

Councillors Written Questions and the Responses

Full Council – 21 February 2024

Q1 – Question to Councillor Chris Mullins (Cabinet Member for Leisure & Wellbeing) from Councillor Simon Piggott

Goffs Park House in Goffs Park has recently been boarded up and the majority of windows and doors closed off. Can the Council confirm why this step has been taken and in addition, what the short, medium and long term plans are for the entire building?

Response

Goffs House is being marketed by our agents as office accommodation. The dilapidations negotiations continue with the Ministry of Justice. These have taken longer than the Council feels is reasonable and we continue to push to bring these to an appropriate conclusion. Updates on progress are available through the Goffs Park Member Working Group, but with commercial discussions ongoing, further public comment is not possible.

Q2 – Question to Councillor Michael Jones (Leader of the Council) from Councillor Duncan Crow

On 6 June this year, the UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6 June 1944 with a series of major commemorations and events across the UK and in France. The D-Day 80 Campaign has been created to enable councils and communities to commemorate the anniversary and pay tribute to the many thousands of people that sacrificed so much in helping secure the freedom of our country.

The campaign encourages Local Authorities who have beacons, to light them at 9.15pm on 6 June. This is being supported by the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak.

Will the Council be taking part and if so, given that the previous beacon 'lighting' in Tilgate Park on 9 June 2022 for Her Late Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, was very underwhelming and attracted much public ridicule, will every effort be made in advance to get it right this time?

Response (from Councillor Sue Mullins, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Culture)

The Parks Team and Events Officer have already been working together on the planning of the 80 years of D-Day event, which will take place in Tilgate Park on the evening of 6 June 2024 with the lighting of the beacon, speeches and entertainment. The gas-lit beacon is being repaired and will be lit for this commemoration. The details of the event programme will be confirmed and shared nearer the date.

Q3 - Question to Councillor Ian Irvine (Cabinet Member for Housing) from Councillor Bob Lanzer

On what date was the decision implemented to augment housing sub-contractor sickness pay arrangements with funds from the HRA (Housing Revenue Account)?

Can you please remind Full Council of the objectives of this policy and advise how the outcomes obtained compare with the original intentions?

What has been the total sum allocated and paid to each housing sub-contractor by financial year to augment their sickness pay arrangements?

Response

The decision referred to was implemented in July 2019. The objectives behind the decision are a matter of record, but for ease a link to the original report can be found here ([Private Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Full Council, 17/07/2019 19:30 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#). The outcomes have not deviated from the intended objectives. As per the report, budgets were increased by £100,000 for this change. The information requested includes the current year and whilst work is underway to provide this it has not been possible to complete within the timeframes. This information will be published subsequently within the Members Information Bulletin.