

Appendix B - Councillor Questions, Responses and Supplementaries – 17th October 2024

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
1.	Cllr Martin Griffiths	Cllr Matt Binley	<p>What recent contact has been made with the owners and businesses of Victoria Park Retail area in Wellingborough regarding the appearance of the site and in particular the excessive littering of the service roads and landscaped verges?</p> <p>Supplementary Question I support the immediate action being taken, the service area also reeks of urine and other. I wonder if that could also be considered when our officers visit?</p>	<p>We are aware of some ongoing issues with littering on this private land, which has previously been identified by NNC officers. There has been contact several months ago and given the on-going issues at the location, the occupants of the commercial units will be re-contacted reminding them of their legal obligations. Officers will re-attend the location this week and commence gathering evidence of the detriment to the amenity with a view to issuing a Community Protection Warning under the Anti-Social Crime and Policing Act 2014, if the evidence suggests the need to do so.</p> <p>Supplementary Response You'll be pleased to know I visited the site today so I do know of the issues that are being faced there and yes you are absolutely right, with officers already having identified the smell of urine. Officers are working with local businesses to push them to provide facilities for those drivers, they really should be. That will be pursued.</p>
2.	Cllr Peter MCEwan	Cllr Matt Binley	<p>Does the portfolio-holder for Highways like me believe that implementing a decision 2 years after consultation is inappropriate. A decision to put yellow lines on Constable road in Corby is having a</p>	<p>Timeframes associated with implementing new parking regulations are greatly influenced by the legislative requirements for publishing notices and consulting with stakeholders and residents. We have recently undertaken a review of this process with a view to reducing the timeframes, but we cannot shorten the consultation exercise, and nor would we want to given the importance of resident</p>

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			<p>huge impact on disabled people living there.</p> <p>Will the portfolio-holder work with local councillors and officers to resolve these difficulties?</p> <p>Supplementary Question Will the portfolio holder meet with local councillors and officers to look at the matter on Constable Road</p>	<p>engagement. The Delegated Decision Report (DDR) signing was delayed by the change over of the contracts from the old NCC contract and then getting staff in at NNC to review. The DDR was completed in March 2023. Work on site was completed 4th September 2024.</p> <p>From the consultation process, Cllr John McGhee and Cllr Peter McEwan gave their support to the proposal. Only one comment from the public was received, and it influenced the final scheme design which was reduced to implement parking restrictions on one side of Constable Road only. This enables the scheme to maintain a level of resident parking, opened the carriageway for emergency vehicle access and reduced the likelihood of footways being obstructed, which would have adversely impacted disabled people. In addition, a Blue Badge holder could park for a limited time on the double yellow lines if necessary. If there is a specific problem, please bring this to officers' attention and they will investigate whether further assistance can be provided to support those with specific mobility needs. A member of the public can apply for a disabled parking bay at https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/parking/apply-disabled-parking-space-outside-your-house</p> <p>Supplementary Response I was there two weeks ago with Kier Highways so I do know the street and the location. I would just highlight in response that its only a small section of the road. I don't disagree with</p>

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			<p>considering the consultation period was over two years ago and it is causing quite a bit of stress for the people living there. I don't know if you've been down there and looked at it, but the yellow lines are outside everybody's house and on the other side of the street there are no houses. So I don't know why the yellow lines are on one side with nothing on the other. Will you agree to meet some of the tenants to see what they have to say about the yellow lines.</p>	<p>you that there was a delay and that is answered in my initial response to your question. The local councillors were consulted as well and raised no objections to this and assistance has already been offered.</p> <p>If additional support is required for residents since that traffic regulation order has been introduced then yes we will meet with residents to look at putting something into place.</p>
3.	Cllr Martin Griffiths	Cllr Matt Binley	<p>How many surveillance cameras are being deployed by NNC to catch and convict fly tippers and how many prosecutions for fly tipping have been successful using our covert surveillance cameras compared to evidence obtained from the material itself or from members of the public?</p>	<p>We currently operate four covert units. Since April 2021, there have been no prosecutions where the only evidence relies on covert surveillance and very few successful prosecutions are attributed to any one single evidence stream.</p> <p>During the same period officers have issued the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Prosecutions 2783 Warning Letters 113 Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping 22 Fixed Penalty Notices for Failure of Duty of Care 81 Fixed Penalty Notices for Littering (N.B the offence of littering can be used for small scale fly tipping, usually bags of household waste)

