engagement:

"The Bond Riverside website May 23 states Ardent are putting final touches to their SUDs plans. How can you design SUDs without a surface water management plan?"

C. Question submitted by Brandon Mosconi to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:

"It's no secret that we are in need of more housing. However, new housing must be sustainable, dense, and close to amenities to reduce already dire traffic, increase active travel, and affordability of homes. Therefore, will the council commit to looking at brownfield areas close to town centers, such as the LRIE, for dense housing rather than extending suburbs out into our green spaces and forcing those living there to use cars?"

D. Question submitted by John Bibbings to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:

"What additional infrastructure has been planned for the new houses at the end of Speen Allotments."

E. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Growth and Strategy Development:

"The West Berkshire Council Website, with respect to "Bond Riverside" updates, stated in May 2023 that: "Following a review of the programme Hemingway Designs have been given an extended 3 months to produce the final placemaking report. This will allow for a better integration with other ongoing council strategies such as Parking".

Please can you confirm:

a) That the Hemingway Designs brief has been amended to reflect that the Football Ground at Faraday Road will remain as a football ground with the associated stadia?

b) The cost (if any) associated to the Council of this 3-month extension.

c) That the final placemaking report will be delivered in August 2023?"

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F. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Deputy Leader, Governance and Transformation:

"On the day of submission of this question, the WBC Forward Plan did not include the Executive Item relating to a New Sports Pitch at Manor Park Newbury which had a Public Consultation, the results of which have never been FULLY Published yet the Consultation has been archived, therefore when can we expect the results of the further work due in Spring 2023 to come onto the Forward Plan for an Executive Decision please?"

G. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Growth and Strategy Development:

"When using a drainage strategy to develop the LRIE that incorporates third-party land downstream being used to store urban runoff, and that land is subject to man-made property flooding in a one-hundred-year storm event. Please can the Council give a cost estimate of implementing its current policy EX4219 London Road Industrial Estate Project Refresh "3 Implications and Impact Assessment, Financial: The site currently has a book value £9.2 m (as at 32.3.2021) with an annual income from the site of £0.4m pa" together with its current policy EX3978 London Road Development options "Recommendations 2.1 a. a phased approach option to development of the site with an overall vision for the development as a whole"?"

H. Question submitted by Gareth Beard to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:

"What improvements to rural electric vehicle charging (ie rapid charge points) does the council envisage over the next four years?"

I. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Growth and Strategy Development:

"In what way (if any) are the plans for the regeneration of the LRIE different from the previous administration?"

J. Question submitted by John Bibbings to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:

"What new car parking arrangements are being made for the loss of parking in Station Road."

K. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:

"My question relates to Agenda item 10. "Call-In of Executive Decision EX4332: Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement". Why does the report not acknowledge the fact that the retention of the Faraday Road site as a football Ground / Stadium (which is the new administration's declared policy) replaces the need

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for the Newbury Sports Hub and the need for additional grass pitch (at Manor Park/ Linear Park)?”

L. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Climate Action, Recycling and Biodiversity:

“The proposal to use the Manor Park ANGS – Accessible Nature-based Green Space (with no buildings) – was to provide a football pitch lost elsewhere, which no longer applies as Saturday & Sunday League Football is returning to Faraday Road (Paul Hendry announcement of 21st June 2023), therefore please can we keep this space to enhance BIODIVERSITY, as part of the Local Nature Recovery Network for this part of North Newbury, thus helping to mitigate the loss of a next door Greenfield at the Coley Farm Housing Development?”

M. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council:

“Question for Executive meeting 6th of July 2023. Agenda Item 10. Please can the Council confirm which members of the OSMC and / or the Executive read and approved the EX4332 report before it was published? (Call-In of Executive Decision EX4332: Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement).”

N. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:

“The council has said it will be using a herbicide on the Faraday rd pitch can the council name this herbicide and confirm it contains none of the following chemicals which if used incorrectly are dangerous to the aquatic environment Glyphosphate, Imazapr and Triclopyr?”

O. Question submitted by John Bibbings to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:

“Could a loading only parking spot be created, in Station Road as burning is not allowed and heavy loads can be involved with waste and gardening equipment? Many of the gardeners are 80 years old +”

P. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:

“My question relates to Agenda item 10. “Call-In of Executive Decision EX4332: Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement”. At the OSMC meeting on 20th June 2023 the justification for the upfront spend for the “Newbury Sports Hub” of £4.128 Million (£3.878M + £250K for additional costs) was to fulfil the No 1 Priority of the PPS (which as minuted). Why is there no reference to the No 1 Priority of the PPS in this report?”

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Q. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Growth and Strategy Development:

"A recent Update Announcement on the Bond Riverside Regeneration Project, which was not replicated on the WBC Main LRIE web page, states: 'Arden have begun putting together the final drawings and locations for the SUDS environmental improvements, ready for work to begin later this summer'. As the Clayhill Flood & Drainage Warden and currently the lead on these aspects until a handover can be achieved, I have not been kept informed on these developments, therefore how do they fit into the WBC SFRA (2022) Requirements for the whole of the lands within the red lines of the Regeneration Site to have a full Flood Risk Assessment and a whole site (old LRIE) Surface Water Drainage Strategy? Nb. SFRA Level 2 – Appendix B Pages 105-109 refer"

R. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:

"Does the executive realise that pedestrianisation and car parking charges has been bad for the small businesses in the town centre. Are you serious about causing further damage to the local economy by extending pedestrianisation?"

S. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:

"The recent much welcomed Announcements of the Return of Football at Faraday Road and a video on the preparation of the Sports Pitch (Paul Hendry announcement 21st June 2023) fails to mention how the Rest of the Requirements within the 'Return of Football at Faraday Road Project Implementation Plan' will be undertaken by very early in September 2023 so please can the Portfolio Holder outline who will manage the Plan and how the Changing Rooms, Showers/Toilets, Fencing, Connections to Sewage & Surface Water Drainage might be achieved in the Timescales, together with how the Land outside the pitch area, which is part of the bigger Public Open Space, will be maintained and enhanced for Nature Recovery given that it includes an SSSI Buffer Zone?"