

**COUNTY COUNCIL –15 May 2019
PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

1. Questioner's name: Hannah McCarthy	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
<p>We moved into our house as tenants of 11a Lansdown Place Lane, a new build house, on 14 December. We were led to believe that the road had been exempted from parking permit zone Zone 13, but in March noticed that signs attached to lampposts along the road from the County Council to say that inclusion of our road in the Zone was being considered. We had no further communication from the Council and heard nothing more about the matter until 3 April, when parking fines were issued to all vehicles parked in the road. We have been additionally stung as a new build, we are still waiting to be registered by the council and are unable to register for a permit without a confirmed council tax number. Please can the cabinet member responsible account for the actions taken by parking enforcement teams and spell out the grounds for appeal against this outrageous abuse of process?</p>	<p>Lansdown Place Lane is in the Zone 13 permit scheme, part of the Cheltenham West scheme introduced in August 2016. The restriction introduced here included permit holder only parking and some shared use bays for permit holders shared with limited waiting.</p> <p>After implementation of the changes, and in response to vocal feedback from local businesses, we proposed an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to remove the parking restrictions in Lansdown Place Lane. We wrote to directly affected residents asking them to comment and provided them with updates at each stage during the experimental period. Based on the comments received and in consultation with local councillors we proposed that only the eastern end of Lansdown Place Lane should revert back to permit holders only at the end of the experiment, as per the original Zone 13 restriction.</p> <p>We formally advertised this between 1st February and 1st March 2019 with notices on site, in the paper and on our website. All comments received (8 in support and one objecting) were duly considered and responses given. A copy of the TRO report can be found on the GCC website (www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/tros).</p> <p>In order to purchase a permit our policy defines, a registered property as one that has a council tax number. Requiring applicants to provide this information helps us to reduce fraud and maintain the benefits of the scheme to other permit holders. We recommend that the resident contacts Cheltenham Borough Council or their landlord and then contacts the GCC Parking Team</p>

	<p>so that we can assist with applying for a permit.</p> <p>In the short term there are nearby shared use and limited waiting bays that may offer alternative parking and there is also an appeals process with information on the PCN itself. All challenges will be considered.</p>
2. Questioner's name: Steve Gower	Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams
<p>With record numbers of deaths in this city to tenants of supported living and the lack of transparency with regards to safeguarding or whereabouts of homeless hub. Does this give you any concerns</p>	<p>We do not recognise the claim that there have been a record number of deaths.</p> <p>We do not have safeguarding concerns regarding the hubs. Referrals to the Somewhere Safe to Stay hubs can be made via the Streetlink app / website (www.streetlink.org.uk). The outreach team will actively find the rough sleeper and bring them to one of the hubs, appropriate risk assessments are undertaken at point of access to safeguard all users of the hub services.</p>
3. Questioner's name: Henry Jones	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
<p>To the cabinet member for finance: The Green Finance Task Force has analysed what resources are required for deep de-carbonisation of the economy and the changes required to infrastructure. Interestingly it has not said this will need to be all new money, but a proportion of it will be redirected money. What money will GCC commit to redirecting from current budgets into programmes which will actively help to decarbonise our county?</p>	<p>The Council is holding a Climate Change Summit with Gfirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) on 21st May. Our ambition is to achieve a carbon neutral county by 2050 in line with the policy. We will be looking at how we can all contribute to the delivery of the most sustainable development and shape communities accordingly, helping to deliver the ambitions of the Gloucestershire Energy Strategy and contribute to updating the County Council's Climate Change Strategy. The outcomes from this event will be used to develop a new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the Council. This will include an assessment of resource implications. The draft Strategy & Action Plan is planned to be published for public consultation in the summer, and to go on to Cabinet in October 2019.</p>

