

Councillors Written Questions to Cabinet Members and the Responses

Full Council – 12 December 2018

1. From Councillor Lanzer to the Leader of the Council?

Question 1 –

Please provide the total amount of payments from the Council to consultants over the financial years across the period 2014 to 2018?

Response –

2014 - £352,053.64

2015 - £325,954.32

2016 - £458,228.53

2017 - £880,170.31

2018 - £628,183.44

These figures include all external advice to both the General Fund and Crawley Homes for both revenue and capital schemes. It includes advice for consultants, legal, procurement, contract management and professional advice.

2. From Councillor Jaggard to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development?

The water feature in Queens Square has been running for over a year.

Question 1 –

Please could you provide details about the maintenance schedule for the water quality, particularly for the chlorine and pH levels?

Response –

My. Please refer to detailed response to question 2 below.

Question 2 –

During the first year what checks were done -

- Daily?*
- Weekly?*
- Monthly*
- Annually?*

Response –

Daily

A visual inspection is carried out on a daily basis to ensure no immediate safety risks. The water feature and surrounding area is also cleaned.

Weekly

Additional actions to those undertaken on a daily basis:

- Check drainage and remove any obstructions.*
- Check display and operation of lights. Lenses cleaned and nozzles adjusted as necessary.*

- Chlorine and pH levels checked and adjusted as necessary.
- Add Alkalinity Increaser, Algaecide and Anti Foaming agents as necessary.
- Pre-filter strainer baskets cleaned and seals checked for leaks.
- Sack filter removed and replaced as necessary.
- Backwash of multi cyclone filters and purge to waste.
- Back wash Hi-rate filters and replace water lost to waste

Monthly

Additional actions to those undertaken daily/weekly:

- Mechanical operation of Ball Valves and Multiport Valves.
- Water top-up pump system and solenoid control valve operation checked.
- Total Viable Count (TVC) sampling and testing.

Quarterly

Additional actions to those undertaken daily/weekly/monthly:

- Legionella Pneumophila sampling and testing.

Bi-annually

Additional actions to those undertaken weekly/monthly/quarterly:

- Drain reservoir, clean and refill as required.
- Level sensor probes and automatic operation check.
- Inspection of main control panel for operation and safety.
- Inspection of pump propeller and strainer.
- Check of all cabling and wiring.
- Recalibration of gas monitor.

Cold temperatures

In addition to the regular maintenance checks listed above, the fountain is fitted with temperature sensors. These monitor the temperature of both the air and the water and, should either fall below a certain level, the fountain will automatically switch off. This is designed to prevent the water from freezing and causing a slip hazard; this was successfully utilised last winter.

Question 3 –

What was the cost of the maintenance regime during the first year of operation?

Response –

The total maintenance cost in the first year was £15,720. Sampling and testing of water quality cost £540. These costs were met from existing budgets.

Question 4 –

Is the system checked for legionella? If so, what is the schedule for these checks?

Response –

Yes, quarterly. Results throughout the first year have all been negative.

Question 5 –

During the checks, were there any days when the water quality was below that expected?

Response –

During one routine sample check, the TVC reading was outside normal parameters. Within 24 hours of the reading, the filtration system was “super-chlorinated”, in

accordance with normal operating procedures. All other readings have shown a 'zero' result.

Additional information

During the first year of operation, the water feature has proven to be extremely popular with the public, particularly during the hot summer months. Many have found it hard to resist from entering the fountains and interacting with them. Whilst not originally designed as an "interactive" feature, it continues to be very popular and is a real focal point in the town centre.

Having monitored the public response to the fountains and following consultation with the specialist maintenance contractor, it is proposed to introduce some additional monitoring checks between April and September 2019. These additional checks will include four daily checks of pH and chlorine levels along with water temperatures. The introduction of additional testing at certain times of the year is a precautionary measure and will be subject to further changes dependant on a review of test results.

3. From Councillor Eade to the Cabinet Member for Resources

Question 1 –

How much in total has been spent on household expenditure to prepare for the knock down and rebuild of the Town Hall?

Question 2 –

Please provide a breakdown on what this money has been spent on to date?

Question 3 –

What budget has been set for future preparation works, e,g building a wall to separate the meeting rooms from the new build, and what else has to be done?

Question 4 –

How much contingency is there in the budget for building the new Town Hall and should this be exceeded, is the Council willing to overspend in order to complete the project?

Responses 1 to 4 –

All the responses to this set of Questions contain exempt information and as such the answer will only be included in the Exempt Response.