

Agenda Item 6 ii))

PUBLIC QUESTIONS				
Council – 7th December 2023				
No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
1.	Kelly Duddridge	Adele Wylie - Petitions Officer	'With regard to the Wellingborough recall petition and specifically the opening hours of the signing places, to allow for greater participation, can the weekday opening hours be extended until 7pm and can the signing places be open on the two remaining Saturdays before the deadline expires?'	<p>There is no provision in legislation to amend the opening hours for the petition signing places once notice of the designated signing places and opening hours has been published in the Notice of Petition. In considering arrangements for extended opening hours, we were mindful of ensuring consistency across all 9 signing places and in some cases, we were restricted by the opening hours and limited resources of venues during the 6 week period.</p> <p>We were also presented with a number of challenges, due to pre-booked Christmas activities/events at a number of locations. In some cases, we have had to implement workarounds to accommodate existing bookings or business operations. After a great deal of negotiation, we were able to reach a consensus across all 9 locations for the one day of extended opening hours. Electors are able to register for a proxy vote until 5pm on 11th December 2023 should they not be able to attend during opening hours.</p>