<p>4. Questioner's name: Lynn Haanen</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>To: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> <p>The motion coming before the County Council is called a "Carbon Action Plan" and while noting that councils around the world – and some in Gloucestershire County – have declared a climate emergency this motion fails to do so. It only resolves to "Commit towards an 80 per cent reduction in the Council's corporate carbon emissions no later than 2030, striving towards 100 per cent with carbon offsetting by the same date". I would like clarification about what this commitment means; is it limited to the County Council's corporate delivery plan or is it a target for the entire geographic area of Gloucestershire County?</p>	<p>I am afraid I am not proposing the motion – but I am sure that the councillors who are will have heard your question and respond when they propose their motion.</p>
<p>5. Questioner's name: Senan Clifford</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</p>
<p>What proportion (percentage) and how much (in £s) of Gloucestershire County Council's pension assets, held by Brunel Pension Partnership, are invested in fossil fuels and companies which are primarily fossil fuel extractive companies?</p> <p>Please let me know if there is anything further you need to from me, and I would be grateful if you would confirm my question has been received.</p>	<p>It is important to note that Gloucestershire County Council does not own the money in the pension fund – it belongs beneficially to thousands of pensioners and employers from hundreds of organisations across the county and elsewhere. Nor do councillors decide on individual investments, that is for the fund managers.</p> <p>The Brunel Pension Partnership have produced estimated figures by equating 'Oil and Gas' to Fossil Fuel and 'General Mining' to Extraction. This provides the estimated figures shown below:</p> <p>Oil & Gas: 7.8% of portfolio or GBP 71.1m General mining: 4.1% of portfolio or GBP 37.7</p> <p>So c. 11.9% of the portfolio with a total Assets under management of GBP 108.8m This will overstate the amount – as much of general mining is likely to be in industries other than coal.</p>

6. Questioner's name: Jennie Ireland	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
<p>Noting last week's report on the huge, manmade decline in biodiversity globally what measures are you taking to protect regenerate and restore nature in Gloucestershre?</p>	<p>GCC is a funding partner and Board member of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (LNP) which is taking a variety of measures to regenerate and restore biodiversity across the county. We are playing various roles in this. GCC has recently signed the LNP's Green Infrastructure Pledge and is starting to embed this into relevant work areas. We already look for opportunities to enhance biodiversity through minerals and waste planning policy, school developments and through highways schemes and maintenance. Cabinet recently received a report from a task group chaired by Cllr Rachel Price, looking at Biodiversity, which we are looking at with interest.</p>
7. Questioner's name: Jennie Ireland	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
<p>The UK Governments committee on climate change recently said in a report that the UK must plant 3 billion trees - what plans does Gloucestershire CC have for planting trees in Gloucestershire?</p>	<p>We already look for opportunities to enhance biodiversity and this can include tree planting. New tree or shrub planting must be carefully located as in some locations it is sometimes more appropriate to create/restore other habitats and features. These will all, however, act as carbon sinks. Whilst we will do what we can to encourage appropriate future tree planting, we will be more effective by co-ordinating action with the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership of which we are a key member.</p> <p>Tree planting is already actively encouraged through planning policy and determination of planning applications, particularly as part of minerals site restoration but also on waste and school sites. We will continue to look at where trees might be incorporated into GCC projects, where this doesn't risk safety or biodiversity and landscape character objectives.</p>

8. Questioner's name: Louise Proud	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>At Gloucestershire County Council, women make up 69% of the workforce. However, the latest gender pay gap figures reveal that women make up only 65% of higher-paid jobs and 77% of lower-paid jobs. Does more work need to be done in relation to promoting women to higher paid roles at the Council?</p>	<p>GCC's gender pay gap exists but compares favourably to other local authority organisations of a similar size and nature. In addition, the Council's mean gender pay gap was 7.4% in 2018 compared to a mean to the public sector in 2017 of 17.7%. We recognise that this still means that further work needs to be done and we are making use of the gender pay gap information to update the new senior leadership development programme and reward strategy. It will also inform our efforts to develop the Council's approach to workforce planning. More detailed reporting on the distribution of staff across the various occupations in the Council will further support and inform work required to further reduce the gender pay gap.</p>
9. Questioner's name: Louise Proud	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>Has an equal pay audit been carried out at the Council, comparing the pay of men and women doing equal work? If so, when was this last carried out and what were the findings and actions please?</p>	<p>An equal pay audit was last carried out in 2008 with an action plan that was implemented over the period 2008 to 2010. There is an equal pay audit included in the audit team's work plan for 2019/20. To ensure equal and fair pay for work done the Council uses job evaluation schemes (JE) to determine the rates of pay for all posts. JE is a method of determining, on a systematic basis, the relative importance of a number of different jobs. The JE schemes have been designed to ensure there is no gender bias in any of the job-related factors that they measure. We are therefore confident that the rates of pay we set for jobs within the Council are consistent with equal pay requirements and will continue to be so.</p>

