

COUNCIL, 18 MARCH 2021 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE
(COUNCILLOR KEITH JONES)

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>What powers does the council have in response to situations where trees subject to a tree preservation order in private gardens have been felled without permission?</p> <p>Is this brought to the attention of the council only when a property may be subject to a planning application or are there other ways in which the council is notified?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Where protected trees on private land are removed without consent and brought to the attention of the Council, officers will investigate the nature of the works and circumstances. Following this assessment, officers will consider the most appropriate response including, for example, whether the works were exempt from requiring consent or if replacement planting and/or prosecution are considered necessary. Such matters are typically brought to the attention of officers by members of the public and are not always linked to planning applications.</p>
W2	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>Why were developers told that an environmental impact assessment was not necessary for plans to build a 29 storey apartment tower on Guildford Crescent?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A proposal for development at Guildford Crescent has been prepared by the developer, but this has not yet been submitted as a planning application for the Local Planning Authority to consider.</p> <p>The proposal does not automatically require an Environmental Impact Assessment under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, but because it contains over 150 residential units, it requires the Local Planning Authority to consider or “screen” whether one is required, having regard to the potential impacts of the proposal.</p>

The developer requested a “screening opinion” to establish whether the proposal would raise such significant impacts to require the preparation of an Environmental Statement. Having assessed the proposal in line with the EIA Regulations, it was concluded that the proposal was not EIA Development, as it was demonstrated not to have significant effects on the environment that could not be addressed through the submission of appropriate technical reports/statements at the point of registration of any application including:

- Daylight/Sunlight Assessment
- Flood Consequences Assessment and Drainage Strategy
- Transport Statement including Travel Plan
- Ground Conditions Assessment
- Heritage Impact Assessment
- Noise and Vibration Assessment
- Air Quality Assessment
- Transport Statement
- Wind Micro Climate Report
- Visualisations
- Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

The Council is required to publicise screening opinions and the full response (Ref: SC/20/00011/MJR) is available for inspection on the Planning section of the Council's website.

W3

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DIANNE REES

What enforcement action has been taken by the Council where land is being used for purposes for which the land occupier does not have planning permission?

Reply

Officers investigate potential breaches brought to their attention in accordance with national guidelines, which set out the parameters and aims of the enforcement regime in Wales. Enforcement action should be commensurate with the planning impacts caused by the unauthorised development and based largely on whether the unauthorised development would unacceptably affect public amenity or the existing use of land and buildings meriting protection in the public interest. Each case is therefore assessed on its own individual merits.

Where direct action through the serving of an Enforcement Notice is considered to be the appropriate action, this route would be followed to remedy the breach and/or prevent further serious harm to public amenity. However, such action is a last resort where negotiations have failed or there is imminent harm to public amenity that requires immediate attention.

In other instances, it may be more appropriate to seek resolution, in accordance with national guidelines, through other means such as the submission of a retrospective planning application. In other cases, it may also be inappropriate to take formal enforcement action against a trivial or technical breach of control, which causes no harm to public amenity.

W4

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

In Llandaff, we have two contentious proposed major developments that were previous planning applications that have seen significant changes to proposals. One at Danescourt to tear up a woodland and build 35 properties. One at Waungron Road to include a shop, offices, bus Hub and 7 storey block of flats. Both have included PAC pre-application consultations. In normal times, residents would hold and gather at public meetings, go to Hubs and Libraries to view plans and also meet face-to-face with elected representatives to discuss in private their concerns and seek clarifications. Lockdown has denied some residents these opportunities to have their say. Digital consultations during lockdown excludes and discriminates a large section of the population who are generally the older generation, have personal communication issues or people who just simply can't afford internet access. Our UNCRC Capital Ambitions says that young people should be consulted on all decisions that affect them. I feel it's important that the schools are consulted and young people have a say too. But, with schools being shut, young people and schools have not had their voices heard.

Will you confirm what the Welsh Government guidelines are on planning consultations during lockdown (where applications have been revised) and, as we are now thankfully very close to lockdown measures being eased, will you recommend postponement or hold additional consultations until the wider community, disadvantaged residents and young people can have their say?