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			<p>Supplementary Question Our laybys, farm entrances and minor roads are a disgrace despite the best efforts of our teams in clearing up fly-tipping. Do you believe that the four units you refer to is sufficient and have you considered the use of drones, possibly in partnership with the Northamptonshire Police Rural Crime Team to tackle this issue, especially around fly-tipping from moving vehicles?</p>	<p>Supplementary Response Officers are not working with the police at the moment, they're actually working with the dash cam companies to find a way forward of sharing data much in the same way that happens with the police, so that we are able to enforce environmental crime issues such as the ones you have just quoted, including litter being ejected from vehicles, so yes absolutely. With regards to the number of covert cameras, yes, it is enough. Are they effective? No, probably not. One of the biggest issues we have despite them being covert is that unfortunately they get stolen. That's the irony of it. So, I can't tell you in detail for operational reasons, but what I can tell you is that there are operations going on at the moment to try and counteract this. It doesn't involve drones I hasten to add. The other thing is as you probably will have seen from the forward plan in November, is we are due to be having a paper brought forward to the Executive, referencing Environmental Crime Offences 2023, which of course was the last Conservative Government which produced increases in fines for everything from fly tipping to littering and graffiti etc. So of course, the Executive is considering that, and of course you know I strongly welcome input from Members and attendance on the day, if possible, to talk about it.</p>

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4.	Cllr Anne Lee	Cllr David Brackenbury	<p>Please give an indication of when the Job's Yard illegal block of flats in Kettering will be demolished, following which Meeting Lane in Kettering can finally reopen as a road for Kettering residents?</p> <p>Supplementary Question I would still like to say, that if Firemen were able to access the building to put out the fire, why can't the Council not access the building to resolve a situation that has been compromising the safety of Kettering residents for years now.</p>	<p>Council officers remain focussed on progressing the demolition of the building. We have engaged a contractor and have been trying to arrange an inspection of the building so that the contractor can finalise their proposed methodology and risk assessments which have to be in place as part of a safe system of work required by the Health and Safety Executive. To date the site owner has refused to allow access and so we have submitted a further application to the High Court to ensure we are able to progress the demolition without obstruction from the site owner and are currently waiting a date for the hearing. The cordon and access restrictions will need to remain in place around the building, until the demolition is complete.</p> <p>Supplementary Answer It was noted that Councillor Brackenbury would answer the supplementary question in writing.</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
5.	Cllr Anne Lee	Cllr Matt Binley	<p>Why are the fountains in Kettering’s Market Place only working for Kettering-by-the-Sea in August, although they were intended to be in regular use?</p> <p>Supplementary Question If there is a water leak, why is the work not being expedited to fix it, rather than spread over a six-month period. I’m talking about Autumn/ Winter which is mentioned here. How committed are you in getting that fixed, please?</p>	<p>As confirmed as part of a media enquiry in July, a water leak in the fountain system was discovered in late Spring, which would have required significant excavation works to investigate and remedy. To avoid disrupting planned events in the Market Place we were able to get the fountain working during the summer holiday even though the system was leaking water, but agreed with event holders, including Kettering Town Council that the fountain would be switched off at the end of September to conserve water use. The investigation works will be undertaken over the Autumn/Winter period in conjunction with Anglian Water, to determine what works are required to endeavour the fountain is fully operational for the 2025 season.</p> <p>Supplementary Answer The reason that we’re not in a rush to have it fixed, is because it’s not leaking water. It’s a closed system. It only leaks water when it’s switched on. That’s the whole point of that set of fountains. Once it’s on, it’s a closed system, the problem then is there’s a leak. There’s constantly something coming out. Which means the system needs constant top up. That’s why it’s switched off, so repairs can take place. With regards to expediting it as per the answer, it’s very clear it’s Anglia Water. We are at their mercy. The works here have to be carried out by Anglia Water due to the location and the nature, but we are at their mercy.</p>

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6.	Cllr Anne Lee	Cllr Matt Binley	<p>How much would it cost to restore power to the Faraday fountain in Manor House Gardens?</p> <p>Supplementary Question Since the root cause is known to be that the power was cut off to the Manor House Gardens during the Art Gallery extensive works, how committed are you to ensure the power will be restored to the gardens in time for the Christmas lights?</p>	<p>Officers are currently working to try and restore power to the fountain and lighting in Manor House Gardens, it is unknown at this stage as to what the root cause is. Once restored we will be able to ascertain if any further works are required to bring the fountain back into use, including the fountain motor and condition of the pipework. As the fountain has not been operating for a number of years there may be unforeseen costs to bringing the fountain back into use. Once those costs have been evaluated the Council will be able to consider next steps.</p> <p>Supplementary Answer Thank you. They weren't actually cut off as part of the works. Having done some research, they were at least cut off in May 2019. That's when it stopped. There's photographic evidence of that and officers have provided reassurance that they are going to do their best endeavours to get that back up and running by Christmas.</p>

