



Council Meeting Monday 27 February 2023

Public and Councillor Questions and Responses



Derby City Council

COUNCIL – 27 February 2023
PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

	Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Public Questions			
A	Tony Mott	Cllr J Pearce	Queen's Street Baths
B	Greg Szemraj	Cllr Eyre	Public footpath safety concerns
C	Joan Dutton	Cllr Webb	Student accommodation
D	Faye McGinty	Cllr Hassall	Traffic control measures
E	Sassi Stark	Cllr J Pearce	Derby's historical sites
F	Derek Gould	Cllr J Pearce	Provision of community centres and facilities
G	Russell Armstrong	Cllr Barker	Legal status of Osmaston Regeneration Partnership and Keepmoat Ltd.
H	Paul Tice	Cllr J Pearce	Rewilding Allestree Park
I	Simon Bacon	Cllr J Pearce	Traffic violations
J	Clare Wood	Cllr Hassall	Climate change budget
K	Ruth Coates	Cllr Hassall	Carbon neutrality of large-scale projects
L	Tony Mott	Cllr J Pearce	A6 cycle path
M	Greg Szemraj	Cllr Hassall	Parking restrictions
N	Derek Gould	Cllr Smale	Sinfin Waste Treatment Plant
O	Russell Armstrong	Cllr Eyre	Library funding
P	Simon Bacon	Cllr J Pearce	Blue bin recycling
Q	Ruth Coates	Cllr Hassall	Demolition of Assembly Rooms
Councillor Questions			
AA	Cllr Repton	Cllr Eyre	Future of Derby's Libraries
BB	Cllr Dhindsa	Cllr Eyre	Locality working

Public Questions

a) Question from Mr Tony Mott to Cllr J Pearce

Please could the Council let me know what is happening to Queen Street Baths? Is it still being maintained in good order?

The building is being managed as a vacant property; work has been undertaken to prevent unauthorised access and the building is secure. Work is now being undertaken to disconnect utility supplies to minimise the cost to the Council of holding the building, pending a decision on future use of the site.

The Queens Leisure Centre site forms a key element of the Northern Gateway area of the city centre, and the Council is currently considering options for comprehensive regeneration of this area.

b) Question from Greg Szemraj to Cllr Eyre

At this Council meeting I am asking about improving the safety and quality standards of the path between the back garden fences of Shakespeare Street and Cottons Farm Primary Academy in Sinfin.

This path is known in local neighbourhood and all those people who use it on daily basis on the way to work, shopping etc. There is a tree hanging over the path, there is a risk of damage to garden fences or even worse case scenario, someone could get hurt. The lack of lighting makes people fear to use the path at night.

Some of the residents have had to use barbed wire to ensure their safety. The reason why barbed wire is being used, obviously is understandable to deter burglars and thieves.

A few years ago, every single back garden shed on the path's length was robbed in one night, this fact had been reported to the Police but there was no action taken even by the council to improve the safety on this path.

Dark places and living alone is a good situation for burglars. I want to remind you that there is no lighting and no CCTV.

I understand that priorities have changed with the Council spending money, but community safety should be the number one on the spending money list that's why I am asking for the path to be lit.

We would encourage all residents to report issues to us, in particular issues regarding the perception of safety. We would encourage residents to use the StreetSafe App which allows people to anonymously report public places where they feel unsafe due to environmental issues.

The Council is committed to ensuring citizens feel safe and we use StreetSafe and several other data sources, such as police reports and local intelligence, to understand our priority areas.

Local intelligence is considered and used to shape the delivery of projects like Safer Streets, which will see improvements to CCTV and environmental issues implemented over the next 18 months.

c) Question from Joan Dutton to Cllr Webb

The number of full-time university students in England is forecast to grow by between 10 and 20 per cent in the next five years. What information does the Council have on the expected increase in the number of students in Derby? What plans has the University of Derby presented for additional dedicated student accommodation?

We will shortly be commissioning a Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) which will be a key piece of research to support our emerging Local Plan.

This study will involve the University, in order to ascertain its future accommodation needs and indeed the University has confirmed its willingness to participate in the study.

d) Question from Faye McGinty to Cllr Hassall

As Shepherd Street residents, we submitted a brief survey on the traffic issues that affect our narrow street, including suggestions for speed control and access, to Cllr Lucy Care at a community meeting last September.