<p>10. Questioner's name: Louise Proud</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>This year's gender pay gap figures revealed that despite a slight narrowing on last year, the Council still has a gender pay gap of 11.8% in favour of men. Following the publication of gender pay gap figures last year, many organisations published action plans setting out how they will tackle the gender pay gap with constructive proposals for change. Did the Council produce such an action plan and if so was this enshrined in policy? Please provide details of any action plan.</p>	<p>The Council's gender pay gap figures are being used to support the development of initiatives across the Council. For example, the development of leadership and management in terms of professional development, succession planning and recruitment will all be new programmes going forward and will be informed by the gender pay gap data. This is aligned to the key priorities within our Workforce Strategy.</p>
<p>11. Questioner's name: Yvonne Dignon</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>The UK Government's Committee on Climate Change recently reported that 3 billion trees must be planted. What proportion of Gloucestershire's land mass of 2653km² is in County ownership?</p> <p>What proportion (percentage) of that County Land has been identified as suitable for tree planting?</p> <p>Bearing in mind this is a climate emergency, what deadline has been set for Gloucestershire to allocate land for tree planting?</p> <p>What deadline has been set to plan for and implement the tree planting?</p>	<p>GCC Rural Estate land is equivalent to 1%, of the area of Gloucestershire This is our rural estate – and excludes things like schools and highways land.</p> <p>Our rural estate is tenanted and individual farmers have control and responsibility for the land they occupy. GCC as landlord legally cannot, tell them how or what to farm.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, a number of tenants have planted up field corners where opportunities have arisen. Furthermore, several holdings have entered into the Countryside Stewardship programmes within which, hedge and tree planting schemes have been undertaken. Further, the mosaic of smaller fields forming County farms, gives rise to increased lengths of hedgerows within the county, a major landscape feature of which is mature trees. The Council continues to encourage tenants to enter into such conservation agreements and is currently working with the Farming</p>

	and Wildlife Advisory Group in respect of further applications.
12. Questioner's name: Yvonne Dignon	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
<p>What proportion (percentage) of Gloucestershire land is currently given over to the raising livestock including raising crops to feed livestock?</p> <p>Bearing in mind the emergency nature of the need for action on significantly shifting the diet of the population, what deadline has the Council set on the transition of County owned land to plant based food for human consumption?</p> <p>What proportion of County owned land has been identified as suitable for the changes?</p>	<p>The majority of the rural estate agricultural land is utilised for raising livestock, which enables a variety of foodstuffs including beef, pork, lamb, chicken, milk and cheese to be produced. A smaller acreage is utilised for the production of vegetables, and fruit. GCC produce is widely distributed through individual farm shops both on and off the estate. On occasion, high quality grain has also been produced and utilised for bread flour. GCC's rural estate includes a small number of organic units, with the grazing resulting in herb, grass, flower and insect rich pasture. Several other holdings whilst not organic utilise many of the principles of organic farming to enable environmentally sustainable farming operations.</p> <p>None however, the Council has seen and encouraged a rise in the number of diversified farm businesses including, direct sales, farm shops and improved business relationships with local food outlets with a focus on producing high quality food products and reduced food miles. Whilst the Council is not in a position to dictate a shift in agricultural activity, the level of demand for plant based food, combined with national agricultural policies will ultimately influence a tenant's choice of farming activity.</p> <p>See answers immediately above.</p>