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7.	Cllr Elliot Prentice	Cllr Helen Howell	<p>The sight of buckets catching leaks in the children's library is shameful. Why was Cornerstone not sufficiently watertight prior to the placement of the children's library and what checks have been completed to ensure no further leaks will be experienced?</p> <p>Supplementary Question Councillor Howell, thank you for your answer. I'm mainly happy with it, to be honest with you, but just wondered if you could provide a few more specific timelines, than as soon as possible?</p>	<p>The sight of buckets in any of our premises is not ideal, but following the recent period of unprecedented, intense, and prolonged rain, a leak appeared in a section of the new extension of the Cornerstone building in Kettering. This was not apparent when the contractor handed the building over to NNC following completion of the extension. The issue has been passed back to the original contractor to investigate and resolve as part of the snagging process. It will be resolved as quickly as possible and we will continue to liaise with the contractor to achieve this. The rain fall had an impact on a number of properties under the control of NNC due to its overwhelming quantity in such a short period of time, and we will continue to monitor and identify any further issues at Cornerstone and all assets under the control of North Northants Council.</p> <p>Supplementary Response Thank you for your question. The officers are working on this as we speak, a lot of the problems obviously, especially when we come to the Winter period, is the debris that fall from the trees, which gets caught in the gullies and then in turn holds the water in those places. So, it's a case of general maintenance as well to make sure that those gullies are kept clean, which is why we are literally on it constantly. I can assure you that we are constantly making those maintenance arrangements. It's totally ongoing.</p>

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8.	Cllr Lyn Buckingham	Lloyd Bunday	How much Compensation has NNC paid out to residents across all Directorates in 2023/2024 and how many cases are there waiting for a decision?	<p>Compensation payments via complaints process awarded by Ombudsman</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Service Area</th> <th>Amount Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Housing</td> <td>900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education & Childrens Services</td> <td>38,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult Care Services</td> <td>810</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning & Development</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>40,010</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Payments due to insurance claims*</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Division</th> <th>Claims Paid</th> <th>Amount Paid</th> <th>Claims Open</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Parks & Grounds Maintenance</td> <td>4</td> <td>£7,426.00</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facilities</td> <td>0</td> <td>£0.00</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highways</td> <td>9</td> <td>£23,499.18</td> <td>107</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing</td> <td>2</td> <td>£2,450.80</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Car Parks</td> <td>3</td> <td>£304.20</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Property</td> <td>1</td> <td>£818.00</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Refuse & Waste</td> <td>5</td> <td>£2,710.15</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Service Area	Amount Paid	Housing	900	Education & Childrens Services	38,000	Adult Care Services	810	Planning & Development	300	Total	40,010	Division	Claims Paid	Amount Paid	Claims Open	Parks & Grounds Maintenance	4	£7,426.00	2	Facilities	0	£0.00	1	Highways	9	£23,499.18	107	Housing	2	£2,450.80	7	Car Parks	3	£304.20	2	Property	1	£818.00	2	Refuse & Waste	5	£2,710.15	2
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9.	Cllr Lyn Buckingham	Cllr Mark Rowley	<p data-bbox="647 719 1115 1118">Council Garages are a valuable resource, To demonstrate good governance and deliver value for money, the Council should only retain the right assets to deliver services and drive efficiencies through disposal, when will the Council complete an asset management review of the council's garages and garage areas?</p> <p data-bbox="647 1161 1137 1380">Supplementary Question So, garages are an asset. There are a lot of people who are waiting for garages, but you have only talked about the development potential in that, so again it's an</p>	<p data-bbox="1182 719 2051 935">Both the Asset Management team and the Housing team are working collaboratively to identify underutilised garage courts that could provide social housing to support local demand. So far 15 priority sites have been identified to be reviewed for this potential, and where they are deemed unfeasible will be considered for disposal via the Council's disposal policy.</p> <p data-bbox="1182 978 2004 1118">It should be noted that many of the garage courts have significant development constraints such as easements, individual garage sales to right to buy owners, and access issues that prevent development.</p> <p data-bbox="1182 1161 2063 1380">Supplementary Response Yes, the review is going on with the Asset Management Team and the Housing Team. Regarding the garages as to whether it's suitable for keeping them as garages or redevelopments, that's an ongoing task and obviously budgets have got to be found for the repairs as well, because they're on the General</p>												

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			asset. When is it going to be looked at, because a lot of them are in disrepair?	Housing Fund, not the Housing Fund, so it's on going. I haven't got any dates as to when it will be completed.
10.	Cllr Lyn Buckingham	Cllr Mark Rowley	How many three-bedroom properties does NNC have in Corby and Kettering, are these designated for families with disability or general needs?	<p>The Council has 2,828 (three-bedroomed properties) of which 822 have a listed adaptation type as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathing adaptations, level access showers and over bath showers • Access ramping • Stairlifts, hoists and through floor lifts • Wheelchair accessible. <p>All properties are designated for General Needs.</p> <p>Applicants with a disability will be given priority to the property that has the correct adaptation for their needs. We will always seek to match properties depending on the type of adaptations to applicant's needs. This also ensures that the council can make the best use of its stock.</p> <p>We are delighted that we have now delivered five specially adapted properties on the Cannock Road development in Corby and our design brief of Cheltenham Road also ensured a number of the bungalows were wheelchair accessible and additional adaptations can be installed if required.</p>

