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# **Council Meeting**

17 October 2023

**Booklet 1**

Answers to Written Questions

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**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor J Lepoidevin**

**TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor D Welsh, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities**

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Could the Cabinet Member update members on the progress of involving local ward Councillors in the allocation of Section 106 monies in their wards?”

**ANSWER:**

In February 2022 Scrutiny Coordination Committee considered the purpose and use of planning obligations (otherwise known as S106 agreements). At that meeting a commitment was made to give ward Councillors the opportunity of more involvement in obligations associated with applications in their ward.

Since that commitment there have been two bespoke seminars to which all councillors were invited (October and November 2022) where Cllrs were given an overview of the planning system and a detailed briefing on the role of planning obligations and the legislative and policy framework within which they operate. These briefings have since been repeated for new councillors.

As councillors will be aware from these briefings, the scale and nature of planning obligations must be finalised alongside the determination of planning applications. There is very limited lawful scope to influence expenditure of financial contributions after they have been agreed. The key message that has been given to all Cllrs is that involvement and influence over planning obligations must take place when an application has been submitted – this is why all councillors are sent a weekly list of planning applications received and why we must make comments on the application and proposed obligations at that stage.

Since these briefings the involvement of some councillors in this subject has increased however there are many councillors who are still not engaging in the planning application process and I would strongly encourage that they do so. To this end I will arrange for the all-member seminars to be run again and I would encourage councillors to attend and to take the opportunity to involve themselves.

2. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor M Lapsa**

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

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Could the Cabinet Member inform us how many PCN were issued at the Bus gate at Whittle Arch/Trinity Street. Also how many motorists complained they had not received the original PCN?”.

**ANSWER:**

The first CCTV Bus Lane Enforcement camera to be installed in Coventry was at Whittle Arch, which is at the junction of Fairfax St, Hales St, and Trinity St. It went live in June 2011. A total of **176,699** PCNs have been issued since then.

A breakdown of PCNs issued in each financial year since ‘go-live’ is shown in the table below, if required:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>PCNs issued</b>
2023/2024 Year to date	3,384
2022/2023	8,622
2021/2022	8,427
2020/2021	6,140
2019/2020	11,039
2018/2019	22,560
2017/2018	30,852
2016/2017	30,283
2015/2016	9,327
2014/2015	16,556
2013/2014	18,874
2012/2013	2,938
2011/2012	6,803
2010/2011	894

The Council’s Parking Services manage the bus lane enforcement regime, but they don’t keep a record of how many motorists complain they didn’t receive the original PCN, so the requested information **isn’t available**.

For information, a second bus gate was recently introduced on Hales Street, close to the junction with Burges and Bishop Street.

- This bus gate went live on Wednesday 19 July 2023.
- The Council issued **1,684** Warning Notices during an initial four-week period before issuing PCNs.
- The Council has issued **4,751** PCNs at the new bus gate.

3. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor A Masih**

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

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Could the Cabinet Member provide information regarding the number of pieces of equipment in our parks that are wheelchair accessible and specifically designed for use by disabled individuals?”

**ANSWER:** We do not have any play equipment (such as swings or roundabouts) specifically designed for wheelchair users in any of the city’s playgrounds. The new playground, ‘Hermits Hollow’, is more accessible to wheelchair users but doesn’t have any dedicated equipment.

We are carrying out a comprehensive survey of our playgrounds (and other fixed assets) to assess condition and suitability and will provide more inclusive play equipment once we have funds to do so.

4. **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor A Masih**

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

**TEXT OF QUESTION:**

“Could the Cabinet Member advise me about the usage of Section 106 money received from the Oak House building in the Westwood Ward”

**ANSWER:**

There have been two planning applications with s106 agreements as follows:

**2017/2993 – 1, The Oaks**

Healthcare contribution - £12,138

Highways contribution - £100,000

(Payment of £100,000 prior to commencement to be applied by the Council towards the cost of improvements of cycle infrastructure between the development site and Kirby Corner Road, which is adjacent to Warwick)

**2019/2868 – 2,3 The Oaks**

CCG - £231,021

NHS - £59,856

Highways - £140,000

(Highways is to be applied towards the cost of improvements of cycle infrastructure in the vicinity of the property comprising the installation of a

Toucan crossing to link the terminus of the southern footway on Westwood Way with the bus stop on the northern footway together with associated upgrade of southern footway to a 3 metre width for approximately 280m between the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at The Oaks and the new crossing point.)

There is also an application for new build at 2 The Oaks under consideration.