

Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure contained within the City Council's Constitution provides that a Member of the Council may submit up to five written questions to the Leader of Council or any Cabinet Member.

This document informs Members of Council of written questions put to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members and written replies thereto.

Cabinet is recommended to

- (a) Note the written questions submitted and corresponding responses.**
- (b) Note the supplementary questions and corresponding responses delivered verbally within the 15 minutes available for Questions by Members.**

No.	Question from/to	Question
1.	From Councillor Trimnell to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	Please can the appropriate Cabinet Member tell me the reason for not pursuing the trading consent that was needed for the pop-up vape shop at Gloucester Quays?
<p>Response:</p> <p>When the Licensing Team were made aware of the situation of the pop-up vape unit at Gloucester Quays, they conducted their enquiries to ascertain if any permissions would be needed.</p> <p>Licensing Officers contacted the Peel Centre and were told that permission was granted for the unit to be placed on their land. From the information officers were given, officers considered that a Street Trading Consent may have been required.</p> <p>Officers made repeated attempts to contact the company, both on site and corporately, but the unit was closed on the day of their visit and the other contacts did not get any response.</p> <p>Officers then went back to the Peel Centre asking for the unit to be removed. It was agreed for the unit to be removed on the morning of 7th September.</p> <p>The Peel Centre now understand what permissions are needed and have instructed their partner company (who make the bookings) to include information on all the relevant consents that must be obtained prior to commencing any trading which includes a link to Gloucester City Council's website on how to obtain a Street Trading Consent.</p>		

2.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	<p>On the 20th of October 2020 the City Council issued a press release about using volunteers from Emerging Futures to carry out the gardening maintenance of the new Wellington Parade Garden. The Leader of the Council was quoted and the decision to use volunteers to maintain a public garden was made without consultation with ward members.</p> <p>The experiment has failed. The garden isn't being cared for. It looks a scruffy mess. Will you call in our contractors Ubico to take over the responsibility of maintaining this public open space, which sits prominently in a conservation area?</p>
<p>Response:</p> <p>There have been several recent staff changes at Emerging Futures CiC which have impacted on the delivery of garden maintenance at Wellington Parade. A new Network Coach has now been appointed to support residents and volunteers working to maintain the garden and the group have been litter picking and weeding the site on a weekly basis. Interest in the project has also been shown by a group of asylum seekers currently living at the IBIS hotel, and we will be bringing interested parties together to discuss an ongoing workplan for the garden.</p> <p>Under the current contract Ubico operatives would be unable to deliver a gardening service and work would be restricted to periodic cutting back of shrubs and litter picking.</p>		
3.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	<p>Why is it that most footways across Kingsholm and Wotton have weeds growing along the curbs and edges etc. Have Ubico been instructed to stop weed spraying in my ward?</p>
<p>Response:</p> <p>The second weed spray has not yet taken place in some areas. The street cleaners have been tasked with prioritising support for Gloucester Day, Gloucester Goes Retro and the Tour of Britain events in the city over the last few weeks, making sure the city centre area was looking as clean as possible.</p> <p>Due to staff retirement and sickness at Ubico there is now a shortage of trained staff for weed spraying, an issue Ubico are addressing but in the meantime, they should be manually removing weeds where they are particularly bad. We would encourage Members to report the worst areas to us.</p> <p>Kingsholm was last sprayed in May and is scheduled in again w/c 18th September. Ubico have also hired in a large road sweeper with a weed arm, which will be deployed in the Kingsholm and Barton areas next week.</p>		
4.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	<p>Can you please provide me with an update on the work to construct the improved pedestrian subway under the railway station, including a date for its reopening?</p>

	Response:	
	Network Rail have now successfully refurbished and repaired the corroded steel track and platform supporting structures within the railway station underpass. National Grid/Western Power have assessed the fragile 11Kva cable running under the public right of way (the underpass) and have agreed a solution to renew and reroute this important network supply that also acts as backup to the Royal Hospital. This work will start later this year. GWR's contractor Octavius has completed the detailed design of the project, and work is expected to start on site in October with a completion date in Summer 2024.	
5.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	How many qualified gardeners does the City Council employ to maintain places such as Hillfield Gardens?
	Response:	
	The grounds maintenance contract does not include any provision for gardening services.	
6.	From Councillor Conder to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	<p>Looking at the Gloucester Statement of Community Involvement, I would like to ask for an amendment in Appendix 2, Table 5 which gives information about publicity for Planning Applications.</p> <p>Under Type of Application: Change of Use to a hot-food takeaway, currently notification is to the site and to neighbours. I would like to request that local Councillors are notified directly as well.</p> <p>Hot food takeaways were moved to 'sui generis' category which allows local authorities to have greater control through the planning process. 'Healthy and inclusive Communities' (Gov.uk/guidance) explains the role local planning authorities can play in creating healthy environments that support healthy lifestyles. I feel sure Councillors would welcome additional awareness of when such applications are submitted.</p>
	Response:	
	<p>The Statement of Community Involvement details how the council will consult with the general public and external stakeholders. It does not cover how we will consult internally with councillors or internal consultees. However, the Development Control Manager is happy to ensure that members are notified of applications for hot food takeaways in their wards and will make the necessary arrangements to ensure that this happens going forward.</p> <p>Other measures adopted by Gloucester City Council, which go beyond the statutory requirements, include the application of a 40m neighbour notification radius in respect of applications that involve a change of use to hot food takeaway. In addition, where objections are received to such proposals and the officer recommendation is that permission be granted the application will be taken to planning committee for determination.</p>	