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11.	Cllr Valerie Anslow	Cllr Scott Edwards	<p><i>North Northamptonshire Council recognise that parents have the right to educate their children at home (elective home education) and there is a process in place for parents to follow if they wish to do so.</i></p> <p><i>How many children currently being educated at home have a SEND requirement?</i></p> <p>Supplementary Question If there are, as it is stated in the answer from Councillor Edwards, 1032 children of statutory school age, who are being electively home educated, 246 of them are SEND and 76 have EHCP's. My question is the 786 children whose parents have withdrawn them from school, that's the difference, how many of those children were in the process of identifying their special needs and left school because their need we not being met? I'd like to know the number of the 786?</p>	<p>The overall Elected Home education cohort for North Northamptonshire is 1032 of statutory school age (4yrs to 16 years) of which 246 are SEN support and 76 have EHCP's.</p> <p>Supplementary Response It was noted that Councillor Edwards would answer the supplementary question in writing.</p>

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12.	Cllr Jim Hakewill	Cllr David Howes	<p>Based on what calculations was the sum required for the provision of a Temporary Traveller Stopping site that led to the Council putting £1.3 million into this and next year's budget? How much of this year's budget has been spent so far?</p> <p>Supplementary Question What is the £4000 being spent on?</p>	<p>The estimated project cost for the provision of a Temporary Travellers Stopping site of £1,300,000 (£1.3 Million) was based on a bid to the Traveller Site Fund administered by DHLUC in June 2022. This bid estimated that the capital cost to deliver the proposed Temporary Travellers Site Project at that time was £990,672. A full breakdown of the project costs was set out in the project budget 'Traveller Site Fund Budget Table' at Appendix C of the 21st December 2023 Executive Report which were based on costings originally provided by external consultants in 2016 which were then revised in relation to the 2022 bid.</p> <p>These 2022 costings were then further revised to account for contract cost inflation for building materials and construction costs (10-15% per annum) and an increase for survey reports following pre-application planning advice to arrive at an estimated cost to deliver the Temporary Travellers site project of £1.3M.</p> <p>To date £4k has been spent from the £164k budget allocated for 24/25. £1.136m of the budget has been allocated to 2025/26.</p> <p>Supplementary Answer £4000 has been spent with external consultants doing research work for us.</p>

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13.	Cllr Jim Hakewill	Cllr David Howes	<p>What is the present situation in relation to delivery the 10 Permanent Traveller pitches granted planning permission by Kettering Borough Council on the 1st July 2009 (KET/2009/0155)? This proposal was intended to provide 40% of the required supply for families who meet the Gypsy and Traveller definition?</p> <p>Supplementary Question When do you anticipate the first Traveller occupants will be on site, given the planning permission is now some 15 years old?</p>	<p>The site (planning application KET/2009/0155) at land at Stoke Albany Road, Desborough has an extant permission, the site having been commenced through ground excavation works to install an access driveway into and around the site. No further progress has been made since these initial site commencement works. The site is privately owned, and as such delivery is reliant upon the landowner delivering the remainder of the site in line with the consented planning application.</p> <p>The Council has been in regular dialogue with the landowners in relation to bringing this land forward for the intended use of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. We shall continue to work with the landowners to seek the best outcome for the landowners and the Council.</p> <p>Supplementary Answer It's largely up to the landowners, in terms of when they plan to start the development work, I'm afraid we are a little bit at the mercy of the landowners.</p>

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14.	Cllr Jim Hakewill	Cllr David Brackenbury	<p>What is the current position in relation to the Local Plan Review for North Northamptonshire. What is the period for which the new plan will be applicable and when do we expect it to be formally adopted?</p> <p>Supplementary Question I appreciate the courtesy of Councillor Brackenbury for sending an email. My question, which I hope will be noted and passed on to him. What meeting will scrutinise the progress of the Local Plan?</p>	<p>The timetable for the North Northamptonshire Local Plan is currently under review considering the recent consultation on planning reforms proposed through the National Planning Policy Framework, and letter published by the Deputy Prime Minister. It is intended to reset the Local Plan timetable through papers to be presented to Members to agree a new Local Development Scheme early next year.</p> <p>The period for the new Plan is currently 2021-2041, this will however be looked at in reviewing the Local Development Scheme.</p> <p>Should Cllr Hakewill wish to discuss this further with me, I would be happy to do so outside this meeting.</p> <p>Supplementary Answer It was noted that Councillor Brackenbury would answer the supplementary question in writing.</p>

End of Cllr Questions