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Statutory consultation time limits are set by the Welsh Government. In this respect, the Welsh Government has not issued any guidance suggesting the suspension of consultations on planning applications and continues to expect Local Planning Authorities to maintain services during lockdown periods. The Council continues to deliver a Planning Service and to undertake consultation within legal requirements.</p>
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CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT
(COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MICHAEL)

W5	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>What plans are there to allow residents to access litter picking equipment whilst access to hubs is limited and when will these be made available?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>If any resident is interested in becoming a community litter picker or litter champion, then I would advise them to contact the 'Love Where You Live' team by email: lovewhereyoulive@cardiff.gov.uk Officers will be happy to discuss how residents can participate and access the provision of ongoing support, litter picking equipment and bags, particularly whilst access to the Council's Hubs is limited due to the current lockdown restrictions.</p>
W6	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>There is significant nuisance caused to residents on Farm Drive in Lakeside from seagulls, especially in the breeding season. This is exacerbated when people feed them. What steps can be taken now to mitigate the nuisance from seagulls on Farm Drive as we approach the breeding season?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The increasing numbers of gulls nesting in urban environments is a nationwide phenomenon and not restricted to coastal cities like Cardiff. The Council supports limiting gulls' access to food within the city through good waste management and by advising people not to feed gulls. As you will be aware, letters have been sent to the residents of Farm Drive, Coed Y Llyn, Thorley Close and Cefn Coed Avenue in Cyncoed requesting that residents do not feed seagulls in the area. Such action will only help to mitigate the nuisance caused by the gulls but, unfortunately, it won't stop them from breeding on rooftops in the area.</p>
W7	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>Residents frequently complain to me about council vehicles being driven on the grass to empty public bins, yet whenever this issue is raised I am told that staff are told to use paths where they can and that often the bins are heavy. When can residents expect to stop seeing grass verges dug up by these vehicles?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The 'Radburn' estate layout allows people to walk to the local centre, park and school without the need to cross a road. Unfortunately, the design does not support vehicular access to public spaces as roads are separated from these areas; however, the Council does not support the use of footways by service vehicles unless they are suitable. The service will look to procure a small, narrow wheel-based vehicle to support collections in this and other wards with similar estates. Officers are also working with colleagues from the Housing & Communities service to improve key footways by widening them so they are suitable for use by this type of vehicle.</p> <p>If Local Members have any concerns about specific locations where inappropriate driving of vehicles by cleansing teams is taking place and damaging grass verges, then please let me know and the service area will look to address them.</p>
W8	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DIANNE REES</u></p> <p>How many enforcement actions have been taken against fly tipping in the last three years?</p>

Reply

The number and type of enforcement actions relating to fly-tipping that have been undertaken by the Council in the last three full financial years were as follows:

Enforcement Actions	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Investigation	7,514	4,749	4,321
Warning letter	39	0	0
Statutory notice	11	194	9
Fixed penalty notice	1,241	607	473
Duty of care inspection	3,209	764	640
Stop and search	0	0	0
Formal caution	0	0	0
Prosecution	0	0	0
Injunction	0	0	0
Total =	12,014	6,314	5,443

This information is also publicly available on StatsWales website at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Fly-tipping/numberofflytippingenforcementactions-by-type>

W9

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

In February last year, homes in Radyr Court Road, Llandaff were flooded. I am extremely grateful to the Assistant Director Street Scene who helped provide skips and organise grants to replace some of the damage to possessions. Residents were extremely grateful. Also, the sandbags provided to save the properties from the threat of further flooding were welcome. The River Taff breached the banks at two major points along Radyr Court Road. Clearly, the Bay Barrage did its job, but it was only luck that saved homes from further damage. What discussions have the council had with Natural Resources Wales about introducing measures to protect homes and mitigate against future flooding on Radyr Court Road and, when lockdown measures ease, will the cabinet member and his senior officers meet with residents to put their minds at rest and let them know the future plans?

Reply

The River Taff is a designated main river and the responsibility for the mitigation of flood risk from this source lies with Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

Officers from the Council's Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team spoke with NRW officials after the 2019/20 winter storms to understand the locations of flooding across the city. As part of these discussions, NRW was advised of the flooding incident at Radyr Court Road and provided with any information/evidence that was requested. Council officers also undertook an inspection of the highway drainage in the area, which confirmed it is operating effectively and ultimately discharges to the river. During times of high flow, the outfall structure may be surcharged and, as such, may not be able to discharge the surface water until river levels allow.

