

**COUNTY COUNCIL –27 November 2019
PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

<p>1. Questioner's name: Steve Gower</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams</p>
<p>The day the media in Gloucester died! Along with the most vulnerable here too.</p> <p>I asked a public question in 2017:To City Council: How many people had died from suicide that year? It was at Gloucester Shire Hall and was streamed. The response from the Council, who had two weeks to respond, was 43. There was a gasp from everyone at this figure.</p> <p>The next day, the citizen newspaper reporter called to say [after they'd already published the story] – that they would have to take it down as 'the Council had got the dates wrong', as mentioned in email below. Who from the Citizen newspaper made the decision to drop that story? And who from the Cabinet informed the Citizen, they 'made a mistake' yet two years down the line things have changed? Two years later, our MP acknowledges this figure to be true.</p> <p>Statement from Richard Graham MP Oct 2019. Despite this good work the uncomfortable truth is there are too many suicides in Gloucestershire (including Gloucester): 43 in 2017–18.E-News from Richard Graham MP [Oct 2019]</p> <p>Could someone from the Cabinet please inform me who informed the Gloucester Citizen in 2017/18 that the figure of 43 confirmed suicides was from 2013/15 and not as the question was asked the</p>	<p>This question refers to a Gloucester City Council report, and I understand that the questioner has already raised this question there.</p>

<p>2017 figure. Also, who did they contact at the Gloucester Citizen, who ultimately dropped the story?</p>	
<p>2. Questioner's name: Steve Gower</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams</p>
<p>Do you agree with your MP's statement that the original figures I was given by your Council in 2017 were in fact the truth and your council of the day wrongly informed the Gloucester Citizen that it was over a period of two years?</p>	<p>Again, this is a matter for Gloucester City Council.</p>
<p>3. Questioner's name: Steve Gower</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams</p>
<p>Could council explain how in July 2019 through freedom of information when requested.:</p> <p><i>Thank you for your request for information received on 24th July 2019.</i></p> <p><i>Your request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</i></p> <p><i>Please find below Gloucester City Council's response to your request for information.</i></p> <p><i>Q. Please can you inform me of the number of unidentified people annually from 2010 - 2018 have been cremated in the Gloucester crematorium please.</i></p>	<p>As with question 1 and 2, this refers to Gloucester City Council, not the county council.</p>

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Yet not a week, after receiving this response:

That a report in Gloucestershire live detailed a sister of a homeless man in Gloucester was not informed of her brothers untimely death until after he had been cremated.

Tragedy of homeless Gloucester man's family who only found out he had died after he was cremated - Gloucestershire Live.

So I ask again Can you inform me of the total unidentified people that have been cremated from 2010 -2018 and the number of complaints or similar situations in the same time frame from families not knowing of loved ones that have deceased and been cremated

4. Questioner's name: Steve Gower	Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams
What has been put in place so further occurrences will not happen again	As above, these services are managed by Gloucester City Council and therefore we are not in a position to answer the specific questions posed regarding these services.
5. Questioner's name: Steve Gower	Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams
<p>With the onset of the harsh winter months ahead and the rising figure of homelessness in Gloucester more than doubling the count from last winter, despite millions being spent on supported living - Can the Council understand the vital importance of providing a life saving all year shelter /shelters in our city.</p> <p>Until such a time that the unnecessary suffering, hardship and inhumane treatment of our most vulnerable are comprehensively taken care of.</p> <p>Do you agree with me that nobody should be sleeping on our streets any time of the year in 2020.</p> <p>If so, when can this council announce the opening of such establishments.</p>	<p>The county council works in partnership with the District Councils and partners to tackle homelessness and support rough sleepers and homeless people with complex needs in Gloucestershire to rebuild their lives and re-join their communities. There is a wide range of support available to help people move away from the streets and back in to settled and safe accommodation. Most recently the County Council secured funding as part of the government's Rough Sleeping Strategy to fund two Somewhere Safe to Stay hubs; and navigator services to work alongside the hubs and help rough sleepers access the support they need for complex issues like mental health and drug and alcohol misuse, more easily. The hubs provide a safe emergency environment away from the streets throughout the year and are staffed 24 hours, seven days a week. During a short stay clients are fully assessed and have a personal housing plan to prevent them from being on the streets. The hubs help people to access accommodation and where necessary appropriate support that focuses on addressing the root causes of homelessness, like addiction, mental ill health and traumatic relationship breakdown.</p> <p>During the winter months the District Councils operate the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) where shelter is made available for all rough sleepers irrespective of their legal status or support needs.</p>

6. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>The Conservative administration say they are spending more on the roads in Gloucestershire, but in my city council ward of Podsmead the roads and pavements are being neglected. Podsmead Road is a main route to and from Podsmead and Tuffley and is riddled with potholes. When will this road get resurfaced?</p>	<p>We've put an extra £150m into improving our roads. This ensures those requiring the most urgent attention are prioritised as such. Podsmead Road has already been identified as requiring work and is currently programmed for full resurfacing between the 18th Feb and the 24th Feb 2020.</p>
7. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>Romney Close Podsmead was scheduled for dressing in September, weather permitting. It was done in July, as a result of being raised during the by-election campaign, but it was done badly and leaving half the road. Local Conservatives have admitted that the work was substandard. The close is now due to get a full resurface in October. Does doing the job badly the first time and having to come and redo it not cost more money, which is disappointing at a time when we are facing limited Highways budgets and are calling for more money to be allocated to road repairs?</p>	<p>Romney Close has been in the forward programme since last year and has received a surface treatment, in this case a micro surfacing. However, the process is carried out in two stages and involves patching the structural defects in advance preparation for the micro treatment in September. Hence during the intervening period only part of the process was complete. This is in line with national best practice.</p>
8. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>The pavements along Shakespeare Avenue Podsmead and the Podsmead side of Tuffley Avenue are in poor condition and need a full repair. I have reported many of the defects in the kerbs and pavement surface but would it not be better to redo the whole lot properly and make them more durable for the future?</p>	<p>The footway resurfacing programme is data led. Those with the most frequent defects and receiving the highest footfall are prioritised. .</p>