

## **Questions under Procedure Rule 11.2 for Council**

### **Q1. Question from Councillor Evans to the Leader of the Council**

“Will the Leader, Councillor Pullen, please commit to the production of a report on broadcasting meetings in future at the Council, which will include the costs involved?”

He previously has said that this Council will be transparent and the virtual meetings have allowed this to happen during the Pandemic, via YouTube. This has been successful and has attracted more members of the public to view proceedings. It is therefore important this is allowed to continue, in order to comply with his statement.”

### **Response from the Leader of the Council**

"I'm grateful that Cllr Evans shares my enthusiasm for both online meetings and the broadcasting of in-person meetings. Cllr Evans will of course know that we are already broadcasting in-person meetings from the Chamber, and we will certainly be looking at finding an even better, longer term solution for broadcasting our meetings."

### **Q2. Question from Councillor Robertson to the Cabinet Member for Visitory Economy and Local Plan**

“Can the cabinet member confirm how much involvement this Council had with the now withdrawn proposal from Staffordshire County Council to redevelop part of Festival Gardens in Lichfield City Centre and add an additional lane to the A51 at the Bowling Green traffic island?”

### **Response from the Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy and Local Plan**

“The proposal was a matter between Staffordshire County Council as the highway authority and Lichfield City Council as the landowner. Lichfield District Council did not have a role in the discussions between these two parties or in the consultation that took place.”

### **Q3. Question from Councillor Norman to the Leader of the Council**

“At the meeting of Council on the 13th of October last year it was Resolved that the Council would:

‘.. write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill”, and “write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People”.

The organisation promoting the Bill, PowerforPeople, will attempt to persuade an MP drawn in the Private Members’ Ballot on 20th May to adopt the Bill. If Michael Fabricant MP is one of the lucky winners in that ballot, can the Leader agree to email him, by the following day, asking if he will adopt the Bill that this Council believes would benefit many residents and help to further our stated goal to reduce Greenhouse Gas emission?

Can he also he also tell the Council of the responses he would have received from both MPs who should have been written to following the Resolution agreed last October?”

### **Response from the Leader of the Council**

"Both MPs have been in touch to say that they are not opposed - while recognising the very low likelihood that a bill of this nature will make it through Parliament. In addition, Michael Fabricant has set out his position, following our letter, here: <https://www.michael.fabricant.mp.co.uk/2020/11/28/local-electricity-bill-and-lichfield-district-council/>

As Michael is already aware of this, I am sure if he wishes to enter the Private Members Bill Ballot, and if he is successful, he will use his good judgment as to what legislation he wishes to propose."

#### **Q4. Question from Councillor Norman to the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Climate Change**

"At the meeting of Council held on the 15th of December last year the members supported the Slow Ways project and its goal to create a network of walking routes that connect all of Great Britain's towns and cities as well as thousands of villages including those in Lichfield District. He will recall that the Motion that was agreed at that meeting by all members would help tackle the climate change emergency and including the following: "we will explore financial and other support such as encouraging the County Council to provide safe footway improvements." Now that the Slows Ways Website has been launched and local volunteers have helped to identify a number of safe walking routes, including one that connects Burntwood to Lichfield, can he set out what action he will now take to honour that commitment?"

#### **Response from the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Climate Change**

"Its great the work that Slow Ways is doing in re-inventing the wheel for a new generation. They are working closely with Ordnance Survey to encourage people to walk again, abandoning cars, buses and more. As we know walking is not only good for fitness but also mental health and wellness and if it helps reduce peoples carbon footprint as well then this is to be applauded.

As a council we will be supporting these schemes and have already released a number of stories encouraging people in the district to enjoy walking and seeing our beautiful district. This will continue and where appropriate we will be highlighting the walks on Slow Ways alongside our own popular Active Lichfield Walks.

As it is a very new initiative we will probably find there are many ways we might be able to support and help Slow Ways in the coming years."

#### **Q5. Question from Councillor Norman to the Leader of the Council**

"I appreciate that we are not yet able to meet again in the Council Chamber, or indeed virtually, but could he tell me what the financial cost of tonight's meeting, here in the Leisure Centre, is likely to be compared to a meeting held via Zoom and broadcast on YouTube?

Could he also take a brief and exploratory report to Scrutiny of the likely cost of equipping the Council Chamber and, separately, the Committee Room so that these meetings could be seen

more widely by our residents which has been the case under the Coronavirus restrictions until May 7th?"

**Response from the Leader of the Council**

"I'm grateful that Cllr Norman shares my enthusiasm for both online meetings and the broadcasting of in-person meetings. The cost of meeting here this evening in the Leisure Centre is around £1,200, whereas hosting this meeting online would not have incurred any additional costs. Cllr Norman will of course know that we are already broadcasting in-person meetings from the Chamber, and we will certainly be looking at finding an even better, longer term solution for broadcasting our meetings. Whether or not this comes to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, is, of course, a matter for that Committee."