A number of road traffic incidents involving the Police occurred in 2022, and there has already been damage to a parked vehicle caused by a bus as well as regular confrontations between bus drivers and car drivers going in opposite directions this year. People have campaigned for a solution to the problems on both Shepherd Street and Normanton Lane for many years, it is time to act.

Please can the Council provide an update on plans for new traffic control measures / access restrictions for Shepherd Street after our residents' survey.

As you have explained, this issue has been raised locally with ward councillors, therefore I expect that it would be considered as part of the discussion of ward priorities through the Neighbourhood Board. That way it can be assessed against other issues and if selected, it can progress for further analysis and potential inclusion in the development of the capital programme for future years.

e) Question from Sassi Stark to Cllr J Pearce

Following Derby's bid for the City of Culture, does the Council plan to do more to highlight the historically significant features our city has to offer, such as the Arboretum (the first public park in Britain)?

The ideas that were developed through our bid for City of Culture remain relevant regardless of the outcome of the competition. We therefore plan to continue to use culture and heritage as a way to improve quality of life for residents and encourage visitors to the city.

f) Question from Derek Gould to Cllr Pearce

Why does my community DE23 8WA area not have a community centre or community facilities to use, to create a community, yet the city centre side of Normanton have six community centres all within a mile of each other?

When will we have a community centre or community facilities?

Provision of community centres is not a statutory requirement for local authorities and not every post code in the city has one.

Sunnyhill Community Centre is within 13-15 minutes walking distance from the DE23 8WA postcode and has a range of community activities: [Sunnyhill Community Centre | For local residents in the heart of Derby](#)

There are many areas of the city that have similar walking distances to their nearest community centre.

The Village Learning Centre on Browning Street also has a range of activities and courses available and is within 10 minutes walking distance from the DE23 8WA postcode: [Village Learning Centre - Derby Adult Learning Service \(adult-learning-derby.org.uk\)](#)

g) Question from Russell Armstrong to Cllr Barker

I did a search on Companies' House to find out what legal entity Derby City Council was. Given the following evidence, what are the legal interests and legal responsibilities and role of Osmaston Regeneration Partnership (OC398376), and KEEPMOAT LIMITED or Keepmoat Limited (registration number 01998780) with regards to "Derby City Council"

Local authorities are legal entities in their own right created by statute; Councils may only act within the powers granted to them by Parliament.

Keepmoat Ltd. is a national housebuilding company and was selected through a procurement process to partner with Derby City Council within the Osmaston Regeneration Partnership. Osmaston Regeneration Partnership was a Joint Venture Vehicle, set up to provide and deliver a vision for the future use of certain redundant sites in Osmaston.

h) Question from Paul Tice to Cllr J Pearce

As Allestree Park is within the curtilage of a UNESCO World Heritage Site buffer zone and conservation area, what steps have Derby City Council taken to ensure that no historically important material is lost or destroyed by the rewilding proposals for Allestree Park?

This has been considered and the positive steps being taken include:

- The Council along with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are commissioning a Conservation Management Plan for Allestree Park. This will ensure that any specific features that should be retained, will be.
- Proposed grazing on the park will contribute to preserving the landscape character.
- A Community Rewilding Project team has been set up, involving key stakeholders, providing specialist knowledge and support. This includes the council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, University of Derby, Friends of Allestree Park, local naturalists and historians. This will ensure that biodiversity recovery and historic landscape conservation work in tandem.

i) Question from Simon Bacon to Cllr Pearce

How do City Council parking wardens handle vehicles parked on double yellow lines when they carry number plates from a country outside the UK?

As you may be aware, vehicles registered outside of the UK can be legitimately driven on UK roads without being registered with the DVLA for up to six months.

All local authorities are reliant on the DVLA to trace vehicle owners. As I am sure the questioner would expect our Civil Enforcement Officers approach contraventions of parking restrictions with the appropriate action, which may be a verbal or written warning or to issue a penalty charge notice (PCN).

j) Question from Clare Wood to Cllr Hassall

Why doesn't the budget mention the climate emergency?