13. Questioner's name: Tracee Williams	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>To: Leader of Council</p> <p>What risk assessments have been carried out to assess the impact climate change will have on Gloucestershire and its residents in different temperature rise scenarios? (ie 1.5oC, 2.0oC, 3.0oC, 4.0oC and 5.0oC+)</p>	<p>The lead agency for assessing the likelihood and scale of the impact climate change will have on Gloucestershire and its residents is the Gloucestershire Local Resilience Forum (LRF). Chaired by Deputy Chief Constable, the LRF is the principal mechanism for multi-agency cooperation under the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004. Their Community Risk Register includes weather-related hazards, including heat and flooding.</p> <p>The likely impacts on Gloucestershire were considered as part of the council's Corporate Climate Change Strategy adopted in 2008. These have been reviewed following publication of the UK Climate Projections 2009 and will be again using the updated 2018 projections. A range of measures have been implemented to take this forward, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration into the council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy • Inclusion in the council's Strategic Risk Register, with progress reported quarterly to the Corporate Management Team • Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) – chapter 10 is on Climate Change, including as assessment of the risks and likely impact. The council is a member of the SW Highways Alliance, and has helped develop the Highways Infrastructure Resilience Assessment Modelling (HIRAM) Tool. • The council is on the Board of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership, working together to recognise the importance of embedding nature's value in local decisions for the benefit of nature, people and the economy. The GLNP is seen by Defra as a key figure in the local delivery of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council is a member of Defra’s Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP), England, comprising local government, central government and arms-length delivery bodies, informing development of the government’s National Adaptation Programme. <p>The Council’s approach will be reviewed following the Climate Change Summit with Gfirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) on 21st May.</p> <p>The outcomes from this event will be used to develop a new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the Council. The draft Strategy & Action Plan is planned to be published for public consultation in the summer, and to go on to Cabinet in October 2019.</p>
<p>14. Questioner’s name: Tracee Williams</p>	<p>Respondent’s name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>To: Cabinet Member for Economy</p> <p>Next week there will be a conference for climate change held at the growth hub in Gloucester. Who has been invited?</p>	<p>A range of public, private and community organisations have been invited to attend, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brand New Story BT Group South West Business West Centre for Sustainable Energy Cheltenham Borough Council Coombes Everitt architects Cotswold District Council/ Publica Cotswold Group of Unitarians CWM Marketing David Penny Consulting Dowty Manufacturing Ecotricity

- EVOLVE HES
- Forest of Dean Borough Council
- Gfirst Local Enterprise Partnership, including Business Group Chairs
- Gloucester Cathedral
- Gloucester City Council
- Gloucestershire Community Energy Action/ Transition Stroud
- Gloucestershire Constabulary
- Gloucestershire County Council, including the Young Employees' Network
- Gloucestershire Members of the Youth Parliament (MYP)
- Gloucestershire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Gloucestershire VCS Alliance
- Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
- Great Western Rail
- Growth Hub, Gloucester, The
- Herefordshire Council
- HM Government Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
- HSBC
- Marine Management Organisation
- MLM Group
- NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Post Office, The
- R&C O'Neill Ltd
- RG Nelson Consultancy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience Centre, The • Ridge and Partners • Sanctus Ltd • Severn Wye Energy Agency • SGS College • South West Energy Hub • Spirax Sarco • Stagecoach • Stroud District Council • SQ • Surple • Tewkesbury Borough Council • University of Gloucestershire, including student speaker and Students' Union • Wales & West Utilities • Western Power Distribution • Willans LLP • Willmott Dixon Construction • YouthStrike4ClimateStroud
<p>15. Questioner's name: Lyndon Edwardson</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Acting on a 'climate emergency' requires us to prepare and adapt to a climate we know will change. Food security risk in the UK is a potential and dangerous consequence of climate change. We as a nation cannot fully feed ourselves. Our current industrial scale farming methods are not only vulnerable to climatic changes, but they are also a major cause of climate change and massive biodiversity loss. Would GCC be willing to support the localisation of</p>	<p>The Council is holding a Climate Change Summit with Gfirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) on 21st May. Our ambition is to achieve a carbon neutral county by 2050. We will be looking at how we can all contribute to the delivery of the most sustainable development and shape communities accordingly, helping to deliver the ambitions of the Gloucestershire Energy Strategy and contribute to updating the County Council's Climate Change</p>

<p>our food supply and the resilience of our communities by supporting small scale local sustainable growing initiatives and by making land available for those of us who want to grow food in a regenerative way?</p>	<p>Strategy. The outcomes from this event will be used to develop a new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the Council. The draft Strategy & Action Plan is planned to be published for public consultation in the summer, and to go on to Cabinet in October 2019. Districts Councils are statutory allotment authorities, which are made available for growing food.</p>
<p>16. Questioner's name: Lyndon Edwardson</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Will GCC provide an opportunity for rigorous public consultation through a citizens assembly to decide how to move forward with acting upon a 'climate emergency'?</p>	<p>This council is an assembly, chosen by the citizens of this county in free and fair elections to represent them. If anyone is interested in standing for election, they can do so for free, with the details set out on our website.</p>