

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**12 May 2015**

---

**Item 17 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without South Division**

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning,  
Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste**

**Question 1**

Residents a of Wiltshire who have signed up for the green waste collection tax. Have been issued with a sticker to place on their bin to identify they have paid the green tax. If a bin has been stolen, or damaged by the Councils contractor will there be a £25 charge for a replacement bin.

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question 2**

**Question withdrawn by member**

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**12 May 2015**

---

**Item 17 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without South Division**

**To Councillor Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet Member for Hubs, Heritage & Arts,  
Governance (including information management), Support Services (HR,  
Legal, ICT, Business Services, Democratic Services)**

**Question 3**

How many local Parish and town Councils have been forced to increase council tax to provide services that should be provided by Wiltshire council?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**12 May 2015**

---

**Item 17 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without South Division**

**To Councillor Richard Tonge, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Risk**

**Question 4**

As from April 1st all residents of Wiltshire are being charged £40 in the form of a green bin tax. Payment can be made by credit or debit card, by cheque or by phone.

What arrangements are being made for residents without bank accounts that wish to pay by cash.

**Response**

At 6th May 30676 payments had been made of which 105 were cash. Cash payments can be made at the three hubs and Snuff Street in Devizes. Like all payments to the council we promote methods that are the most cost effective and secure for the customer and the council.

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**12 May 2015**

---

**Item 17 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Helen Osborn, Trowbridge Lambrok Division**

**To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards and Broadband**

**Question 5**

May the Council please be informed of the extent of the current overspend on the Corsham campus and the reasons for this?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question 6**

What is the estimated completion date for the Melksham campus and is it likely to come in on budget?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question 7**

Is the NHS still committed to involvement with the campus programme?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question 8**

What is the capital borrowing requirement for completion of the first seven campuses?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**12 May 2015**

---

**Item 17 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without South Division**

**To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards and Broadband**

**Question 9**

Wiltshire Council has known about the presence of newts on the new site for Melksham Town FC and Melksham Ruby for some time.

Why was it left so late before these two clubs were told that they would be remaining at their present grounds for another season?

Is it really the newts holding the move up or just a red herring as suggested in the Editorial of The Wiltshire Times?

[http://www.wiltshiretimes.co.uk/news/12882708.Newts\\_delay\\_Melksham\\_developments\\_by\\_a\\_year/](http://www.wiltshiretimes.co.uk/news/12882708.Newts_delay_Melksham_developments_by_a_year/)

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**12 May 2015**

---

**Item 17 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division**

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning,  
Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste**

**Question 10**

How many responses were received to the Draft Chippenham Site Allocation Plan? What number and percentage of the total said that they found the Plan to be unsound?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question 11**

When will all the public responses to the Draft Chippenham Site Allocation Plan be loaded onto the Council web site? As of 5th May, nearly one month after consultation closed, no responses from the CAUSE 2015 residents group have appeared there, when will they be available?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question 12**

How many hectares of land does Wiltshire Council own in each of the Areas C, D and E respectively of the Draft Chippenham Site Allocation Plan?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question 13**

The official 2011-2016 Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2, Appendix 1 Chippenham Community Area, includes a southern link road and costs for the river crossing. Why is this now being airbrushed out of the Council's plans?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question 14**

What is the revised timetable for the preparation of the Chippenham DPD? Does this now include reconsideration by the Cabinet?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.



**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**12 May 2015**

---

**Item 17 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division**

**To Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Protection Services, Adult Care and Housing (exc strategic housing)**

**Question 15**

How much additional funding has been provided to the Council by Central Government to assist with the implementation of the Care Act 2014, which came into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>?

**Response**

The Council will receive £2.7m of direct grant, plus £2.5m from the Better Care Fund.

**Question 16**

At 2015 prices, what do you estimate the additional annual cost to the Council of implementing the Care Act will be, after any Government additional funding has been taken into account?

