

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 12 February 2020
PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

<p>1. Questioner's name: Nigel Adcock</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>I am very concerned about traffic arrangements on Cleeve Hill. Obviously a drain collapse is serious and merits immediate repair. My worry is that traffic will use Gambles Lane and Stockwell Lane in both directions. This is a serious incident waiting to happen. There will be traffic jams, cars going onto verges and quite possibly bad behaviour or worse from drivers. The verges to the sides of Gambles Lane are very carved up anyway. Would the council please give urgent consideration to making Gambles and Stockwell Lanes one way; either up or down?</p>	<p>We looked at this option – and there were serious road safety concerns that pursuing it would increase speeds on the roads – putting road users such as cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians at increased risk.</p> <p>We strongly recommend vehicles use the signed diversion which is suitable for all road users and will help avoid local congestion. We appreciate some road users will choose not to follow this advice and will use local routes away from our diversion.</p> <p>The council will continue to monitor traffic in the local area while we repair the road, and adjust the signs in the area if needed.</p>
<p>2. Questioner's name: Nigel Adcock</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>Further to my previous email I have a couple of supplementary questions. Why was the drain problem not noticed when Cleeve Hill Road was recently resurfaced? What bus provisions are being made for vulnerable people who rely on their bus service? How much is this costing? My final question is not a criticism as I comprehend the situation regarding our old drains; I am however curious.</p>	<p>In September 2019 a serious defect was reported in the carriageway - an underlying drainage issue was suspected but in order to pinpoint the problem and identify a solution it was necessary to carry out a survey and subsequent analysis. The road was put under single lane usage to allow the continued safety of the travelling public whilst we could fully assess the situation. The surrounding lanes are subject to an existing weight restrictions, which lorry drivers should adhere to (this includes the bus companies). Bus companies were informed as</p>

	soon as the road closure was approved and have made their own arrangements for the duration of the closure. The overall anticipated cost of the works is £69,000.
3. Questioner's name: Chloe Turner	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
I understand that the Budget Consultation comments show double the number of residents calling for investment in foot paths, cycle routes and public transport as those focussing on highways improvement, so my fellow residents have quite clearly demonstrated their demand for the these crucial measures to combat climate change. We don't want M5 junction upgrades to drive growth, we want to cut our carbon emissions and, specifically, to be able to go to work and about our lives without using a car. So why has no substantial investment in rural public transport been budgeted for, other than some minor and localised adjustments to cycle ways?	Today's budget proposals include £10m to support buses and community transport, which remains an important priority for the council. Making sure we have enough houses for people in the county, is also an important priority, as is making sure the council has the green growth that will be necessary to support employment and fund decarbonisation in future.
4. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
When will Scott Avenue, Podsmead, be resurfaced?	Work from our £150m investment in roads is prioritised on the basis of road condition, and higher priority roads will be resurfaced first. Scott Avenue hasn't reached the threshold this year – but there are 3 more years of the planned programme.
5. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
What is the cost of the work being done on Podsmead Road in February?	Approximately £66,000.

6. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
Why is the county council only allocating £100K to cycle tracks in the next budget?	We're spending significantly more. The draft budget includes over £917k of spending on cycle routes, alongside the money that we will spend as part of routine maintenance. That's not including the anticipated £1.6m investment into cycle routes between Gloucester and Cheltenham.
7. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
What progress is being made on new road surfaces such as those containing recycled materials?	We use a minimum of 10% recycled aggregate in resurfacing schemes – rising to 30% in some cases. We've also recently tailed use of waste plastic, and are currently conducting a trial using waste rubber. We also recycle all old surfacing material removed from our sites when it is safe to do so.
8. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
The new system of feedback has told me several times now that repairs have been completed when they haven't. Are there some teething troubles?	I'm very happy to look into any specific examples that you can forward. It's a new system, and there will be bugs, but any help in addressing them would be much appreciated.
9. Questioner's name: Jessica West	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
In 2018, Cllr Nigel Moor stated that "Climate change is one of the most serious threats we face as a nation." How, then, does Gloucestershire County Council justify allocating just £1 million out of a total budget of £468.2 million to its climate change action fund?	Addressing climate change is a key priority across the council – the £1m Climate Change and Air Quality Action Fund is only one part of that. It will enable us to target future funding effectively to help bring about the changes required, and comes alongside a range of other measures, including, most importantly, this