Council officers meet on a monthly basis with both NRW and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to tackle water quality and flooding issues across the city, and they will ensure that this location is discussed further. Officers from the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team will also be happy to meet with residents when restrictions allow; however, any decision to undertake works in this area to lower the risk of flooding from the River Taff lies ultimately with NRW.

CULTURE AND LEISURE
(COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)

W10

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

Can the cabinet member provide an update on plans to remove the statue of Thomas Picton from City Hall?

Reply

The motion that was passed by the Council on 23 July 2020 included a resolution to remove the statue of Sir Thomas Picton from the Marble Hall at City Hall, and to consider placing it elsewhere with a clear explanation of his actions. The statue has since remained in situ, but has been boxed in plywood in preparation for its proposed removal.

Any alterations to the Grade 1 listed statue require Listed Building Consent. An application seeking Listed Building Consent (Ref: 20/02340/MNR) for the removal of the statue from City Hall was therefore submitted in November 2020. A Heritage Impact Assessment has also been undertaken on behalf of the Council to inform this process.

	<p>As the statue is a Local Authority responsibility, the application for Listed Building Consent needed to be considered by Cadw and determined by the Welsh Government's Planning Directorate on behalf of Welsh Ministers. Earlier this week, the Welsh Government confirmed in writing that it has granted Listed Building Consent subject to certain conditions that will need to be addressed prior to removal of the statue.</p>
W11	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>What investigations has the council undertaken into drainage issues at Maitland Park?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Owing to the exceptionally high levels of rainfall experienced over the winter period, there has been widespread waterlogging throughout the city's parks and public open space provision. Following your previous representations on this matter and responses from officers, you will be aware that visual assessments of the site were made advising that standing water had drained away relatively quickly. In view of this, there are no current plans to undertake detailed site investigations.</p>
W12	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>What is the full time equivalent (FTE) of park rangers currently stationed principally at Roath Park?</p> <p>What is the current total FTE park ranger capacity across the city as a whole?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The estimated Urban Park Ranger FTE presence at Roath Park currently stands at 1.</p> <p>The current total Urban Park Ranger FTE operating across the city stands at 11.2.</p> <p>The 2021/22 budget, which was approved by Council earlier this month, also included additional investment of £112,000 in the Parks Service, which will support an increase of 2.8 FTE in the number of Urban Park Rangers.</p>

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY

Has the impact of CCTV being installed at a new Multi Use Games Area in Llanedeyrn been assessed in terms of the impact on children's rights, especially as Cardiff is working to become a UNICEF Child Friendly City?

Is it right that children will have their privacy sacrificed in exchange for a perceived sense of security?

Reply

Moving the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) from its site close to the Powerhouse was necessary to facilitate the construction of the new Wellbeing Hub at the Maelfa in Llanedeyrn in partnership with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. Whilst the new MUGA facility will be superior in quality to the previous one, its location will not have the benefit of natural surveillance.

Due to the nature and extent of ongoing anti-social behaviour issues in the surrounding area, and the positive impact that existing CCTV provision has had in its reduction, it was felt to be both proportionate and necessary to install CCTV to cover the new MUGA site as a prevention and detection measure. I also understood that all four Ward Members were involved in the initial discussions about the MUGA being moved and acknowledged the need for CCTV provision in and around the MUGA and the neighbouring play area.

The Council fully understands the security versus privacy debate and, whilst children have a right to privacy, they also have a right to be able to play and meet with friends in a safe environment. CCTV cameras are not installed to cover such facilities as a matter of course or to invade a person's privacy. In this instance, the provision is supported by the Police in order to protect the public by deterring criminal activity and to enable, if required, material evidence to be provided to law enforcement agencies to assist in the apprehension of those responsible for crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

This is public space CCTV provision that will be monitored at the Council's Alarm Receiving Centre by appropriately trained and vetted security operators. The CCTV cameras will not only provide reassurance to families and young people that the space being provided for them is safe, but it will also ensure that the MUGA is protected and act as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour in all its various forms.

