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# **Council Meeting**

18 June 2019

**Booklet 1**

Written Answers

1.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor T Mayer**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetheron, Cabinet Member for City Services**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Could the Cabinet Member provide per year since 2012 the number of city centre businesses provided parking dispensations that have been provided at nil cost and the volumes of parking dispensations issued at nil cost within the city centre boundary, not including Coventry University or the Belgrade as these were published recently?”

**ANSWER:**

Our records date back to 2014 (as opposed to 2012).

*[A parking dispensation waiver is issued when a vehicle has to be parked for longer than permitted or in a restricted area. Reasons could include emergency works, building works and essential renovations where it is necessary to have the vehicle nearby. Parking dispensation waivers are not issued for parking in disabled bays or on zigzags (including school Keep Clear markings), bus stops and taxi bays.]*

Our records show the following volumes of permits were provided free of charge for use within the city centre since 2014, (exc' Coventry University and Belgrade Theatre)

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of waivers issued F.O.C for use in city centre</b>
2014	7
2015	8
2016	5
2017	31
2018	22
2019 (to 31 May)	3

Please note:

1. Our records do not show if the organisation to whom the waiver was issued is based in the city centre.
2. The above information excludes waivers issued to Coventry City Council vehicles, Whitefriars Homes Maintenance vehicles and vehicles used by other utility companies (e.g. Severn Trent, Western Power Distribution, BT Open Reach, Royal Mail, British Gas etc.) for the

purposes of carrying out essential services.

3. The above information also excludes waivers that have been issued to delivery vehicles for the purposes of loading / unloading whilst accessing commercial businesses within the city centre and to two elected members with mobility issues so that they can park near to the Council House.

2. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor T Mayer**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Can the Cabinet Member confirm the data being used in the Appy Parking App is correct and that the locations drivers are being advised to park in ensure they are at no risk of a PCN for parking in the wrong place?”

**ANSWER:**

We were aware of an issue with the data relating to a shared use bay in Spon Street (i.e. a parking bay that becomes a taxi rank from 6pm-8am). The data has recently been corrected by AppyParking and we are not aware of any other issues with the data.

3. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor T Mayer**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Over the past few years, Coventry Council has periodically erected a-frame parking signs directly in front of the approach to Gosford St bus gate. Please can the Cabinet Member advise why the signage continues to be placed there? They were used again at the Motofest weekend.”

**ANSWER:**

The Motofest signage is erected by a contractor employed by Motofest and not the City Council. The City Council does not periodically erect A frame signs in Gosford St: University Open Days are signed by a contractor employed by the University and not the City Council.

4. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor T Mayer**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor AS Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Can the Cabinet Member confirm how many PCNs were issued per day at Gosford St bus gate between Monday 27th May 2019 and Wednesday 5th June 2019?”

**ANSWER:**

The following is the number of PCNs issued on each of the days in question at Gosford Street bus gate:

<b>Date</b>	<b>PCNs</b>
Monday 27 May 2019	9
Tuesday 28 May 2019	6
Wednesday 29 May 2019	4
Thursday 30 May 2019	4
Friday 31 May 2019	0
Saturday 1 June 2019	0
Sunday 2 June 2019	0
Monday 3 June 2019	9
Tuesday 4 June 2019	7
Wednesday 5 June 2019	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>

For context, the rate of issue (excluding the Motofest weekend) is in line with the average issue rate of 55PCNS per week over the last 6 months.

5. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor D Skinner**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor J O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Could the Cabinet Member update us on the progress of development at Tile Hill Railway Station?”

**ANSWER:**

The City Council is working closely with Transport for the West Midlands [TfWM], who manage the station car park, to develop proposals to improve the facilities at Tile Hill.

Designs are being prepared for additional car parking at the station which, subject to land availability, will provide around 250 extra spaces and will reduce the impact of overspill parking on the surrounding area. The scheme is also looking to include enhanced interchange facilities for local bus services calling at the station.

The City Council and TfWM are working together on possible designs, with the aim of proposals being brought forward for planning approval during 2020.

6.

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Lepoidevin**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor T Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

- a) How many community asset transfers have taken place in the last 2 years?

**ANSWER:**

There have been two community asset transfers that have taken place in the last 2 years - Canley and Foleshill Community Centres, this was on the back of the approval obtained in the Connecting Communities Cabinet Report Phase 1 dated 23 February 2016.

- b) “Prior to an asset transfers taking place, what consultation takes place with current stakeholders, ward councillors and the community?”

**ANSWER:**

If the property/asset already has a sitting tenant in place and has requested an asset transfer, no consultation takes place with the community, but ward Councillors / stakeholders are notified of the request. This was the case in particular with Canley Community Centre.

On the basis that Cabinet/Cabinet Member approval has been obtained to seek ‘expressions of interest’ on an empty asset, Council officers within Property and Community Development work in-conjunction with stakeholders, ward Councillors and the community. This includes

making the whole community aware that the property is available, via advertising on social media, emailing contacts on the database and erecting boards on the property. Ward Councillors are notified and asked to comment and the community can also visit the property/asset accordingly. This process was conducted and carried out on Foleshill Community Centre.

7. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Williams**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor J O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Would the Cabinet Member tell me what his plans are for the Friargate area and could he tell me which businesses we have in Friargate and which ones are likely to come in the future?”

**ANSWER:**

Following the creation of the Friargate Joint Venture in January this year we are currently working on bringing forward the second commercial building, a hotel and the first phase of residential buildings. As Councillor Williams is aware CCC, Homes England and the Financial Ombudsman Service are present at Friargate. In addition we are in talks with other organisations who have expressed an interest in the site but we are not at liberty to name them due to commercial confidentiality.

8. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Williams**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor T Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

““Could the Cabinet Member update the chamber on how we are progressing on the *Selective Licensing* proposals for private landlords?”

**ANSWER:**

The Consultation has now been completed and officers are in the process of preparing a report setting out the findings, which will be submitted to Cabinet in due course. No decision has been made at this time.

9. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor G Williams**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor T Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“a) What support was given to the Priory Visitor Centre from the Council over the past few years?”

**ANSWER:**

The Council holds the Priory Visitor Centre and Undercroft under two separate long leases from Coventry Cathedral.

In 2015, following the closure of the Centre due to savings approved by the Council, my colleague, the Cabinet Member (Community Development, Co-Operatives and Social Enterprises) invited community groups and organisations to register their interest in managing the operations of the Centre. A successful Expression of Interest, submitted by Inspiring Communities, led to the formation of Coventry Priory CiC – a Community Interest Company established to run the operations of the Visitor Centre and Undercroft.

Through the Community Interest model, the CiC generated a small surplus in its first year, with a start-up grant funding from Coventry University and support from Lottery funders. The Council agreed to cover all service costs in relation to the ongoing operation of the Centre for the first 12 months and has provided other in-kind marketing support through the Visit Coventry website and team.

b) What is his vision for the Priory Visitor Centre as we come nearer to the City of Culture year?”

**ANSWER:**

Both the Council and the Cathedral see the Undercroft and the archaeological findings uncovered in this area as representing a very important part of the city’s heritage and history. There is widespread interest in the operations of the Centre and we know there are innovative ideas for its future use. However, in recognition of the historical importance of this area of the city, the Council is firstly, and rightly, in early stage discussions with the Cathedral about the future operating model for both the Centre and the Undercroft. Both parties see these spaces as providing an important part of the story of Coventry in the lead-up to and during 2021. We are therefore keen to see the Centre attract visitors and host a cultural programme of events over this time, if a sustainable business plan can be developed through these early conversations.