

14 May 2015

12. QUESTION TIME - CONTINUED

Question 3 – Early Education

3. Mr R M Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families:

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families confirm what funding, help and support is provided for parents by the County Council for childcare and early education for two year old children?"

Question 4 – Bed blocking

4. Mr J W Parish will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being:

"Given the serious situation being caused by bed blocking at NHS Worcestershire hospitals would the Cabinet Member with the Responsibility for Health and Well-being please inform me of how many 'step-down' and rehabilitation beds are available in the county?"

Question 5 – Street lighting

5. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Many members of the public in Kidderminster, whilst supporting the idea of switching off two out of three street lights at midnight, are appalled at the way this policy has been carried out. Specifically they are angry that there was no consultation with local County Councillors or residents about which individual lights are either on or off!

In some streets in my Division it means that lights which poke out through street trees are left on, giving very restricted light, whilst unobstructed lights are switched off. Similarly it means that the tree-lined foot way "Offmore Lane" which is used by shift workers walking into town and people leaving events at Kidderminster Cricket Club is in total darkness whilst nearby Wordsworth Crescent is brilliantly illuminated!

Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways assure me that a review will be held into the selection of lights to be switched off and that the detailed local knowledge of local Members will be utilised to ensure that public safety is not compromised?"

Question 6 – Content of school lessons

6. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families:

"School pupils, especially those in the primary phase, are extremely trusting of members of the teaching profession and really do believe everything their teacher tells them. This puts a very great responsibility upon teachers; especially at election time, to maintain "professional standards" and not to seek to impose their personal political beliefs upon vulnerable, trusting young children.

During the recent election campaign: my 10-year old god daughter's homework consisted of Labour Party campaign literature on which she was asked to comment as to why her family should Vote Labour!

Her 8-year old brother came home, from the same school, and told his parents that "You must Vote Labour, they are the only Party that wants us to live!" The same child was also taught the "anti-Nick Clegg" "*I'm sorry*" song by his teacher!

Does he agree with me that these are examples of completely unacceptable, unprofessional actions by the teachers concerned?

What steps can he and senior officers of this Council take to ensure that appropriate action is taken to prevent this sort of behaviour by teachers in Council schools who are our employees?"

Question 7 – Infrastructure proposals

7. Mrs E B Tucker will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills & Infrastructure:

"Infrastructure proposals for Pershore within the SWDP are very limited and planning guidance appears to tie the hands of Highway Development in what they can require of developers. How will the County Council work to prevent worsening of congestion and highways safety?"

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Point for this Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.