W14	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>What plans are there to consult with residents of Pentwyn ahead of plans being brought forward to cabinet for the redevelopment of the leisure centre?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As you will be aware, the budget that was approved by Council earlier this month includes significant investment in the redevelopment of Pentwyn Leisure Centre. This is a leisure centre that was built in the 1980's and is in real need of modernisation in order to meet current and future demand, and I have no doubt that the local community will benefit greatly as a result.</p> <p>While I fully recognise the importance and value of local consultation, we have used robust intelligence and data from the Sport, Leisure and Health sector to inform our outline proposals to date. The need for the provision of a 25m swimming pool (not a leisure pool), increased gym and fitness areas, flexible space for group bookings, an artificial playing surface and training facilities, and a good quality food and beverage offer is clear. Notwithstanding this, there will be opportunities for local engagement as details of the project are developed and I want to thank you for providing me with details of your own survey of the views of residents within the Pentwyn Ward.</p>
W15	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK</u></p> <p>Thanks to Mr Temple, a loving son and husband, who donated to give our Lakeside Lighthouse an uplift, it is now looking stunning once again. When will we see the council invest at Roath Park lake and dredge the lake?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I have already expressed my gratitude to the individual who very generously sponsored the refurbishment of the Scott Memorial Lighthouse in my statement; however, I would like to, once again, reiterate my personal thanks to him on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>As agreed by Council earlier this month, our Capital Programme for 2021/22-2025/26 includes a total investment of £5.7m, which has been allocated for a scheme at Roath Park Dam as required through the Reservoir Act 1975. Opportunities for the dredging of the lake will be considered through the options appraisal process for this scheme.</p>

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

Decisions around the lake have continuously been made without any notification to ward councillors or residents who then have to live through the impact of those decisions. Cones to stop parking around the lake has only shifted the parking to the roads off Lake Road West and East, the signage of one way system has now disappeared with time, the gates being kept open 24 hours are all decisions that have impacted on residents living around the lake. We as ward members often have to listen to those impacts when residents contact us and we feel useless in not being able address their concerns. When will the council actually measure out and try to understand the impact of their decisions and ensure ward members and residents are consulted before such decisions are actioned?

Reply

I don't accept your assertion that decisions have been made without consultation and I, along with Councillor Wild in his capacity as the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport, wrote to all Local Ward Members on 17th April 2020 in response to concerns raised by the local community. In doing so, we set out proposals for promoting social distancing within Roath Park and its environs. These proposals included details of how the one-way system would be managed, the provision of an enhanced outer footway around the lake enabled by the removal of car parking on the water side of Lake Road East/West and the introduction of emergency 20mph orders in Lake Road East/West.

In addition, throughout the Covid-19 pandemic period, officers have responded to enquiries and requests for service made by local ward members, local residents and park users, which have resulted in modifications to the management arrangements. These will be kept under review as we emerge from the pandemic and we will continue to engage with local ward members at the appropriate junctures.

I am aware of the positive feedback that has been received to date from users of the park and the footway around the lake, which has enabled them to socially distance and to exercise safely during the Covid-19 pandemic. I also want to thank all the council staff who have been involved in implementing these measures over the last 12 months or so.

W17	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>When Blackweir footbridge closed during the first lockdown the reason given was that it was too narrow to allow social distancing. Whilst the reopening is welcome, it has done so with Wales still in the highest level of covid-19 restrictions. Why does the council no longer see social distancing as such a significant concern in relation to this issue?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>You may recall that the Council attempted to maintain access across the bridge during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in spring 2020, because we understood its use and purpose for commuters and recreation.</p> <p>Advisory signage was installed setting out protocols for maximising social distancing. Unfortunately, due to the large numbers of people using the narrow bridge deck and their failure to observe the advice on social distancing when doing so, the decision was taken to close the bridge from 22nd April 2020 in the interests of public safety following strong representations made to us by the Police.</p> <p>The level of Covid-19 risk calculated for normal use of the bridge was revised downward as we learned more about the virus over time and in terms of how it was transmitted using thresholds of infection risk acknowledged and implemented by the Test, Trace, Protect (TTP) service.</p> <p>As you will be aware, it was always the Council’s intention to re-open the bridge once the level of risk was reduced; however, essential safety-related works were not completed until earlier this month. These works were required to be undertaken and were commissioned by Cardiff University, which has responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the structure.</p> <p>Advisory signage is currently in place and the Council continues to rely on bridge users acting responsibly by following social distancing protocols in order to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus.</p>
W18	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>What policies does the council have in place to protect existing tree cover in the city, and does it consider these policies to be effective?</p>

Reply

The Council has 371 Tree Preservation Orders in place in the city that protect a wide range of important individual trees, areas and groups of trees and woodlands.

