

### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHNSON TO COUNCILLOR HAMILTON-COX**

*Can we have an update on the installation of solar cells on Salt Ayre Sports Centre?*

Councillor Hamilton-Cox informed Councillor Johnson that he was relieved to report that the Solar PV panels were switched on week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> August.

As his supplementary question, Councillor Johnson asked if Councillor Hamilton-Cox could confirm that the legal department would be directed to claim damages from the installer.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox told Councillor Johnson that the Council was waiting for the final account for the work and would take matters from there.

### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHNSON TO COUNCILLOR HAMILTON-COX**

*As the two Town Halls, Lancaster and Morecambe, contain many valuable artefacts, when was the last time that the security arrangements were upgraded/examined as fit for purpose?*

Councillor Hamilton-Cox informed Councillor Johnson that the installation of a burglar alarm system at Morecambe Town Hall would improve security and other work was being looked at, whether the CCTV was fit for purpose; locking up of windows and doors; limiting the use of entrances; out of hours arrangements, etc.

Councillor Johnson clarified that he was asking not what was to be done, but when was the last time that the security arrangements were looked at.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox replied that a review of security arrangements for both town halls had been undertaken in the first half of 2012 initially this had been more concerned with movement within the buildings.

As his supplementary question, Councillor Johnson asked if all the artefacts were photographed and if the use of magic water or micro dotting had been considered.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox said no, that he was not aware of that.

### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR MACE TO COUNCILLOR HANSON**

*What options are under consideration for reopening the Storey Gardens and for the use of the Gardens in the context of plans for the future of the Storey Creative Industries Centre?*

Councillor Hanson replied:

We are not yet at the stage of considering specific options. The focus at present is to address the condition of the Garden's walls, ensure the trees in there are safe and get the gardens back to a reasonable standard. For the walls, following a structural survey, detailed works and cost estimates are being prepared as part of the year 1 delivery plan for improving Council property.

When we do get on to considering options, the guiding principle will be that future development and use of the garden should be integral to The Storey's operations, rather than it being a separate facility. The Storey is there to provide business space

for commercial rent, as well as a venue for public events. Community use is to be supported, but not to the extent that it undermines commercial or financial targets. There is an active 'Friends of' group who are keen to support the Council.

Putting all this into practice is expected to be a challenge.

#### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR MACE TO COUNCILLOR SANDS**

*Casual observation of coach visits to the City suggest that Lancaster is a 'one night stop' at best. What proposals are being developed by the Council to ensure that Lancaster District showcases itself sufficiently well that visitors are persuaded to return and/or stay longer on their first visit?*

Councillor Sands replied:

The visitor and inward investment branding for the district has recently been refreshed and highlights the promotion of Lancaster and Morecambe Bay as the most up to date relevant brands with equal strength in the district and its surrounding sub region.

The corporate priorities under economic growth to promote the development of Lancaster Castle, the Canal Corridor North and widen the cultural and leisure offer of the city centre, together with targeted action in Morecambe through the action plan, will help to promote longer stays in the area. It must be remembered however that the local authorities can not do this by themselves. The full support of the business community is essential for success and the Council is working strongly within partnerships with that community, and other organisations, to secure progress.

#### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HILL TO COUNCILLOR DIXON**

*Can you please advise me when a phone link, which has been promised to the trade, is going to be installed at Lancaster Bus Station and Dalton Square?*

Councillor Dixon informed Councillor Hill that the proposed telephone link to Dalton Square for the use of passengers at the Bus Station who required a taxi, was being provided by United Utilities to assist the taxi trade during the closure of the bus station taxi rank as a result of the sewer works.

Any person wanting a taxi would be able to pick up a telephone handset in the bus station and be connected directly to a telephone at the taxi rank in Dalton Square.

Arrangements for the telephone link were being made by United Utilities with BT. There had been an initial delay due to a mixed response from the taxi trade and BT requiring a legal agreement with the landowner for a new junction box to be installed on their property but that had now been agreed.

Dalton Square, being a conservation area, meant that there were additional costs for an overhead connection and new pole in the garden area.

Provision of the phone link now required actions from Openreach to install the phone lines, United Utilities to purchase the phones and a specialist contractor to install the phones, provide associated power supplies and commission. In selecting suitable phones United Utilities had to look at weatherproof and vandal proof equipment, the purchase of which alone was in excess of £1,200. The total costs were expected to

be approximately £5k. All of these factors meant that this was taking longer than anticipated and, although an exact date could not be given at this stage, the date should be known within the next week or so.

As his supplementary question, Councillor Hill asked if Councillor Dixon could please carry on this good work and put more pressure on United Utilities.

Councillor Dixon agreed to monitor progress.