

Question for Full Council Monday 10th September 2018

Question 1

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr B Markham

In 2013 the council sold land in Saint James to church's Footwear and in September 2013 the then leader of the council was shown with executives of the shoe firm, announcing that the 150 new jobs were being created by the company.

Has the Cabinet member for Regeneration any news as to when this exciting and valuable project to boost manufacturing in the town will be going ahead?

Response

In a recent discussion with the company they confirmed that it remains their intention to proceed with the development in due course.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 10th September 2018

Question 2

Question to Cllr Eldred from Cllr Stone

Will this Council follow the example of many others and stop charging care leavers Council Tax until they are 25 years old?

Response

It is wrong to assume that care leavers will always need support of this type, indeed they may achieve high earning status.

However, should they need it, our Council Tax Reduction scheme will support them.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance

Question for Full Council Monday 10th September 2018

Question 3

Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Haque

Will this Council provide landlords and students with a paid for service for waste collection at the end of each academic year and term?

Response

Thank you for your suggestion. It is certainly something that I would be happy to consider further. Please contact me directly to discuss.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 10th September 2018

Question 4

Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Haque

My evaluation of the Veolia contract so far is that it is just about satisfactory but has a way to go before we can say it is good. Would the cabinet member agree?

Response

Because of the Enterprise legacy, Veolia faced massive demands at the start of the contract. Given these demands, my view is that Veolia got off to a very good start. To support my view, I point to the seamless transition for waste and recycling collection and the prompt and efficient response to grass cutting. The evidence shows that the contract is going well, but I am not complacent and I am aware I will need to continue to work hard to achieve further and ongoing improvement.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 10th September 2018

Question 5

Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Duffy

We are experiencing problems with blocked drains in Talavera. Will they be dealt with any time soon or will we have to wait for more flooding?

Response

Assuming that you are referring to highways drains, the issue you raise is out with my responsibility and falls within the remit of NCC. I suggest that you to report your concerns to the County Council and seek a response from them.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 10th September 2018

Question 6

Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Stone

How much is the annual cost to NBC of dealing with illegal gypsy and traveller encampments and what is the long term solution to this issue?

Response

The costs of responding to illegal encampments is not budgeted for separately as it is resourced from mainstream services, e.g. the environmental service contract, park ranger/neighbourhood warden service and the county traveller unit. Illegal encampments are a difficult problem for the council to deal with given the frequency of its occurrence through the spring/summer months. I believe that the most effective response is through effective partnership working, led by the CTU, and also a strong focus on prevention.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 10th September 2018

Question 7

Question to Cllr King from Cllr Birch

We are seeing a frightening escalation of violent crime and sex related offences across the town. What is being done make our communities safer?

Response

We are involved in a lot of work around the areas mentioned, just a few examples of which are as follows:

- More than £800,000 (over 4 years) has successfully been secured from the Home Office's Trusted Relationships Fund to help increase the support available to the town's most vulnerable young people.

The funding, which was confirmed on Wednesday, 22 August, will enable Northampton Borough Council and Free2Talk, to deliver interventions and mentoring, lasting up to a year, to young people most at risk of getting involved in knife crime and anti-social behaviour.

It will also support young people to take a more positive path, contributing to a reduction in exploitation and abuse, missing episodes and interactions with the youth justice system.

In addition, young people from vulnerable communities will also get a chance to input into the support programme, as their help will be sought to develop informal education programmes in youth centres.

- We are supporting a project to deliver awareness raising in our ten secondary schools, two colleges, the University and our youth groups from September 2018. This is being delivered by the Youth Offending Service and the Community Safety Partnership are funding this.

- In partnership with Leicester Community Safety Partnership, Northampton Community Safety Partnership have funded East Midlands Ambulance Service to produce a video, to be used as an educational tool for the above, within the secondary schools.

- We have a primary school event planned, with partners, including fire, PCC's Office and NCC, on 9 October and will cover various community safety issues, including knife crime and gangs. There will be workshops, drama productions, presentations, stalls etc.

- Knife crime campaign, which Amplitude Media are putting together for us, using the training material provided by the Youth Offending service and EMAS. This will be a CSP campaign, which hopefully all partners will support and promote, launch date/event 29 August in the Town Centre.