Policy EN8 of the adopted Local Development Plan provides for the protection of existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows in the city. In addition, the Council has approved Supplementary Planning Guidance for Green Infrastructure, which includes a Technical Guidance Note on Trees and Development. All decisions on development proposals have regard to this policy context, together with consideration of all other relevant material factors. This approach fully accords with national requirements and guidelines.

The Corporate Plan 2021-24 also includes a commitment to work with partners in order to bring forward overarching proposals later this year for increasing urban tree cover in the city from 19% to 25% by 2030, as set out in our One Planet Cardiff strategy.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS
(COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

W20

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN

For the 2020-21 school year, how many applications for places at each high school in the city (other than church schools) were unsuccessful from pupils living within that high school's catchment area at the time of application?

Please can you provide this data broken down by high school?

Reply

In 2020/21, a number of catchment pupils in the following three Secondary schools were not offered a place in the initial offer round:

- Fitzalan High School (89 pupils);
- Eastern High School (53 pupils); and
- Cardiff High School (50 pupils).

It is likely that many of the children that did not secure places in the initial round may secure a place at their preferred school in later rounds. This will occur after parents across the city have confirmed or declined their initial offers, including those from Faith Schools that are not in the co-ordinated admissions process.

FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE
(COUNCILLOR CHRIS WEAVER)

W21

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

March is the month we celebrate lives of women. We know Covid19 has disproportionately impacted on women and employment. In 2019, Cardiff Council reported over 3% pay gap in favour of men and 85% part time workforce being female, what has the impact of Covid19 been on our female workforce?

Reply

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council has put in place a variety of measures to support staff, including paid special leave for the provision of childcare and when employees need to self-isolate, as well as enabling flexibility around working hours and, where possible, working from home.

With regard to sickness absence due to Covid-19 symptoms or a diagnosis, the split between male and female employees is 26% / 74%, which is slightly above the current split between male and female employees across the workforce, which is 30% / 70%. The Council has been supportive of staff who have been sick due to Covid-19 by providing full pay and this sickness has not impacted on triggers within the current Attendance and Wellbeing policy. In addition, a significantly enhanced range of health and well-being support is available to all Council staff.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES
(COUNCILLOR LYNDA THORNE)

W22

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

Has Cardiff become a city where substance misuse has been normalised and accepted part of our society, where seeing people do drugs on our streets and public spaces is part of life?

With reports suggesting a root cause of rising cases of homelessness and family breakdown leading to children coming into care being linked to substance misuse, should the council not be doing more to tackle the issue in our communities and prevent Cardiff becoming a hub for substance misuse?

Reply

Illegal drug activity in our communities is never acceptable and addiction is tragically harmful for the individual users, as well as the families and neighbourhoods who are affected. The Council takes this issue very seriously and works closely in partnership with key organisations, including South Wales Police, the Cardiff and Vale Area Planning Board and a number of third sector organisations. Work is underway to support South Wales Police in identifying, disrupting and preventing crime and, crucially, our strategic approach now supports our vulnerable citizens with an effective multi-agency pathway to address drug dependency.

A strategic services review has been undertaken by the Housing & Communities Team and a new vision for homelessness in the city was approved by the Cabinet in July 2020, which informs joint working between housing, health & social care and third sector partners. This vision sets out a new pathway for accommodation and support, centred around a 'No Going Back' approach to supporting vulnerable individuals, delivering a single coordination point for multi-agency needs assessment, direct referral to rehousing provision with appropriate support, and better accommodation with 24/7 intensive support provided onsite.

As of March 2021, Cardiff has not experienced any significant rise in individuals presenting as homeless and levels remain well within that which services can support. Whilst Covid-19 has required an emergency response and change in planned priorities, it has also brought about rapid change, enabling multi-disciplinary and virtual ways of working. The response to Covid-19, with the repurposing of hotels and use of hostels to protect and support the homeless, saw

only five very deep-rooted rough sleepers remain on the streets in the early phases of the outbreak. Bringing services into the hotels and hostels as a part of a multi-disciplinary partnership response also provided the opportunity to address drug dependency and resulted in exceptional numbers of clients entering into treatment and reducing footfall into the Huggard Centre. The use of Buprenorphine instead of methadone has been a significant success factor, with clients on medication within 24 hours and positive feedback encouraging take up. As a result, this will be taken forward as a key action in 2021/22.

