

Council Meeting: Unanswered Oral Questions

19 July 2018

9) Councillor Bick to the Executive Councillor for Communities

What are “priority groups” in relation to the city’s community centres and how important are they to the purpose of the community centres?

The priority groups currently monitored for data collection in community centres relate to historic Community Development strategies:

- Black and Minority Ethnic People
- Children and Young People
- Families
- Older People
- People with disabilities
- Local people

They were important as our community centres contributed to the overarching purpose to reduce social and economic deprivation and these were target groups we wanted to use the facilities and groups we promoted activities for.

The in-depth review of community provision resulted in the Building Stronger Communities Strategy covering:

Part A: Community Centres Strategy

- Community centres located in the highest need areas of the city to deliver the Council’s community development activity and anti-poverty priorities

Part B: Our Community Development Approach

- Responsive outreach service planning targets resource at highest needs alongside thematic priority work.
- Service delivery to residents with the highest needs via Council community centre provision.
- A more flexible resource that can be adaptive to the changing needs of a growing city.

Priorities

Following the approval of the Building Stronger Communities Strategy officers are now working through the implementation of the various actions required and this will include reviewing how to monitor Centre use and activities. The previous priorities may still be relevant but the following community development approach was agreed:

- a) Use an evidence base to inform targeted short, medium and longer term service planning.
- b) Align the work to strategic objectives, such as the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy, and engaging with other service areas and partners to maximise outcomes.
- c) Improve confidence, skills and knowledge to improve the quality of lives, and the communities where people live.
- d) Encourage resident involvement and participation in decisions that affect them.
- e) Encourage the integration of new and existing communities.
- f) Enable opportunities for people to come together to build stronger communities.
- g) Build the capacity of voluntary groups to help create sustainability.

KPIs

Officers have already noted the current KPIs do not reflect the new strategic approach, and going forward, will not be as easy to collect or use to measure performance, for example, Clay Farm has a multi-agency perspective, the management of Ross Street is in transition to a voluntary sector organisation and Akeman Street will be redeveloped over the coming year. Therefore a revised set of KPIs is being developed to reflect the new approach and it is expected these will cover strategic outcomes as well as financial performance.

10) Councillor Baigent to the Leader

There is a demonstration taking place by the Football Lad's Alliance in support of Tommy Robinson on Saturday 21st July at 1500 on Parker's Piece that will be followed by a march. There is also a counter demonstration taking place at 1400 on Donkey Common organised by a committee of Cambridge people that has amongst its members Unite Against Racism, Fire Brigades Union and Unite the Union. Could the leader please provide an update on how Cambridge may be affected by these events?

11) Councillor McPherson to the Executive Councillor for Streets and Open Spaces

Can the Executive Councillor update us on the tree trail in Cherry Hinton Hall grounds?

The tree trail in Cherry Hinton Hall is a wonderful way of showcasing a really wide range of different trees. The trail is about 1500 metres long, and there are over 50 trees on it, including a double-flowered white cherry tree and a Dawn Redwood. This species dates back to the Mesozoic Era and was thought to be extinct before being 'rediscovered' in China in 1941, so it's great to have one to showcase here. The trail even includes a stump from a tree which we lost some years ago, and which is now a home to all sorts of wildlife.

The trail is now complete. There's a website, a printed trail, a short video, an information board, and signs on the trees themselves. In fact, under the expert supervision of Matthew McGrath, one of our tree officers, I fixed up the final sign myself.

The tree trail is just part of our commitment to trees and to our public spaces in Cambridge. We hope that the trail is informative and enjoyable for visitors of all ages. I'd encourage as many people as possible to go up there and experience it for themselves.

For those who do visit, we have an Instagram feed, and I'd encourage as many people as possible to take pictures and tag them with #camtrees.

We are asking community groups to suggest further tree trails. We'd love these to be participative ventures, with groups choosing the trees and writing the copy for each tree. We are looking at whether this could be funded through sponsorship opportunities.

I want to thank our tree officers and Urban Green and Still Vision Photography, who helped us develop the trail. And of course the local community – especially the local councillors and the friends of Cherry Hinton Hall for their support.

12) Councillor Barnett to the Executive Councillor for Environmental Services and City Centre

Can the Executive Councillor update us on visitor numbers to Cambridge and the impacts on the city?

7,600,300 trips to Cambridge

£789m income in 2016 from visitors

Busiest month for day visitors is July and busiest for overnight is December

13) Councillor Sargeant to the Leader

Can the Leader update the Council on the latest position in relation to the pause on Greater Cambridge Partnership transport projects imposed by the Combined Authority Mayor, and his efforts along with the GCP and the leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council to ensure the GCP can do its job and that both organisations work together to deliver vital transport improvements for Cambridge?

14) Councillor Thittala to the Executive Councillor for Environmental Services and City Centre

What has been the progress of the night markets and what value do they give to residents?

Night markets have been regularly attended by approx. 400 - 500 visitors for each event (with the exception of the wash out last August), the demographic has been about 75% local residents and 25% tourists, this has been identified through the event pages on social media, targeted promotional leaflets and posters which have been placed around the city with a focus on residential areas.

The Night Market will run from 6.30pm and Paddington is expected to start around 6:30pm and Grease will start at 8:30pm giving visitors plenty of time to browse the market, select some food and find a seat.

15) Councillor Holt to the Leader

What action is the Council planning to ameliorate the impact that the temporary closure of the Park Street Car Park for redevelopment – may have on independent businesses in the surrounding part of the city centre?

16) Councillor Massey to the Executive Councillor for Communities

Can the Executive Councillor for Communities inform Council of what activities will be on offer for young people by Chypps during the summer holidays?

17) Councillor Nethsingha to the Leader

Does the Leader have confidence that the Mayor and Combined Authority are working sufficiently collaboratively with all the bodies which have transport and planning responsibilities within the Combined Authority area, to give the Minister for Local Government the reassurance requested in his letter ahead of the gateway assessment for the GCP in 2019?

This page is intentionally left blank