

**COUNCIL**  
**16 JANUARY 2020****QUESTION TIME**

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**Question 1 – Unrestricted use of fireworks**

1. Mr A C Roberts will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities:

"Social media users in my division have been very active, voicing their concerns about the unrestricted use of loud fireworks. The general feeling appears to be that the sale of fireworks should be restricted for use at licensed events and not to members of the public.

There have been reports of upset animals and concerns expressed for people who are unwell or (for whatever reason) are distressed by loud bangs, though one person thought this was 'whining'.

My personal view has been jaundiced by experience and may not be typical. I feel that the sale of chemical incendiary devices for use by untrained people (who have no personal protection gear) is bizarre. It is also odd that, in an era of greater environmental awareness, what was usually a 5 November occurrence can now happen at any time during the year.

Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities seek information from Worcestershire Regulatory Services, the Public Health Officer, Chief Fire Officer and whoever else she thinks appropriate, so that the Council or a Council committee can consider what could be done and what should be done to see that the concerns of the public are addressed?"

**Question 2 – Promotion of a public awareness campaign on the impact of fireworks**

2. Mr R M Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities:

"Will the Cabinet Member with Responsibility agree the period between October and the New Year is frequently disturbed by the indiscriminate misuse of fireworks, which not only harm pets, farm animals and children, but also significantly disturb and upset military veterans and others who are suffering from PTSD.

Would she be able to use her powers as the Cabinet Member responsible for Trading Standards, to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks, to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those

sold to both the public and for private displays and to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display?

In addition, would she agree to investigate and support a possible ban on the use of Fireworks which have a noise level in excess of 90db on all Worcestershire County Council owned property?"

### **Question 3 – Bus services to Worcestershire Royal Hospital**

3. Mr P Denham will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"First Bus have changed the routes of services 36 and 38 so that they no longer stop close to the main entrance to Worcestershire Royal Hospital. First Bus says that County Council officers were consulted and supported this decision, despite the obvious impact on passengers with limited mobility and other disabilities.

Does the Cabinet Member support this decision, especially given the fact that service 36 is subsidised, and why was the county equalities officer not consulted, since we have a duty to take into account the needs of disabled residents?

Why were members not consulted prior to this decision?"

### **Question 4 – The 291 and 292 Bus Services from Kidderminster to Cleobury Mortimer and Ludlow**

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

"The 291 and 292 Bus Services which link Kidderminster to Cleobury Mortimer and Ludlow and are jointly subsidised by Worcestershire County Council and Shropshire Council have recently been retendered with Yarrantons being awarded the one service and Diamond the other. Shropshire Council has now said that, due to traffic congestion regularly causing delays to the services within Kidderminster and Bewdley, the timings of the services need to be revisited. Currently both services travel up Bewdley Hill on their way out of Kidderminster.

When the timings are revisited please could the Cabinet Member explore, with Shropshire colleagues and the Bus Operators, the possibility of diverting one of the two Services via the Habberley estate to restore a regular service to residents in that area? Such a diversion would add a maximum of 10 minutes to the journey time but would enable several hundred residents to be able to travel to work and college in Kidderminster by public transport and would also facilitate their access to the rebuilt Kidderminster Railway Station."

### **Question 5 – 20 mph speed limits in Redditch**

5. Mr R C Lunn will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Following on from previous questions on this matter, would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility be prepared to allow a trial of 20mph speed limits in Batchley

Road and adjoining roads and also the roads of Smallwood in central Redditch? If so, how quickly could this be implemented?”

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Simon Lewis, Committee Officer

Tel: 01905 846621

Email: [slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.