**Response**

The most recent national model used to gauge the impact of the Care Act on the council suggests a total financial impact for carers and support of £5 million. Assessment accounts for £0.5m and support £4.5m. The details are in a paper presented to cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**Question 17**

How many additional assessments for carers do you expect the Council will need to carry out in Wiltshire? Are the staff in post to do this work?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

When questioned at the last Council, meeting about the Help to Live at Home Service, your response included the statement that *“At the moment things are going well, and we need to keep them that way.”* Since then the Care Quality Commission has found that a second of the four Council HTLH providers, MiHomeCare, is now falling seriously short of the required standards. They ‘require improvement’ in three out of five inspection categories and are found to be Inadequate in terms of safety. The report states bluntly “The service is not safe.” More than one breach of the Health and Social Care Act Regulations is recorded.

At the same time, the CQC web site continues to rate the Mears HTLH service as ‘Requires Improvement’. This comes after three inspections in less than a year and (we are told) many hours of work by Council officers to help improve the service. The latest inspection was announced to Mears in advance and does thankfully report some improvements, as one would expect after the amount of attention that has been given over the last 11 months. However the service still ‘requires improvement’ in four out of five inspection categories and the situation is far less satisfactory than suggested in your upbeat response at the February Council meeting. For example, the CQC found in December that “whilst improvements had been made to the (Mears) service, the administration of people’s medicines was not safe”.

#### **Question 18**

I appreciate that Cabinet administrations, relying on their political majorities, often find it awkward to admit to getting things wrong. But isn’t it time in this case to say sorry to those vulnerable Wiltshire people who have relied on the Council’s contractors, but have been let down by them, and even sometimes been put at risk?

#### **Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

#### **Question 19**

The whole Better Care Strategy and the widely shared ambition to keep people out of hospital depends on good quality care at home. Isn’t it time also to recognise that the commissioning of private, for-profit HLTH services in Wiltshire has not adequately met the needs of Wiltshire residents, and to put in place some urgent actions that build on that recognition?

#### **Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

#### **Question 20**

And should there not be a plan B, for example changing contractors, or considering bringing these services back into the public sector?

#### **Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**12 May 2015**

---

**Item 17 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division**

**To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

**Question 21**

Will you make clear your reasons for refusing to replace any damaged or destroyed litter bins throughout the County? When will you be reviewing this antisocial policy?

**Response**

It must be noted that it is not the lack of a litter bin that is antisocial but the dropping of litter.

It is vital that dropping litter is not given an excuse. There can never be a reason for dropping litter, it is vital the message is given that litter must be disposed of in the correct manner.

If a litter bin is not available take the waste home and put it in your bin.

Whilst the council has a statutory duty to collect litter, it also has a moral duty to avoid unnecessary costs. Collecting litter is one such avoidable cost.

Town and parish councils can provide litter bins and empty them if it is a local priority on their land or Wiltshire Council's land at an appropriate location.

Town and parish councils can relocate the council's current litter bins if they feel this will help address a litter issue and the location is appropriate.

Certain businesses can be requested to remove their litter or their customers litter from up to 100m from their shop frontage. Many businesses provide litter bins themselves to control this litter. For example many local village shops.

A number of organisations provide sponsorship for the direct provision of litter bins, for example McDonalds.

The council is endeavouring to highlight to everyone that collecting litter is an easily avoidable cost. By a small number of irresponsible people not dropping litter the council would save considerable sums. It must be recognised that the vast majority of people are responsible and dispose of their waste correctly. Regrettably it is the council's experience that it still has to litter pick areas even though there are litter bins present.

When looking at service priorities the council must undertake the service which meets the demand. Litter is dropped in the town centres even though there are numerous bins, or dropped on the rural highways even though there are litter bins in lay byes.

The council when prioritising its services must fund reactive litter picking, which is proven to remove litter, over litter bins which it has experience of not preventing litter deposits. Education and enforcement are also important and this work must also be continued. However, the council will be pleased to support local communities who may wish to provide litter bins themselves, or undertake community litter picking initiatives or relocate existing litter bins.

