

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by Members.

The question will be answered without discussion. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion. The person to whom a question, or supplementary question, has been put may decline to answer it.

The following written questions have been received from Members:

(i) Councillor Wares- Bikeshare

“At 8th October 2019 ETS Committee I asked a series of questions relating to the Bikeshare scheme to which the answer was “we’ll do a report”. Given that the information to answer most of my questions was in the officer brief dated 25th July 2019, it is a surprise that there was no report on this agenda. Would the Chair please confirm that the officer briefing dated 25th July 2019 can now be made publicly available?”

(ii) Councillor Wares-Patcham Roundabout

“At the 25th June 2019 ETS Committee the Chair recognised the importance of the gateway entrance to the city at Patcham roundabout. The Chair talked about Cityparks being on the threshold of a breakthrough and that Ward Councillors would be briefed by officers. Importantly, the Chair gave their personal assurance that something would be delivered this calendar year. For the last five months we have heard nothing. Please could the Chair now share with us the details of this great breakthrough and what will be done this calendar year that will give us the confidence that the Chair’s personal assurances are worth the paper they are written on?”

(iii) Councillor Heley- Climate Emergency Communications

“We need to improve the way that the council communicates the climate emergency to the residents of our city. In January 2019, the Green Group submitted an amendment that asked the council to publicise the council’s recognition of the climate and biodiversity emergencies, to request a report outlining low-cost measures the Communications team could organise to publicise the ‘Climate Emergency’ declaration, and the placement of an online banner on the home page of the BHCC website ‘Unanimous ambition of this Council: zero carbon by 2030.’ I’m pleased to see that recently there is now some information on the council’s website, but why did this take so long? Shouldn’t we be communicating to our residents in such a way that reflects that this is an emergency?”

(iv) Councillor Heley- Cityclean Communications

“The problems in City Clean are well known, but poor communications from City Clean have worsened the recent issues. Would it be possible to improve communications from city clean to residents? For example, if a rubbish or recycling collection on a particular road or area is missed, there can be an alert on the website, with information on when it will be collected. Otherwise, residents have to leave their rubbish out on the street all week not knowing when it will be collected. Will the Chair look into this on behalf of all residents in the city?”

(v) Councillor Heley- Standing Agenda Item

“The agendas of this committee must reflect the severity and urgency of the Climate Emergency, and so far, the agenda items of this crucial committee have not done that. Will the Chair reconsider her decision to not have a standing item on the ETS agenda that provides an update on our progress of becoming a carbon neutral city by 2030? This could be as simple as Nick Hibberd providing a verbal update at the beginning of each committee, in order to avoid overloading officers. Can the chair commit to this?”

(vi) Councillor Heley- Crossing on New England and Old Shoreham Road

“Ward councillors for Preston Park Ward are deeply concerned by the lack of progress on changing the dangerous road layout where New England Road meets Old Shoreham Road under the railway bridge. There are two major issues presented in this poorly designed road. The first is road safety- it is simply not safe to cross. When you walk downhill on Old Shoreham road, the pavement simply disappears, and you have to cross the road dodging fast moving traffic to simply be able to walk on a pavement. This is incredibly unsafe for anyone, especially those with pushchairs and in wheelchairs, as no crossing exists and there is no dropped curb. This leads us to the second major issue of accessibility. As a City Council we have a duty to ensure that our pavements are fully accessible and safe. This road is incredibly dangerous for those that use wheelchairs and other mobility aids. As it stands, the road is completely inaccessible, and it is failing these residents. For Prestonville resident who wishes to access London Road, there is no other reasonable walking route. Some might go out of their way via Dyke Road Drive, but less mobile residents, or those with buggies etc., are restricted to going under the bridge or simply not going at all. Will the Chair ensure that this is looked at as a matter of urgency and the road and pavement is made safe and accessible as soon as possible?”