

COUNCIL

14 SEPTEMBER 2023

QUESTION TIME

Question 1 – Ownership of steps leading up to St Johns Church in Bromsgrove

1. Cllr Josh Robinson will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"After years of trying to find ownership details for the wall on the steps leading up to St Johns Church in Bromsgrove, can the Cabinet Member assure me that everything is being done to resolve this issue?"

Question 2 – Worcestershire Armed Forces funding

2. Cllr Lynn Denham will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities:

"In the government's Spring 2023 budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced he was providing an additional £33m over the next 3 years to increase the service provided to veterans, including support for those with serious physical injury resulting from their service and increasing the availability of veteran housing. It seems that the initial tranche of £10m for this financial year has been used to fund grants via the Armed Forces Covenant Trust for homeless veterans. None of the successful bids have any connection with Worcestershire.

This Council facilitates Worcestershire's Armed Forces Covenant. What is being done to ensure that Worcestershire veterans get a fair share of government funding in 2024 and beyond?"

Question 3 – Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in Worcestershire schools

3. Cllr Mel Allcott will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Corporate Services and Communication:

"How many schools in Worcestershire have been identified as having RAAC in their premises?"

Question 4 – Fluoridated water

4. Cllr Richard Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being:

"Around 253,000 people in Worcestershire are supplied with artificially fluoridated water. However, this does not include any of Worcester, Pershore, most of the Wyre Forest District or areas west of the River Severn. Does she agree with me that fluoridated water is one of the most significant public health measures of the late twentieth century. Will she give a commitment to explore the expansion of fluoridation to all remaining parts of Worcestershire?"

Question 5 – Design life of Worcestershire Schools

5. Cllr Dan Boatright-Greene will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Corporate Services and Communication

"The BBC reported on 4 September 2023 that 38% of the state schools in England and Wales are past their estimated design life. Are Worcestershire schools in line with this estimate and if so, what is the plan to rectify this?"

Question 6 – Traffic issues outside Bromsgrove School

6. Cllr Josh Robinson will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"Bant Mill Road and Old Station Road become like a car park around school drop off times for Bromsgrove School, this has been a constant issue for local residents who cannot at time get off or onto their drives, would the Cabinet Member be willing to meet with me on site to see the issue first hand and see what more we can do to resolve it?"

Question 7 – Opening of a footpath in Claines, Worcester

7. Cllr Mel Allcott will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"I understand Kepax bridge is scheduled to be completed December 2025. The nearby river footpath WR-810 in Claines has been closed for 2 ½ years. At a prior Council meeting, on the back of a highways general update, I asked Cllr Alan Amos (whilst Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport) if funding could be provided to reopen the footpath and this was declined. I am now asking Cllr Mike Rouse (as Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport) if funding can be provided, to ensure this much loved, very popular and previously frequently used river footpath can be reopened, in conjunction with the opening of Kepax Bridge, for the benefit of residents, visitors, tourism and the local economy?"

Question 8 – School accommodation on the west side of Worcester

8. Cllr Richard Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education:

"The west side of Worcester has five primary schools and one high school. Two of the primary schools are faith schools. The expected population growth of the area may indicate the number of schools and existing school places maybe inadequate. The infrastructure of some existing schools may also be questionable and may now require new investment. What plans does the Cabinet Member have for possible new schools or the expansion or improvements to existing schools which could accommodate such changes in demand?"

Contact Points

Contact Points for this report

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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.