The Council's Community Safety team is championing a new shared intelligence and evidence based approach with partners to inform our response to substance misuse in the city. This has proved highly informative for monitoring the overall trend in discarded needles, establishing hotspots for open drug activity, and measuring the outcomes of tactical action. Building upon this, new data sets will shortly include Police offences and locations of service provision. The high level of analysis will provide us with the informed approach of how to tackle the local issues with partners, inspiring further proactive project work and providing valuable intelligence to our Outreach Teams.

In terms of the broader picture in tackling these deep rooted issues, work is also underway to maximise the aspirational and employment opportunities available to those within our communities that might otherwise be drawn into illegal activity, as well as to support grassroots or community based action. The Community Safety team will be supporting a 'Street Based Lifestyles and Complex Needs' priority, which will focus on the root causes of these issues and strengthen existing initiatives that tackle these complex problems. These initiatives include online job fairs, Youth Service outreach work and engagement with employers to encourage improved employment opportunities within their locality. It is also acknowledged that many of Cardiff's ethnic minorities have been disproportionately affected by issues of drug crime in the city, so new projects and initiatives will be closely aligned with the work and objectives of the Race Equality Taskforce.

In terms of reporting and referrals, any resident who is concerned about drug crime in the city should contact the Police by phoning 101 or visit the Crimestoppers website (<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>) where information can be given anonymously. Parents and carers concerned about substance misuse can also contact the Family Gateway by phoning 03000 133 133 or e-mailing: ContactFAS@cardiff.gov.uk

	<p>If a resident believes a child is in immediate danger of being harmed, they should contact 999 and tell the Police. However if they think a child is at risk, not being looked after properly, or have concerns about his or her welfare, then they should contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on (029) 2053 6490 or the Emergency Duty Team on (029) 2078 8570 (Out of Office Hours).</p> <p>If a resident is also concerned specifically about a vulnerable street based person, they can alert our Outreach Team by texting REALCHANGE to 80800.</p>
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INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
(COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)

W23	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>What representations is the administration making to Welsh Government about extending the business rates holiday for the 2021/22 financial year?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>We are in regular dialogue with our colleagues in Welsh Government who are leading on the business support packages. Councillors will be aware that, earlier this month, Welsh Government announced a further 12-month extension to the existing rates holiday to cover the 2021/22 financial year.</p>
W24	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>Councillor Thomas has indicated in the media that not giving the land at Britannia Quay which is proposed for the site of the Museum of Military Medicine would lead to the council having to cut back funding for other capital projects. Can you explain how this would be the case if, as I understand it, the council is proposing to give the land for the museum rather than sell it; and can you also confirm what financial contribution, if any, the council is making to facilitate any part of the development of the museum?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The intention to sell on the land in question was made clear in the Cabinet report when the Council acquired the entirety of Britannia Park from ABP in order to protect the green space in the area from the building of two residential buildings and an access road.</p> <p>The Council is disposing of the site to the Museum at market value. The Council is not making a financial contribution towards the development of the Museum.</p> <p>In order to provide a site that is able to accommodate the Museum, the Council needs to relocate the Lock Keepers Cottage. The relocation of the Lock Keepers Cottage maximises the value of the site, which will be reflected in the capital receipt.</p>
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STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
(COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)

W25	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Does the administration have any plans to introduce green walls or green infrastructure on Whitchurch Road?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There are no current plans for such; however, the Council is active in seeking grant funding opportunities to enable these features to be introduced across the city.</p>
W26	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>How many claims for personal injury has the council had lodged with it from June 2017 to March 2021 from residents of the Cyncoed ward as a result of people tripping and falling on pavements?</p> <p>What is the percentage of these claims that has been successful?</p> <p>How many claims have been made for the same period for the city of Cardiff as a whole and what proportion of these have been successful?</p>

Reply

The Council's claim management system records the number of incidents by electoral ward, rather than the number of incidents involving residents from an electoral ward.

For the period from June 2017 to March 2021, 10 claims have been received for personal injury relating to pavements in Cyncoed. Of these, 6 claims were closed without any payment for compensation; 3 claims are ongoing and 1 claimant has received compensation for the injuries they sustained, which means that, to date, 10% of these compensation claims have been successful.

