

## **QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

### **1. Councillor Budden to Councillor Ainscough**

Councillor Budden asked:

*What has been the cost over the last 5 years to the city council for clearing fly tipping?*

Councillor Ainscough replied:

There are many Councillors who do a lot of work clearing litter and we are all keen to see fly tipping reduced.

The base budget for street cleansing annual is £1.85M for the 2023/2024 financial year. Due to the street cleansing operation delivering on a number of work streams, it is not easy to breakdown an accurate figure purely for one operational element such as fly tipping.

However, operational areas for Street Cleansing involve street bins, mechanical sweeping, fly tipping, graffiti removal, fly posting, litter picking.

The cost of Street Cleaning for the last 5 years is outlined below:

2023/2024 FY - £1.85M  
2022/2023 FY - £1.686M  
2021/2022 FY - £1.5M  
2020/2021 FY - £1.55M  
2019/2020 FY - £1.872M

Please note that the above costs include capital charges. However, they no longer incur support service recharges (management costs) which are now absorbed within overall service areas.

### **2. Councillor Budden to Councillor Ainscough**

Councillor Budden asked:

*How many successful prosecutions have taken place over that period of time?*

Councillor Ainscough replied:

Since 2018, there have been 11 successful prosecutions. During the same time period, there was also 39 Fixed Penalty Notices issued which would have potential led to prosecution, but fines were paid prior to escalation.

Lancaster City Council is committed to reducing the issue of fly tipping across its district and sees illegally dumped waste as its number one environmental challenge faced.

In the past 12 months, the city council has teamed up with leading national environmental charity, Keep Britain Tidy, to work together to achieve positive impacts for our communities.

Schemes and interventions trialled in the last year saw a reduction of incidents in hot spots and this work will feed into future strategies and action plans for tackling this issue.

It is important to note that enforcement is not the sole answer to tackling the issue and comes in many forms, not just prosecutions. The Council use many different methods including formal letters, community protection warnings, fixed penalty notices, and others under the Environmental Protection Act. Evidence suggests that education, policy and community cohesion are much more powerful tools in reducing an issue that is a blight on our communities.

The Council is currently continuing its proactive work with Keep Britain Tidy and is building a district strategy on how to face a national challenge, which is due for completion in early 2024.

*Councillor Budden did not ask a supplementary question as he felt it had been covered by Councillor Ainscough's response.*

### **3. Councillor Budden to Councillor Ainscough**

Councillor Budden asked:

*June was the warmest month of this year so far, how many days was the splash pool in Happy Mount Park open then?*

Councillor Ainscough replied:

14 days

*By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Budden asked if the park could be more reactive to weather conditions so that Council tax payers would not be left at the gates with disappointed children.*

Councillor Ainscough responded:

The opening of the splash park takes place on weekends and school holidays to maximise the visitor numbers to each session and reduce the cost burden of the operation, including staffing, water, chemicals and energy. This strategy has been in place a number of years. The staff work really hard from May to September and the majority do not take breaks during that time.

### **4. Councillor Newton to Councillor Parr**

Councillor Newton asked:

*With the City Council failing to achieve its housing targets, when will the Council encourage developers to start submitting plans for developing the Bailrigg area of the district, which is part of the local plan, and to stop developers taking advantage of the opportunity to build in rural villages, which creates stress on the village infrastructure?*

Councillor Parr replied:

The City Council adopted its Local Plan in July 2020. The Plan contains a policy regarding development in South Lancaster. That policy allows for housing development to come forward in advance of an Area Action Plan for the South Lancaster area, on the proviso that any proposed development satisfies the criteria that is set out in the Policy. Therefore since July 2020, developers have always been able to submit housing proposals for the South

Lancaster area, and can still do so, providing that those proposals satisfy the adopted policy.

At a Meeting earlier this month, the Cabinet agreed to not proceed with an Area Action Plan for South Lancaster, and to commence a Local Plan Review of the whole District. This decision was made in the wake of Lancashire County Council's announcement regarding the Housing Infrastructure Fund. The full Local Plan Review will commence shortly, and it will consider development needs throughout the district including in our towns and villages. For the avoidance of doubt, until a new Local Plan is formally adopted, the policies in the current, adopted Local Plan remain relevant and will continue to be used to determine planning applications, including those in South Lancaster.

## **5. Councillor Cleet to Councillor Wilkinson**

Councillor Cleet asked:

*I see that a contract has been awarded to Eric Wright Construction for 30 million pounds to build 139 affordable homes (which works out at a not affordable 200,000 pounds each) this development is to be called Coopers Field. Am I right in thinking that Coopers Field will be built on the existing council owned lower and upper car parks at St Leonardgate?*

Thank you for your question Councillor Cleet. I can confirm that the St. Leonardgate car parks are planned as the site for the Coopersfield development. There appears to be a bit of confusion around the award of the contract and the costs of the scheme, which have not yet been finalised. The ground works element of the contract was let to Eric Wright construction using a framework agreement which allows for the council to use Eric Wright for works up to the value of £30million. Eric Wright are currently only undertaking the investigatory work on the site to help inform the design work.

Councillor Cleet's supplementary question was:

*Taking into consideration that the lower car park has 63 spaces and the upper car park has 125 spaces where do you expect shoppers and theatre-goers to park?*

Councillor Wilkinson replied:

Work has been completed on a draft parking strategy for Lancaster and, as a part of the master plan approvals, Cabinet agreed that this work would be developed further and completed by the end of January. It is also important to note that as a part of each project taken forward within the Canal Quarter programme a transport assessment would be required as a part of the planning process. This would assess any impact the project has on the local transport system and identify what measures are to be put into place to mitigate issues.