- We are taking a proactive approach to Cuckooing, more than 150 frontline officers across partner organisations have been trained and we are successfully bringing partners around the table to adopt a case management approach to protect and secure our most vulnerable residents from becoming victims of cuckooing.

- NBC have just led on a funding application to the MHCLG on behalf of the County to fund refuge and support services for victims of domestic abuse, if successful this will bring in more than £850,000 over two years.

- We have various initiatives, working with partners including the university and the police, within the night time economy, these include our nights out campaign, a taxi marshalling scheme which we are developing and a safer routes home scheme.

- NBC also support a number of agencies that are working with and supporting victims of violent crime and sexual abuse, including Northants Rape Crisis, Counselling services, Street Pastors and Women's Aid.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Community Safety

Question for Full Council Monday 10th September 2018

Question 8

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Ashraf

Are we keeping data on the impact on children, especially school age children, of living in temporary accommodation?

Response

A very broad question. We do keep information on children in temporary accommodation. We understand there may be issues surrounding proximity to school, family and friends and do our best to accommodate them appropriately. Of course, the urgent issue here is homelessness and putting a roof over their heads remains the priority.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing

Question for Full Council Monday 10th September 2018

Question 9

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr McCutcheon

Please could we have an update on St Edmunds hospital site, the Greyfriars site and the Chronicle and Echo site? With the latter I note the Aldi is being developed. What about the housing?

Response

Greyfriars is an important site, and in view of the fast changing nature of the retail and leisure markets we are considering more innovative uses for the site. The Retail Study, currently being concluded, will feed into specific plans for Greyfriars, in addition to which we have engaged professional advisors to help inform us on the viability of a range of usages that might be included, from which detailed traffic analysis is to be undertaken, to ensure that uses can be accommodated without causing traffic issues in what is already an area of high traffic flow. In parallel with this we are engaging with developers who continue to show an interest in the site.

At St Edmunds, work has commenced on the main workhouse building entailing the removal of the roof and other structurally unsound elements, with the intention of restoring these. One of the planning conditions requires the submission of a schedule of works, detailing the use of replacement materials. Rather than requiring the production of a full schedule of works upfront, officers have been working proactively with the developers to agree these elements on an item by item basis. Work is progressing towards restoring the shell of the building to make it watertight and the developers have advised that they anticipate the roof will be replaced by mid October.

The development of the Chronicle and Echo site has commenced, with the building of the retail unit. The Council is encouraging the developer to bring forward the houses as part of a comprehensive scheme. The original planning permission is a hybrid application with the Aldi store approved under full permission and the housing under an outline approval. The Aldi store is currently under construction. The planning permission requires the applicant to submit a marketing strategy of the housing site before the store opening. Whilst the Council is unable to compel the land owner to implement a planning permission, this will provide some certainty that the site would be marketed for a reasonable period of time and maximise the chances of a housing developer coming forward for this part of the site.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 10th September 2018

Question 10

Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr Stone

I notice the county has put the Castle House site up for sale? Will NBC be bidding for it?

Response

I continue to strongly believe that when this site is developed it should include an element that reflects or marks in some way the historical significance of that part of our town, and its being at an important gateway to the town. For me this means that NBC should be involved in, or better lead, future development of the site.

We therefore continue to have active discussions with NCC regarding the castle House site, indeed our Chief Executive will be leading a 'One Public Estate' group in order to ensure the best use of all property in public ownership.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 10th September 2018

Question 11

Question to Cllr Larratt from Cllr Birch

When is the refreshment van on the Racecourse going to be up and running?

Response

Unfortunately I cannot confirm a date for this. To ensure fair competition and to get the best offering for customers we undertook an exercise to secure an operator for the license to trade. Despite advertising the opportunity for 2 weeks in the Chronicle & Echo we received no applications, and therefore do not have an operator lined up. We are reviewing whether or not we re-advertise the opportunity. Were an operator to express an interest in applying to trade, then we'll certainly re-advertise.

Councillor Phil Larratt
Deputy Leader of the Council