The Council's budget sets out how the priorities within the Council Plan will be financed. The Council unanimously on the 22 May 2019 declared a climate emergency, and this is included in our Council Plan. The Council has an approved capital budget including investment in climate change initiatives. The Council also provides climate assessments for all key decisions.

k) Question from Ruth Coates to Cllr Hassall

Despite the constraints on the Council budget there are still many ambitious large-scale projects in the planning stages or already underway in the city, such as the Market Hall redevelopment, the Becketwell site and the Northern and Eastern gateways.

This is the ideal opportunity for the Council to take huge steps towards making Derby a carbon neutral city, by installing all these buildings with full insulation, air source heat pumps and solar panels.

How much consideration is being given to the sustainability of all these new buildings? The rather bland statement in the medium-term financial plan that 'all climate implications within this scheme will be considered as appropriate' does not reassure me that the council are really taking climate change seriously.

The Council of course takes this agenda very seriously and sustainability is a key consideration both in the future planning of the city centre as a whole and individual developments.

For example, the Becketwell Performance Venue is being designed to deliver an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of A, photo voltaic (PV) panels will be installed to the roof of the new venue. The energy generated by the PV panels will be used to supplement daytime energy demand required to operate the building, contributing to energy, carbon, and cost savings from the operation of the building in the long term.

In terms of the growth of city living, the Council will lead the way and set the bar high by working with delivery partners on city centre housing, including within the Northern Gateway, Cultural Heart and Derby riverside areas, to implement Future Homes Standards – which have been designed to ensure new homes built after 2025 are 'zero carbon ready'. We are already beginning to design to these standards within Derby's affordable housing programme.

I) Question from Tony Mott to Cllr J Pearce

While it is great to hear that there are proposals for revising the Duffield Road cycling facilities and hopefully improve them, this doesn't sound like anything is going to happen in the near future, and we have a problem now, (in fact, first reported five years ago by Ian Dent – parents parking in the cycle lane for 50m either side of St Benedict school entrance).

Safeguarding of young people is admirable and good to hear that this is taken seriously.

Surely having a cycle path where cars are allowed to park is putting the young people who cycle to school at risk and at the time when they are likely to use it (start and end of the school day).

If people are to be allowed to park in the stretch of the A6 around St Benedict's, could the young cyclists be safeguarded by moving the cycle path for that part of the A6 onto the opposite path? The path is wide enough to be of shared use and this would then stop the problem of cyclists being forced into the narrowed line of traffic.

Just seems to me that having a cycle path to the school, where people are allowed to park in it, is incompatible with safe active transport for children to school and is in fact luring them into danger, if it is seen as a safe route for them to use.

As I explained at the September Council meeting, when the same question was raised previously, there are no easy solutions to the parking issues outside schools at the beginning and end of the day. It is a national problem that many councils are trying to tackle. St Benedict's and St Mary's have wide catchments and without a properly designed scheme, it is highly likely that restrictions will mean congestion in other local streets.

m) Question from Greg Szemraj to Cllr Hassall

I wanted to ask the council about parking restrictions on Sheridan Street near Cottons Farm Primary Academy in Sinfin.

Almost all residents of this street complain about the constantly blocked entrance to the property and the council's lack of any action in this matter.

Many residents have trouble when trying to leave or enter the driveway, when children are being delivered or collected from school. I would like to point out that many streets with schools have double yellow lines, cameras etc, unfortunately on Sheridan Street there is nothing like this.

I do appreciate the frustration that many residents living close to schools experience, because of the behaviours of drivers, particularly at peak drop-off/pick-up times. It is a national issue and one we in Derby have tried to tackle in many ways in the past. The reality has been that driver behaviours are extremely difficult to change long-term.

Recently the Council has been trialling a new approach. It requires detailed consultation and negotiation with schools and residents to try to make sustained changes and create 'safe havens.' The programme has been funded by Government as part of the Active Travel Fund and has received national attention. The schemes are producing positive outcomes, and your question highlights the need and appetite within local communities for more of these 'School Safe Havens.'

Our trial sites are currently being evaluated and the outcome could potentially inform a new national standard. Future expansion, however, depends on the outcome of this evaluation and, of course, availability of funding.

n) Question from Derek Gould to Cllr Smale

Why is Derby City Council allowing Derbyshire County Council to impose the incinerator on Derby residents?