For Cardiff as a whole during the same period, 387 claims have been received for personal injury deriving from trips/slips on pavements. Of these, 268 claims were closed without any payment for compensation; 99 claims are ongoing and 20 claims have been settled with compensation paid to the claimants, which means that, to date, 5% of these compensation claims have been successful.

W27

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

What proportion of Cardiff's bus shelters are provided with CCTV monitoring to reduce crime or anti-social behaviour?

What proportion of bus shelters in Cyncoed and Lakeside have this facility?

What criteria are used to determine when CCTV should be installed?

Reply

CCTV cameras are only installed within bus shelters in the city subject to agreement with Clear Channel, who own and maintain the bus shelters, and in instances where frequent damage to a bus shelter is taking place as a result of crime and anti-social behaviour. Cameras can also be installed at the request of developers who fund them via Section 106 monies to help protect bus shelters from being damaged.

At present, only 5.2% of bus shelters throughout the city have CCTV cameras installed within them, with none of the bus shelters in Cyncoed having this facility.

W28	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>When can residents in Llanedeyrn and Pentwyn expect to see Next Bike docking stations installed locally? Bikes are frequently abandoned and vandalised in our community, yet we don't have the facilities to make use of these bikes ourselves.</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There have been some revisions to the planned rollout of the Nextbike scheme in the light of ongoing issues with vandalism, which have had an impact on the operator, both financially and operationally. The installation of additional docking areas in the city is a commercial decision for Nextbike and this will be kept under review as the Council continues to work with the company to support the further development of the cycle hire scheme in Cardiff.</p>
W29	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK</u></p> <p>Cardiff green infrastructure has been on the decline. Yes we have had reports to suggest numbers of trees planted. However, majority are replacement trees. We can see depressing sites at our junctions, roundabouts and all road layout, at the same time we see more and more high rising concrete blocks coming up, what plans do we have in place to ensure our green infrastructure is not only sustained but expanded?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>It's simply not true to make the claim that Cardiff's green infrastructure has been on the decline or that the majority of trees being planted in the city are replacement trees.</p> <p>We are committed to greening the city and increasing urban tree cover through a major partnership project, Coed Caerdydd, which aims to increase tree canopy in Cardiff, over time, through the planting of hundreds of thousands of trees to achieve a target of 25% tree cover by 2030. The project will have a particular focus on areas of the city with poor air quality and low tree canopy.</p> <p>Indeed, you may be aware of the mini forest that has been created in Cardiff Bay recently as part of the Tiny Forest initiative, in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy. This has seen the planting of 1,000 native woodland trees comprising of 25 species.</p>

The Council has also been successful in attracting funding of £228k via the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund, which will enable us to develop a tree nursery at the Forest Farm site that will produce local native species stock and also pump prime further woodland creation projects in the city.

New tree planting helps to increase species diversity and to promote a balanced age class structure to avoid leaving an ageing tree population with no young or middle aged trees. Tree species that are well adapted to the predicted impacts of climate change are favoured over trees that may be vulnerable in this context.

The Council approved its Green Infrastructure Plan in 2019 as part of our Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty. The Corporate Plan 2021-24 reinforces our commitment to delivering the Green Infrastructure Plan and the draft One Planet Strategy also identifies green infrastructure as a major component in the Council's efforts to tackle climate change and includes a commitment to increase urban tree cover in the city from 19% to 25% by 2030.

With regard to new developments in the city, the Local Development Plan contains policies to protect and enhance green infrastructure assets and the Council has approved Supplementary Planning Guidance on Green Infrastructure, including a Technical Guidance Note specifically on Trees in Development. Opportunities are also taken to maximise the introduction of new green infrastructure through the Development Management process, such as through new planting/landscaping and providing sustainable drainage solutions.

W30

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

In view of the concerns expressed about the design of new tall buildings, does the cabinet member have plans to refresh the Tall Buildings SPG?

Reply

All Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) provides additional guidance on how relevant policies in the adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) are interpreted and practically applied. LDP policy can only be changed or refreshed through the LDP review process. Therefore, policy cannot be changed through making changes to SPG. The Replacement LDP process provides the appropriate mechanism to review existing policies, consider new alternatives and also prepare new SPG which interprets any new policies.

