

Cabinet

Meeting date: 11 July 2023

Public Questions (2 total)

1. Question from Mr Steven Thomas to Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Councillor Alisha Lewis

Cheltenham 2030 details very radical plans to completely change the town in a way that has never been seen before. I see as well there are considerations to turn Cheltenham into a ULEZ like Bath and Birmingham. Please detail the consultations that you have carried out with the general public and where you have obtained their consent.

Response from Cabinet Member

This particular issue falls outside the jurisdiction of the Borough Council, as we are not the designated highways authority. Those powers are held by Gloucestershire County Council, to whom this question might be more constructively addressed. It is not currently the intention of Cheltenham Borough Council to lobby GCC for such a scheme. Instead, our discussions with our colleagues at the County Council revolve around enhancing local cycle infrastructure, delivering EV charging infrastructure, and ensuring the provision of reliable low-cost bus services that align with the needs of Cheltenham's residents and businesses.

Cheltenham Borough Council is committed to promoting sustainable travel options and is working collaboratively with our residents and partners to achieve our goals. We are proud of the projects we are currently leading on in this area, including our upcoming town centre Cycle Hub. We have consulted extensively with the public on this scheme, including a survey and a survey results social event hosted in partnership with Cheltenham Zero. We were delighted to share the constructive work we are undertaking to support sustainable travel, from EV chargers to staff cycling schemes, at our recent Sustainable Travel Showcase.

2. Question from Mr Steven Thomas to Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling and Street Services, Councillor Iain Dobie

Has the sewage leak into Pittville Park lake been addressed, which has killed lots of fish? Have you spoken with the water company that is likely responsible for causing this to ensure it does not happen again?

Response from Cabinet Member

There has not been a sewage leak into Pittville Lake.

Recently we experienced a spike in fish deaths due to climatic conditions. The long dry spell we had, combined with brief storms, caused sudden oxygen loss in parts of the lake. The 'splash aerators' that we have in the lakes to help oxygenate the water minimised these losses.

Simultaneously, the Environment Agency (EA) reported an unprecedented number of similar occurrences across the country.

Our Green Space team subsequently mitigated the situation by extending the time periods that the splash aerators were in operation.

This is a complicated matter and is not one which the council can address single-handedly. The high temperatures that we experienced in June (the highest since records began in 1884) are very likely linked to climate change.

We will continue to work with the EA and, where appropriate, Severn Trent Water, to try to minimise the issues highlighted.