Why can't Derby City Council tell the County's borough to get rid of their own waste as Derby only produces a very small amount of waste, but the county borough produces three times what Derby does. It's Sinfen, Normanton and Osmaston citizens that suffer the most at the hands of unelected county councillors.

Both councils have a statutory responsibility to dispose of their waste; and in 2006 formally adopted a Joint Waste Management Strategy to set out a vision and provide a framework to work in partnership to manage waste across Derbyshire. The current strategy is due for review in 2026.

Both councils entered into this partnership to look for a solution for dealing with waste from the city and county; and went out to the market to invite proposals and the proposal from the preferred bidder included the design, construction and operation of a waste treatment centre in Sinfen.

o) Question from Russell Armstrong to Cllr Eyre

The Cabinet had proposed stopping funding for certain community libraries (and in particular Chellaston Library) within the city which would have effectively led to their closures. However, it has been reported that funds have been found and the Cabinet has agreed to continue funding the libraries in the short term, provided that other councillors agree to a maximum Council Tax rise.

Does the Cabinet Member responsible think that this type of attempt at extorting fellow councillors is acceptable and what guarantees can the cabinet member give that the funds to close the libraries will still be made available without the threat of maximum Council Tax rise if that is not agreed to?

A verbal response will be provided.

p) Question from Simon Bacon to Cllr J Pearce

Please explain how blue bin recycling is processed in the recycling contract, where does the Council deliver the material to, who handles it at that site? Where does the material get taken to and who handles it there?

Our recycling lorries tip at Biffa's waste transfer station on Victory Road within the city. The recyclables are bulked here before being transferred on to the material recycling facility (MRF).

The MRF is operated by HW Martins Waste Limited in Alfreton. Here the material is sorted, mostly via an automated process, but also some picking and quality control is done by hand. The material is loaded into their system and moved by conveyor belt through a series of machines, separating the mix into the following streams:

- Glass
- Aluminium cans
- Steel cans
- Newspapers and magazines
- Cardboard
- Mixed papers and cartons
- PET
- HDPE
- Plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Contamination

q) Question from Ruth Coates to Cllr Hassall

The latest estimate for the work to be done on the Assembly Rooms is in excess of £30 million. The levelling up fund is set to provide £20 million, which leaves a shortfall of £10 million, which will have to be found from somewhere.

Is demolishing the existing building really the most cost effective, environmentally friendly option? Have the environmental impacts and costs of demolishing versus refurbishing been properly investigated?

The Levelling Up Fund announcement in January is a major step forward in delivering an iconic new development on the Assembly Rooms site.

The design of the theatre scheme is crucial and is still at a relatively early stage. All of the options are actively being considered, taking into account the ambition to provide an iconic facility at the cultural heart of the city, including all relevant factors from the environmental impact to the impact of inflation on construction costs and materials.

Member Questions

aa) Question from Cllr Repton to Cllr Eyre

The long-term future of libraries is still sadly very much up in the air, will the Cabinet Member now confirm he intends to ensure all libraries will remain open in the long term?

The long-term future of the statutory library provision in Derby remains sustainable and will continue to deliver excellent services and outcomes for our city.

At the recent Cabinet meeting on 15 February 2023, a review of the last 10 months and a clear delivery plan, with short-term and long-term proposals, including this administration's stated intention to keep libraries open, was outlined in detail.

bb) Question from Cllr Dhindsa to Cllr Eyre

In the budget consultation report, supporting capacity in Locality Working, has been saved from cuts for another year (23/24). But the long-term future for locality working is uncertain indicating instead a reduction in capacity.

What are your plans to avoid this?

The 'Locality Working' model is a new 'Neighbourhood' model which brings together the fantastic work that our existing neighbourhood teams, those in other roles, and those in our local communities, are doing in their areas.

In the budget process this year, this administration decided to increase the Localities/Neighbourhood Officer (LO/NHO) capacity within the new model, with the addition of five additional locality officers. This represents an increase in LO/NHO FTEs.

The 'Locality Working' model is new and will embed, troubleshoot, and finalise during the first 12 months, as the optimum of each aspect of the new model is found.

No finalised decisions have been taken regarding future budgets.