



# CHELTENHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Notice of a meeting of Cabinet

**Tuesday, 7 July 2020  
6.00 pm**

**Virtual WEBEX video conference via YouTube -  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/cheltenhamborough>**

<b>Membership</b>	
<b>Councillors:</b>	Steve Jordan, Flo Clucas, Chris Coleman, Rowena Hay, Alex Hegenbarth, Peter Jeffries and Andrew McKinlay

## Agenda

<b>4.</b>	<b>PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS</b>	(Pages 3 - 6)

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**Public Questions (1 total)**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Question from Mr G. Li to the Cabinet Member Finance, Councillor Rowena Hay</b>
	I run a small business based at St Paul's medical centre, and missed my local government discretionary grant application window. What kind of help or redemption can you provide me with?
	<b>Response from Cabinet Member</b>
	<p>This Council received funding of £1,128,000 to design a discretionary grant scheme to support local businesses. The scheme was designed jointly with Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury councils.</p> <p>Like other Councils we anticipated demand would be high and would exceed the limited funding available. The scheme was therefore open for applications for a limited period between 9th and 21st June 2020.</p> <p>Unlike the earlier grant scheme the discretionary grants were aimed at businesses that are not business ratepayers. As we didn't have details of these businesses and where they are we weren't able to contact them directly so publicity was done via press releases, social media, the BID, LEP, MPs office and the Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>Cabinet agreed on 9th June that it may be possible to open another application window if any funding remained once all applications had been assessed and grants awarded. This won't be possible as the funding has now been allocated</p> <p>I wish we had the funding available to help Mr Li and the many other businesses that still need help but unless the Government give us additional funding we are not able to consider any more applications.</p>

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**Member Questions (1)**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Question from Councillor Bernard Fisher to the Leader of the Council, Steve Jordan</b>
	<p>Recent 'visits' by Travellers breaking into Swindon Village Playing Fields, threats being made to residents, court action, bailiffs, low loaders and clean-up of the site, have cost the Council a great deal of money.</p> <p>Would you look at the following solution? That boulders be placed around the grassed area to enable access on foot, but not for caravans. Local residents and visitors could use the car park and have access to the open space, but caravans would not be able to be sited on the fields.</p> <p>While this would require a relatively small investment, the resulting saving in bailiffs, court action, police presence, officer time and clean-up would be saved many times over.</p>
	<b>Response from Cabinet Member</b>
	<p>The car park already has a robust low level metal rail around its outer edges, and a locked gate onto the grass for Ubico vehicles. In addition to this the car park entrance off the highway has a height restriction barrier with boulders placed either side. Any further placing of boulders will have the effect of restricting access to the site by Ubico maintenance vehicles, and also emergency vehicles such as ambulances that may need access to the pitches from time to time. Following the last traveller occupation of the playing field, officers have installed more secure locks, as it appears they had been able to remove the previous ones despite there being a steel shroud welded around one of them.</p>

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