	council's significant success in reducing its carbon emissions.
10. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
Why has the formula for school need been so significantly underestimated in Bishops Cleeve?	The need for a new school to meet the numbers arising from new housing in the Bishops Cleeve area is not new and we have been highlighting the need to secure a new school site for some time. The county has recently completed an independent assessment of the pupil yield from new housing developments across the county. The latest information reveals that the number of children arising from new housing developments and affordable housing is significantly higher than previous trends. The latest pupil yield figures are to be included in the Councils Local Developers Guide.
11. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
Why was this not shared with the affected Parish and Borough Councils immediately and why were they not worked with to identify potentially suitable sites?	The demand arising from new housing and the need for a new school site has been shared with Borough Council previously and through our responses to the Local Plan. It is unfortunate that some of the developments in the area have been approved on appeal, without fully considering the cumulative impact on the demand for school places. We have been working with Borough Council officers to identify a suitable location but this has not been successful so far.

12. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>Why was the first site for Bishop's Cleeve immediately settled upon, even though it is located on the south side of the settlement and the new housing is all in the north which is contrary to the County Council's policy aim of locating new schools in the heart new developments where the need has arisen from new housing.</p>	<p>No decision has yet been taken on the site for the new school.</p> <p>A series of meetings were held in 2018 and 2019 with officers from GCC Education and representatives of the primary schools in the planning area to explore opportunities for meeting demand by expanding existing schools further. Following consultation with the schools it was accepted that only one primary school was prepared to consider expanding by 1FE. However, this would still leave a need for a further 2FE provision to be found elsewhere. In addition to this, none of these primary schools have sufficient site area to facilitate a permanent expansion beyond their current capacity. So whilst one of the schools is willing to look at expanding they would not have the required capacity to meet the demand for a larger school.</p> <p>The only option currently available is to extend the age range at Cleeve School. This is the only land currently available to the Council in the area. The Cleeve School site has the capacity to accommodate a 3FE primary school (630 places), either by way of a separate primary building on the Kayte Lane site or by including primary provision with shared facilities on the site accommodated by the secondary school.</p> <p>In October 2019 the Council was informed that Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council were not renewing their lease on the site known as Norttenham allotments. This land is owned by the Diocese of Gloucester. The Council has been in discussion with the Diocese about the land however we have advised that they are duty bound to secure the best possible price for any disposal of the land and that they are currently seeking residential planning permission on the site.</p> <p>We expect that a decision on the location of the school will be</p>

made as soon as possible during this academic year.

13. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley

Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux

What assessment and planning has been undertaken on the proposed site, which is both Greenbelt and protected playing fields; particularly with reference to the potential loss of the site for the community? For example, the suitability of the land use by an existing or potential academy, the effect of the disposal on sports, whether the land is used by the community, and whether there are children with disabilities who are going to be adversely affected.

The land at Kayte Lane is currently part of the Cleeve School site, which is a Foundation school and the Trust owns the land. The availability and use of the site for a school will require the approval of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

A site assessment has been undertaken to ensure there is sufficient capacity for the additional school places, without having a detrimental impact on sports and playing field provision. Any new school design will be in accordance with accessible design standards and building regulations.

The land is in Green Belt and as part of any planning application the Council will have to demonstrate 'special circumstances' that any potential harm to the green belt is outweighed by other considerations.

14. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley

Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux

Why is this site being considered when we now have a site which is not protected and is available for development? Is cost the determining factor rather than the sites suitability?

If you are referring to the former allotment site, that's owned by the diocese who have told us it isn't available. Schools across the county look to the council for financial support – so financing of any project is always a consideration.

15. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>How many houses have been built based on the out of date formula across Gloucestershire County Council? What is the potential total shortfall of school places (Primary and Secondary) and what is the value lost from applying the correct formula to developers for Section 106 contribution to school places?</p>	<p>All housing development planning applications are considered in accordance with the pupil product ratios at the time of the application, and not necessarily at the time the development is built out. That's not something we have any control over. These are regularly reviewed and amended as appropriate. There has been an increase in the number of children arising out of new development more recently, however in order to provide robust evidence of the increases, the Council commissioned an independent review in collaboration with housing developers, and the latest figures are now in use.</p> <p>Every application is subject to a negotiation with developers about the extent of financial contributions required. However the final decision on the levels of contributions agreed, rests with the Local Planning Authority.</p> <p>GCC has been successful in securing s106 contributions for many years to fund essential education infrastructure across the county, but this only goes part of the way to meeting the full cost of provision.</p>
16. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>What are GCC now doing to ensure they secure the appropriate site or sites for schools in Bishop's Cleeve? What other sites aside from Kayte Lane and POS3 have GCC identified? What work have they done to identify other sites?</p>	<p>The council does not own land in Bishops Cleeve, and although the former allotment site has been highlighted as a possible location for a school, the site is currently in 3rd party ownership and not available for education use.</p>

