

Council - 19 October 2015

Member Questions (12) – a response to all questions will be given at the meeting

1.	Question from Councillor Harman to Cabinet Member Finance, Councillor Rawson
	Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on whether there is any progress with regard to the North Place Site and whether any Car Parking Spaces can be secured for the important Christmas period?
	Response from Cabinet Member Finance
	Add response here
2.	Question from Councillor Harman to Cabinet Member Finance, Councillor Rawson
	Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on the Plans announced in his budget on improvements to the Royal Well Bus station, shelters and public facilities?
	Response from Cabinet Member Finance
	Add response here
3.	Question from Councillor Harman to Cabinet Member Corporate Services, Councillor Walklett
	I attended an event on 8th October, also attended by the Mayor other Civic Leaders and many Business leaders, recognising the importance of our Reserve Armed Forces which also encouraged Employers to support members of Staff who volunteer for the Reserves of The Royal Navy, The Army and the Royal Air Force. Can the Cabinet Member inform Council how many of our staff are currently serving in the Reserves and what policies the Council has for supporting them and encouraging others to serve.
	Response from Cabinet Member Corporate Services
	Add response here
4.	Question from Councillor Wilkinson to Cabinet Member Clean and Green Environment, Councillor Coleman
	In the light of the recent missed bin collections in the St Stephen's Road area, would the cabinet member for clean and green environment please explain the process undertaken by Ubico and the county highways contractor when roadworks may prevent bins being collected? What can be done in future to ensure residents are not inconvenienced when highways works clash with bin collection days?
	Response from Cabinet Member Clean and Green
	Add response here
5.	Question from Councillor Wilkinson to the Leader, Councillor Jordan
	I'm sure all members will welcome the news that John Lewis has announced it will open a shop in Cheltenham. Please would the leader of the council outline the role of the borough council in bringing this flagship retailer to town?
	Response from the Leader

	Add response here
6.	Question from Councillor Savage to Cabinet Member Clean and Green Environment, Councillor Coleman
	For Chris Coleman: "Has the Council considered installing bins in public spaces for recyclable as well as general waste?"
	Response from Cabinet Member Clean and Green Environment
	Add response here
7.	Question from Councillor Payne to Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles, Councillor R. Hay
	<p>As a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group that reported on the relocation of the Shopmobility Service I am very disappointed at the Cabinet decision on 15th September to re-locate the service to the Horse and Groom, in St George's Place.</p> <p>This location fails to recognise the criteria put forward by the staff and current users of the facility. It is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not a town centre location - it does not provide ready access from buses - it does not have easy access from parking facilities for the disabled. <p>The proposed location does not provide a sufficiently high profile that would attract third party providers to support the service.</p> <p>There is no mention in the proposal that the reception area of The Wilson would provide a portal for the service, something the Task Group believed The Wilson was keen to pursue.</p> <p>The consequence of the chosen location will inevitably lead to a reduction in the number of customers, a fact that was highlighted in the Community Impact Assessment.</p> <p>This decision will disadvantage vulnerable members of our society, and says little about Cheltenham's commitment to make Cheltenham an accessible place for tourists.</p> <p>My question is this, giving that the number of customers has been in decline, and will with this relocation decline further, at what point will this administration say, enough is enough and withdraw support for the service.</p>
	Response from Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles
	Add response here
8.	Question from Councillor Fletcher to Cabinet Member Development and Safety, Councillor McKinlay
	Following the excellent news that John Lewis is locating to The Beechwood, which I believe will bring shoppers from adjoining counties and beyond to Cheltenham, isn't now the right time to consider lowering our parking charges both in our car parks and 'on street' parking in negotiations with Gloucestershire County Council. These charges are considered by many to be extortionate, and surely we want to encourage more visitors and shoppers to Cheltenham?

	Response from Cabinet Member Development and Safety
	Add response here
9.	Question from Councillor Regan to Cabinet Member Clean and Green Environment, Councillor Coleman
	<p>Will the Cabinet member ensure our streets and paved areas are regularly cleaned of chewing Gum which encompasses the whole of the town centre and inform us when the last time chewing gum was cleaned off our streets?</p> <p>Will the member agree it is ugly, unsightly, and that spitting out gum is unacceptable?</p> <p>Is he aware that the whole pavement length of the promenade outside our prestigious shops is covered in discarded gum?</p> <p>Will he approach the manufacturers for funding towards removal of this unpleasant habit?</p> <p>Can he look at the possibility of installing Gum Bins?</p> <p>*Pictures attached below.</p>
	Response from Cabinet Member Clean and Green Environment
	Add response here
10.	Question from Councillor Wilkinson to Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles, Councillor R. Hay
	Please could the cabinet member for healthy lifestyles make a statement on the appointment by Cheltenham Poetry Festival of a Poet in Residence for Cheltenham?
	Response from Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles
	Add response here
11.	Question from Councillor Lillywhite to the Leader, Councillor Jordan
	<p>Question for Steve Jordan following his recent comments in the Echo;</p> <p>Why would John Lewis want Boots Corner closed? It is the principle access to their proposed Car Park for the majority of Cheltenham's population, possibly 70% of which live south of the High street.</p> <p>The alternate route through Rodney Road is also likely to be severed by a 'rising bollard'. So that 'dispersed' traffic does not travel along the High Street to Winchcombe Street, at 'Thomas Cook Corner', a far greater severance than Boots Corner with a much higher impact on the new store.</p> <p>Will he please outline how traffic that would have used Boots Corner would now reach the new store from the South of town, specifying road names.</p>
	Response from the Leader
	Add response here
12.	Question from Councillor Lillywhite to the Leader, Councillor Jordan
	The Council leader refers to 'The County's endorsement' of the Transport Plan.

	<p>Had he attended the Cabinet meeting he would understand in no uncertain terms and direct from Mark Hawthorne, their leader, that they do not approve and were going to throw it out as the Traffic Authority were unable to answer so many of the questions formally raised and opposition was so strong. However, they were stopped by the last minute interjection of 'strong voices from the Cheltenham business community'. They had to fashion a means of implementing it in a conditional, phased manner each one subject to the 'success' of the last.</p> <p>The 'strong voices' were of the Brewery Scheme developer and a spokesman for the Chamber of Commerce, who claimed 99% support, which is yet to be substantiated despite requests.</p> <p>The impression the leader has given to the general public in his statements regarding the 'Counties endorsement' is misleading, is he intending to correct this?</p>
	Response from the Leader
	Add response here





Pictures in reference to Question 9