
Council Meeting

14 January 2025

Booklet 1

Written Questions

1.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Gardiner

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“Councillor Assistance to Vulnerable Pensioners yet to claim Pension Credit. Since Sept I ‘ve been asking for Councillors to have access to the addresses of the 300 pensioners in our city who are known to us to be on such low incomes as to be likely entitled to pension credit and therefore winter fuel payments, but still do not claim it despite the Council’s extensive direct mail and social media awareness campaign.

These pensioners are missing on average £3k annual income and so are especially vulnerable to the impending loss of winter fuel payments. This extreme poverty combined with a demonstrated self- neglect surely makes this a safeguarding issue. When there is a safeguarding issue data can be shared with trusted partners. Yet the Council has thus far refused to share the data with Councillors who are well placed to visit and assist in a pension credit claim.

On 21st November I was informed a definitive legal judgment was being sought by officers which I have yet to receive. Please could the Cabinet Members for adult social care, finance and governance chase this up as a matter of urgency and let me know the response, hopefully so that Councillors may yet help our most vulnerable pensioners claim what is rightfully theirs and safeguard their wellbeing?”

2.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Blundell

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

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“In 2023, when you approved the scheme (Binley Cycle Way Clifford Bridge Section 7) it was on the condition it would only be if the outstanding safety concerns were addressed. In your recent Cabinet meeting Officers advised that the Stage 2 independent safety review had yet to be completed. Why did you then approve the scheme at this time when the review has not been completed?”

3.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Blundell

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

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“In 2023, you asked officers to complete a review of the above scheme for disabled road users. At your recent cabinet meeting, officers advised that they had done this but had not submitted any reports from the disabled groups.

When asked why these reports were not included with their report, we were told that they would be made available under a FOI request. Following on from the FOI, it was discovered that the groups spoken to were the following.

- Access Development Group
- Gosford Park Residents Association
- Stoke Park Residents Group.

As none of these groups are specifically disability groups, it was then ask what disability groups had been consulted and furthermore, given that the consultations for the above groups took place in 2020, you were ask again why you approved the scheme in December 2024, given that your original concerns had not been resolved?”

4.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Blundell

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

TEXT OF QUESTION:

“A resident has completed an extensive safety review and has designed an alternative route that has not been considered. When asked at your cabinet meeting to consider the report you refused and furthermore the resident asked for his report to be included within the minutes the meeting, you refused the request. Can you please explain why you refused to both review the report and then to not allow it to be submitted within the minutes?”