	<p>GCC has made representations to the Draft Tewkesbury Local Plan objecting to the current proposal of allocating the site referred at POS3 for additional housing and recommending it is reallocated for a mix of education/ residential development. The decision will rest with Tewkesbury BC as to whether they decide to amend their proposal.</p> <p>Despite a review of land in the area, no other sites have been identified at this time.</p>
<p>17. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux</p>
<p>What work is being undertaken to identify other appropriate sites for other communities affected if this is a County wide issue? Are GCC just looking for the first available site or are they actively working with communities?</p>	<p>The Council is working with all of the District Councils to highlight areas where a similar situation may arise as a result of new housing and the need to ensure suitable land for a school is identified as part of any new proposals coming forward.</p> <p>Officers have had very positive meetings with local councillors to discuss the challenges in Bishops Cleeve and in other areas. The plan is for these local discussions to continue.</p>
<p>18. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux</p>
<p>What additional funding will be needed to purchase land and develop schools without the appropriate level of Section 106 from developers?</p>	<p>The Local Authority does not have capital funds available for the purchase of new school sites, particularly if they are at residential land value. There is no funding mechanism from central government as there is an expectation that sites and contributions will be provided by developers.</p>

	It is not possible to clarify the amount of funding required as each application is considered individually.
19. Questioner's name: Sarah Lunnon	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne Would this authority accept extra money from central government to fund action mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate heating and loss of our natural world?	Yes, depending on any conditions.
20. Questioner's name: Dr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
Could the Cabinet Member please provide details of all street lights in Cheltenham, that as of 1 st February 2020, were known by GCC to have been defective for over six months, with details of why they have not been repaired and when they will be repaired?	According to our records we have 2 street lights in Cheltenham that, as of the 1 st February 2020, have been defective for over six months. These street lights are:- 1) LP4 Albert Place – A replacement street light is required. This has been attempted on three occasions and has not been actioned due to resident's parked cars (despite letter drops and parking boards being put up to advise of the works). We will arrange for a further letter to be hand delivered to all residents in the street detailing a new programme date. The work will be arranged and reattempted within the next six weeks. 2) LP54 Princess Elizabeth Road – This requires a lantern head to be fitted following replacement, which was due to an RTC. This work will be completed within the next ten days.

21. Questioner's name: Dr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>On 15th November 2018, I reported that the Grade II listed lamp post on the roundabout of B4633 Gloucester Road and Queen's Road (column ID 38_1) was not working. Despite numerous emails to GCC about this, over a year later, it has still not been repaired. Could the Cabinet Member please explain why this listed structure is being neglected by GCC, why this street light has not been repaired, and when GCC intends to get this street light repaired?</p>	<p>Although this light isn't required to light the area around it we are keen to repair the lamp. We have been out 3 times to try and fix it but it's age and listed status meant that didn't succeed. The head will now need specialist refurbishment and we are awaiting quotes to find out how much that will cost.</p>
22. Questioner's name: Dr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>A number of the grass verges in St Mark's and St Peter's division have been churned up due to being driven on. Given the competing desires of keeping green verges and facilitating parking, as well as keeping drains free of mud, would the Cabinet Member look at asking GCC Highways to trial the installation of grass protection mesh in the worst affected zones?</p>	<p>The areas in question are a mixture of highway and amenity land. We will work with colleagues at the Borough Council to identify potential sites for such a proposal.</p>
23. Questioner's name: Dr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>The Cheltenham and Tewkesbury alternative provision school at the St George's Centre on Alstone Lane, is currently adjacent to unused school playing fields. Given the potential for delivering improved provision of outdoor sports opportunities for the pupils who attend this school, could I ask what consideration has GCC given to seeking licence to use this land?</p>	<p>We've already asked Clifton Diocese, who own the field, to consider this, and we're waiting for their response.</p>

24. Questioner's name: Dr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>Could the Cabinet Member please explain why progress has still not been made by GCC Highways to deliver the closure or junction modifications at the junction of Alstone Croft and Alstone Lane?</p>	<p>There is no straightforward solution to a reconfiguration or a closure at Alstone Croft as most options identified have implications for larger vehicles such as refuse lorries or emergency vehicles. However, proposals for an experimental scheme are being progressed including the requirement for before/after monitoring to assess the success of any measures put in place.</p>