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**12 May 2015**

---

**Item 17 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division**

**To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards and Broadband**

A policy has been imposed on Area Boards which requires any issue or proposal coming to a Community Area Transport Group (CATG) to have the support of the relevant Town or Parish Council. It does not allow a CATG to proceed with any solution without that support. This effectively gives Town and Parish Councils a veto, even if the elected Wiltshire Councillor supports action being taken.

**Question 22**

Given that Wiltshire Councillors are encouraged to be 'community leaders', would you not agree that this policy diminishes the role of all Wiltshire Councillors in the areas they represent?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question 23**

CATGs benefit from the professional high quality advice of Council officers when they make their decisions. What steps will you take to make sure that advice is available to Town and parish Councils when they consider whether they are going to support or veto proposals put forward by members of the local public?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question 24**

Given these difficulties, will you consider revising the Area Board CATG Terms of Reference so that they only require Town and Parish Councils to give an opinion, without the power of veto?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**12 May 2015**

---

**Item 17 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division**

**To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council**

According to the papers of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 25 March, the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group is now engaged in re-commissioning 'Adult Community Services' for Wiltshire residents. This rather dry term doesn't fully convey the large range of what is involved, which is the provision of (to quote the HWB paper):

*Community Beds (inc Step up), Community Geriatrician/Frail Elderly Service, Stroke Therapies Neurology Stroke, Speech and Language Therapy (SALT), MIU, Continence, CTPLD, Hearing Therapies, Tissue Viability Lymphedema, Diabetes, Dietetics, Podiatry, Community Outpatient Musculoskeletal (MSK) Physiotherapy & Extended Scope Physiotherapy (ESP), Orthotics, Wheelchairs, Cardiac (PACE) & Respiratory Services (COPD), Core Community Teams (inc Care Co-ordinators) Outpatient Department services, and Fracture Clinic*

**Question 25**

In the HWB papers it was reported that four organisations had been chosen to go forward to the next stage in the selection process, but these four were not named. As Chair of the HWB, you presumably know who these four are. Will you take this opportunity to make their names public?

**Response**

Wiltshire CCG is leading the re-commissioning process for adult community services. As part of this, the CCG invited the four organisations that have been chosen to go forward to the next stage in the selection process to make their names public. However, not all have chosen to do so, which means these cannot yet be announced publicly in this part of the procurement process.

**Question 26**

What part is Wiltshire Council playing in this commissioning process?

**Response**

As per the paper which went to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Wiltshire Council has been invited to nominate two representatives to the procurement panel.

**Question 27**

The HWB paper referred to in the previous question states that the aim is “to secure the most advantageous (Adult Community) services for the people of Wiltshire”. In your view, as Leader of this Council, could the award of this service contract to a private sector for-profit company be advantageous for the people of Wiltshire?

**Response**

Wiltshire Council will be placing an emphasis on ensuring that, whichever organisation is selected, there will be close working between adult community services, social care teams, GP practices and the acute hospitals. This is crucial for delivering the vision of care outlined in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Better Care Plan – with care at or closer to home and local services clustered around GP surgeries. The final decision on which organisation is best placed to deliver this rests with the CCG, however Wiltshire Council will do all it can and will work with partner organisations to ensure high quality services, free at the point of delivery, are made available to Wiltshire residents - with a strong emphasis on sustained investment in integration of services.

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**12 May 2015**

---

**Item 17 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Ernie Clark, Hilperton Division**

**To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

**Question 28**

I am advised that this council no longer has enough money to replace broken equipment in the play areas it is responsible for. Is this true? If it is, how does this equate with the WC wish to get our children fitter?

**Response**

A considerable number of play areas across the county are provided and funded by the town and parish councils. To ensure a harmonised policy across the county, with all town and parish councils being treated the same, the council continues to seek to asset transfer these facilities to the local community. The council has a budget of circa £145k for the inspection and maintenance of its 184 facilities. The council's priority is to fund the inspection of these facilities to ensure they are safe. When major repairs are required the relevant town or parish council will be contacted to confirm if they wish to fund the repair or take on the facility. If this is not an option the council will prioritise its funding to ensure the safety of the facility.