

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answer which will be included in an addendum that will be circulated at the meeting:

**(1) Councillor West**

Unightly rubbish is piling up beside the city's arterial roads. Whilst not only threatening the nearby flora and fauna, this detritus also risks blowing into the national park and going into the drainage system. Given that some of the litter is large sheets of polythene that may get blown across the carriageway it also poses a worrying threat to road users.

In January 2017 Greens pushed the Council to write directly to the Secretary of State for Environment urging them to increase the additional funding required for Highways England to adequately conduct litter picking and detritus removal across all areas of our natural environment. This included our key arterial roads. The Government response ignored this request and unfortunately focused solely on fixed penalty fines for littering. It also did not address the discrepancy between the role of Highways England and of the local Council to maintain this land.

I am disappointed to learn recently that Highways England refused to give permission for the road closures. Greens are increasingly concerned that there appears to be little management of the relationship between the Labour Council and Highways England in order to deal with roadside litter. This urgently needs to be addressed. It would also be positive if signage was introduced, as it is in neighbouring West Sussex.

Can the Chair of Environment say what action is being taken to urgently address these issues?

**Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee****(2) Councillor Lewry**

New Homes

Please can the Administration advise how many new homes have been started and completed since 2015 that were not already in the pipeline from the previous Administration? Can they also advise how much has been spent in providing these homes and what the rents are for each of them? Can the Administration also advise how many are in construction now and will actually be completed by May 2019 and the associated costs with the proposed rents for each of them?

**Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee**

**(3) Councillor Wares**

Cityclean

Please can the Administration provide performance details for its initiatives to provide both commercial waste and green waste collections and compare those performances against the business plans used to establish these initiatives? Can the Administration also provide details on progress for supplying the new recycling wheelie bins? How many remain to be delivered and how many bins that have been delivered still have to be swapped for smaller and to a lesser extent, larger bins. Can the Administration confirm when the roll-out programme will be complete taking account of residents actually having the right size bins they need?

**Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

**(4) Councillor Taylor**

Hospital for Hove

Can the Administration outline the steps they intend to take via the Health and Wellbeing Board to provide a 'Hospital for Hove', that will include a Multidisciplinary Community Diagnostic Centre, a GP Hub and small A&E Unit, given that the demand for a school in Toads Hole Valley no longer exists?

**Reply from Councillor Yates – Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board**

**(5) Councillor Simson**

Mesh verges

Residents across the city are fed up with vehicles parking on grass verges because of the damage caused, the unsightly impression it gives and the cost to the public purse for repairs. However, residents would not be so concerned especially in neighbourhoods like Woodingdean and Hangleton & Knoll, where it is impossible for houses to have off road parking, if no damage was being caused.

So will the council look at a long-term solution and cost the provision of grasscrete or cheaper rubber grass-road blocks as a spend to save measure? This could be done on a rolling basis and would allow grass to grow through and be mowed in the usual way without having the ongoing annual damage caused by parked vehicles that is expensive to repair and causes so many complaints.

**Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

**(6) Councillor Gibson**

How much under the HRA borrowing cap was BHCC on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2018?

**Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee**

**(7) Councillor Gibson**

What was the net borrowing taken up between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 when expressed as a percentage of the maximum borrowing available to the HRA on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2015?

**Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee**

**(8) Councillor Gibson**

Financial modelling of new council homes

Having provided the figures for the estimated surplus/deficit over the 60 year financial modelling period for:

- Aldwick Mews
- Brook Mead
- Darwell Court
- Flint Close
- Hobby Place
- Kite Place
- Pierre Close
- Preston Rd
- Robert Lodge (N)
- Robert Lodge (S)
- Lynchet Close
- Kensington St

And used assumptions to calculate these answers for each scheme (above). For each scheme model, please can you indicate what the assumptions used were in the calculations on each of the above schemes for the following elements of the model:

- 1) Initial Management costs per property (+ inflation assumption for future years)
- 2) Initial Major repair costs per property (with inflation assumption for future years)

- 3) Initial rent and assumptions about future rent increases over the 60 year model
- 4) Initial Maintenance costs per property (+ inflation assumption for future years)
- 5) Service charge costs and inflationary assumptions on these costs over the period of the model

**Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee**

**(9) Councillor Gibson**

Where schemes are part funded by borrowing, the modelling makes different assumptions for the rate of interest payable on the borrowing to reflect market expectations. For each the schemes actually undertaken, please can you indicate for that scheme what the assumed rate of borrowing was and what the actual rate was when the borrowing was undertaken?

**Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee**

**(10) Councillor Gibson**

Given the rise in rough sleeping in the city of 128% since the rough sleeping strategy was launched in 2015 compared with a 33% increase in the rest of the country, do you believe there are any changes that can be made to improve our performance compared to the national average? And what might these changes be?

**Reply from Councillor Moonan – Lead Member for Rough Sleeping**

**(11) Councillor Nemeth**

Beach huts

Why was no urgent public statement made by the City Council following break-ins to 34 beach huts at the end of March, and prior to 33 break-ins the following week, in order to alert owners to security and safety concerns?

**Reply from Councillor Robins – Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee**

**(12) Councillor Mac Cafferty**

Pool Valley

Anyone arriving in the city via National Express coaches does not have a warm welcome. Pool Valley has sadly become run down and is unwelcoming. A decade after the plans to upgrade the National Express bus depot for the city

were put on ice, what work will the administration commit to improve Pool Valley with National Express and other partners?

**Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

**(13) Councillor Mac Cafferty**

Bins on Wilbury Road

Currently there are 3 communal waste and recycling bins and 8 commercial bins, in a 10 metre stretch of pavement and road at the foot of Wilbury Road. This is too often smelly and messy. The bins are poorly sited and a crowded pavement mean neighbours, businesses and pedestrians are suffering. Every day residents and visitors have to negotiate their way around the bins, any overspill and a BT phone box. As several businesses use their premises nearby for client meetings, the smell and mess are embarrassing. Although we flagged this concern to Cityclean for an investigation, 2 years after being first flagged the issue is still as persistent.

Can Councillor Mitchell please have the situation investigated and acted upon? Ideally this would involve combined action to locate some of the bins elsewhere and/ or collection frequency raised.

**Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

**(14) Councillor Mac Cafferty**

York Road collisions data

Further to residents' concerns about safety, please can road collisions data for the junction of York Road, York Avenue and Lansdowne Road be tabulated for the last 3 years, detailing date, severity (fatal, serious or slight severity) and vehicle type?

**Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

**(15) Councillor Mac Cafferty**

Dangerous driving around Norfolk Square

The hit and run collision on 28th March at the junction of Borough Street and Western Road and the car crashing at the junction of Norfolk Square and Western Road on 9th February are the latest expression of dangerous driving in this area. This is often experienced in the one way streets being used as rat runs with vehicles often travelling at dangerous speeds. Please can road collisions data for Borough Street, Temple Street, Norfolk Road and Norfolk Square be tabulated for the last 3 years, detailing date, severity (fatal, serious or slight severity) and vehicle type?

And, what work, if any, has been undertaken with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Sussex Police to ensure safety for all road users in this area is prioritised?

**Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

**(16) Councillor Mac Cafferty**

Floral Clock

Brunswick in Bloom will be soon with us once again (early July), can the Floral Clock mechanism be repaired in time for this?

**Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**