

# Council

Meeting date: 20 February 2023

## Member Questions (2 total)

### **1. Question from Councillor Tim Harman to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets, Councillor Peter Jeffries**

Can the Cabinet Member update Council on the Minster Gardens Project following the closure of one area as reported in the local media.

#### **Response from Cabinet Member**

The Council's main contractor identified some remedial works required to the stone circle. This involved taking up and relaying a section of the circle, the hope was that the existing stones could be reused but this was not possible, hence a new delivery of stone had to be cut from the quarry. The circle will be re-opened as soon as the new stones have been laid, which expect to be completed in the next few weeks. There is no additional cost to the Council.

### **2. Question from Councillor Emma Nelson to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets, Councillor Peter Jeffries**

Will the Cabinet Member confirm the plans for the site of the former Taxi Hut site by the Royal Well Bus Station? Recent media reports indicate that the site is currently being rented out to a developer working on revamping business properties close by. How long will this somewhat unsightly use be in place and what plans does CBC have for developing the site which is, I believe, in the Conservation Area

#### **Response from Cabinet Member**

In October 2021, the taxi rank hut in the Royal Well which is land owned by the Council was demolished. At this time, the Council were undertaking a review of car parking income as the town emerged from the pandemic which fed into the clear strategy in the 2022/23 budget to reduce our reliance on this income stream. This is also aligned to the Corporate Priorities around carbon net zero. At this time, the Council were approached by a developer looking for some land nearby to a vacant commercial premises which they were looking to refurbish. The Royal Well was well placed to meet this request and support the growth and recovery of the town's economy post pandemic whilst also providing a stable rental income stream for the Council's general fund in the short term. Negotiations are ongoing with a small local business to bring the site back into use as a private car park in support of their business.