	<p>The current SPG on Tall Buildings was approved by Council in January 2017. This updated the previous SPG from 2008 to reflect the Council's ambitions for the development for tall buildings in Cardiff. As part of the review of the SPG and related consultation process, no concerns were expressed at that time by any other political group, with only three consultation responses being received from the Design Commission for Wales, Natural Resources Wales and one local resident in the Cardiff Bay area. This resulted in some minor amendments only being made to the text of the SPG in order to provide further clarify where appropriate.</p>
W31	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Residents are concerned that New Zealand road could be reopened to through traffic as a consequence of potential plans for a new Cathays high school. Can the council rule out this possibility?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I can confirm that there are no plans to reopen New Zealand Road to through traffic to/from North Road associated with the proposed development of the new Cathays High School.</p>
W32	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Traffic levels have been increasing on roads in the city over recent weeks despite the stay at home advice. What, if any, plans does the council have to encourage behavioural change to reduce personal car use in the longer term, before taking the car becomes the 'normal' again for many residents?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council has delivered a range of measures to support sustainable travel as part of its transport response to the Covid-19 pandemic. These projects include new 20mph limits in and around district centres, pedestrian improvements and a series of schemes to support active travel to school, including new School Streets, cycle parking, School Bike Fleets and footway widening works. Construction of several new segregated 'pop-up' cycle routes is also underway, which will help facilitate cycling for daily journeys, building on the growth in cycling during the pandemic.</p>

Covid-19 has triggered a major shift to homeworking. There are signs that this may become the norm for a large proportion of the city's office-based workforce post-Covid-19. We see this as an opportunity to effect a change in daily travel behaviour and to reduce traffic particularly during peak times.

We are continuing to engage with major employers, FOR Cardiff and the Cardiff Public Services Board to develop a programme to support recovery. A core strand of this work is ensuring that safe and sustainable transport options will be available for people travelling to the city centre. As well as providing clear information and messaging (e.g. around capacity/cleaning regimes on public transport), the programme will ensure that employers are able to support their staff in making appropriate travel choices. This will build on the work already undertaken through the Healthy Travel Charter project and the ongoing Bus Emergency Scheme work in conjunction with Welsh Government.

Homeworking can also make the school run much easier and less reliant on the car. If more parents of school-aged children can work from home, they will not need to combine school drop-off and pick-up with the daily commute. This potentially frees-up time for them to escort their children to/from school on foot or by bicycle.

When schools re-opened last summer, many parents who were working from home were able to walk with their children to/from school. As schools re-open, the Council will work closely with schools to promote active travel to school and maintain the travel behaviour changes that have occurred during the pandemic. This will build upon the extensive engagement with schools which officers has undertaken throughout lockdown and the enthusiastic response from schools to the new Schools Streets projects, the rollout of new school bike fleets and the support provided by the Active Travel Schools team for Active Travel Plan development by schools in Cardiff.

W33

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

Are there plans to introduce bus lanes on Western Avenue between Ely roundabout to the bridge over the River Taff close to the major retail store and, if it is the case, when is it planned to be introduced?

Reply

The A48 Western Avenue is identified in the adopted Local Development Plan as a Rapid Transit Corridor. There are no specific improvements identified currently; however, opportunities to make bus priority improvements on this corridor will be identified as developments progress and Metro/bus network improvement proposals emerge through partnership working with Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, Cardiff Capital Region, bus operators and public transport user groups.

W34

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

In the last major report into speed on Western Avenue, what were the numbers of vehicles speeds in an average week of the report recorded at 80mph, 70mph 60mph, 50mph and over 40mph; also, what was the highest recorded speed in the whole report?

Reply

The most recent traffic survey report on Western Avenue was carried out in July 2019 prior to the construction of the new puffin crossing close to the junction with Caewal Road. The survey report groups vehicle speeds into 10mph ranges and, over a one-week period, the total number of vehicles recorded was 147,357, with the majority of vehicles travelling below the speed limit of 40mph.

The number of vehicles recorded within each speed range and their direction of travel was as follows:

Speed Range	Eastbound	% of total vehicles	Westbound	% of total vehicles
90-100mph	0	n/a	3	<0.01%
80-90mph	1	<0.01%	9	0.01%
70-80mph	16	0.01%	24	0.02%
60-70mph	77	0.05%	134	0.09%
50-60mph	674	0.46%	1068	0.72%
40-50mph	8049	5.46%	12622	8.57%