



# **CAMBRIDGE** CITY COUNCIL

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## Public Questions for Council

1. Councillors will be aware of our campaign with the RNIB and Cam Sight to address concerns about pavement parking. Since Covid lockdowns commenced the habit of parking cars on, or across, the pavement has increased substantially and shows no signs of abating now that restrictions have eased. Some of you may have visited our website at [stumblingstreets.com](http://stumblingstreets.com), viewed the video produced by the RNIB or seen the gallery showing some of the many instances that have been photographed. 70% of the photos on that site were taken in the first two weeks of February and they must represent only a fraction of the reality.

While representing a nuisance for all pedestrians, pavement parking is a major issue for particular groups. Wheelchair and mobility scooter users as well as parents with prams or buggies are often forced into the road to get around the vehicles. For the blind and partially sighted they represent a hazard with real potential dangers. One they are now likely to encounter at least once in almost every outing. If active travel policies are ever to work, barriers like this need to be reduced not, as they are now, allowed to grow unchecked.

We are, of course, aware that the City Council has no powers to address this and similar problems under the current arrangements. We believe it has a major role to play nonetheless. Will this Council and its members now agree to press the County Council and the Highways and Transport Committee for swift action to bring an end to the worst manifestations of what is rapidly becoming an epidemic, one that negates the positive work of the Active Travel Team?

First it is important to emphasise to the County Council and especially to the Highways and Transport Committee that they absolutely do have the powers to address the problem. These were bestowed on all local authorities including Cambridge by 'special authorisation' in February 2011 given by the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Norman Baker, to prohibit parking on footways and verges, wherever they considered it necessary. This would be exercised through a traffic regulation order (TRO, or ETRO). I can provide a copy of that authorisation to anyone who needs it.

Secondly, this Council can refuse to accept the obfuscation, buck passing and denial of responsibility that seems to have greeted past complainants. Thirdly they can make it clear that, apart from London where there is a blanket ban, pavement parking has been, or is being, successfully tackled in cities like Peterborough and Sheffield through the use of TROs in localities where the problem is worst. This is easier and generally more acceptable than city wide action. Councillors can identify and nominate local hotspots for consideration. Finally, this Council can suggest that, if initial schemes have sufficient scope, any action could be self-funding through the administration of fines.

2. How can we further accelerate the deployment of rapid, effective, no-brainer investment in housing insulation and heat saving retrofit across all council properties, as well as suitable local incentives for private dwellings, especially private rented dwellings - which is surely the most critical and comparatively easy priority for a sudden and significant reduction in fossil usage in the city, as well as significantly reducing cost of living for as many local residents as possible.
3. On the 22 July 2021, the Council unanimously passed a motion outlining its concerns about the implications of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. With the Bill in its final stages having completed all its readings in the House and the Lords, it is due to enter the Commons for final consideration of the Lords amendments next Monday, 28th February before proceeding for Royal Assent. Although a number of amendments on the rights to protest have been changed, there has been little movement on the provisions regarding the criminalisation of the Traveller way of life, the power of police to seize Gypsy and Traveller homes, to fine Gypsies and Travellers up to £2,500 and to imprison those who continue to follow a nomadic way of life because of the lack of safe legal stopping places.

Q: What plans does the Council have in place now to supply legal stopping places and transit sites for Gypsies and Travellers passing through Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire? This is now an issue of great urgency. There are no legitimate grounds for delay.

4. I am delighted that the council stood in solidarity with the Gypsy Roma and Traveller community against Jimmy Carr's appearance at the Corn Exchange in February. I was at the protest and delighted to see some councillors there. However, it is disappointing that the council does not have a negotiated stopping policy and continues to carry out evictions. Indeed, I understand that the Labour City Council was the only council in Cambridgeshire to carry out an eviction during the first lockdown [<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/traveller-communities-face-systemic-racism-21960286>]. Cambridge City Council now has an opportunity not just to talk the talk, but to walk the walk. Will the City Council put its money where its mouth is, and commit to a formal negotiated stopping policy now, such as has been adopted in Leeds? This is not a lot to ask from a council which claims to stand with the GRT community. [<https://www.negotiatedstopping.co.uk/>]
5. I would like to ask a question at the Council meeting on Thursday 3 March on Cllr Dalzell's motion 9b about the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan.
6. Why are there insufficient rubbish and recycling bins throughout Castle Ward. What plans has the Council got in place to properly reflect the increasing pedestrian traffic in the Ward to ensure litter reduction ?
7. The City Council is to be congratulated on its successful application, with South Cambridgeshire District Council, for funding to undertake restoration work on the city's chalk streams and their critically important biodiversity. Would it therefore not be appropriate to also provide statutory protection, in the form of Local Nature Reserve (LNRs), for all those streams that meet the criteria for such designation? As has been found globally, restoration of biodiversity and its habitat is of little value unless the areas involved are also protected and suitable measures put in place to reduce the threats that led to deterioration in the first place. The 11 LNRs in Cambridge include Nine Wells and Byron's Pool, but no other chalk stream habitat.

Cherry Hinton Brook is a particularly important example and is currently designated only as a City Wildlife Site, which carries no statutory weight. The Brook meets the key criteria for designation as an LNR in terms of local importance for wildlife, education and

enjoyment (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/create-and-manage-local-nature-reserves>). It has a very healthy population of breeding water voles (a protected species), visiting otters and a rich bird diversity including kingfisher, egret and water rail. It is enormously popular as a leisure spot, attracts many birdwatchers and photographers, and is also used for educational school visits. There is an active group of volunteers involved with maintenance and restoration activities, and who would help to prepare the required management plan. Would the Council consider looking at the feasibility of designating Cherry Hinton Brook as an LNR, thus demonstrating the Council's full commitment to the protection of this unique habitat?

8. Given that the upper Cam is classed by the Environment Agency as being of 'poor' water quality, and that, as we have established for ourselves by professionally validated microbial testing, the principal source of polluting faecal bacteria are from upstream sewage treatment works can the Greater Cambridge Partnership not put a great deal more pressure on the Water Companies (particularly Anglian Water) to improve their performance so that our Cam valley rivers reach at least 'good' water quality status?
9. I gather "up to 12 streets will be selected where local residents can volunteer to clear their street spaces to avoid herbicide use" ([www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/herbicide-free-trials-to-begin-in-two-cambridge-wards-and-9238734](http://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/herbicide-free-trials-to-begin-in-two-cambridge-wards-and-9238734)).

It's an excellent initiative, and when I posted a message about it on our Belvoir Road WhatsApp group I discovered there was lots of support and many willing volunteers.

How do we go about getting Belvoir Road selected?

## Update Agenda Item 6c

### **Draft Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 - National Chief Executive and Chief Officer pay awards**

At the Civic Affairs meeting on 2 February a report was considered on the Draft Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 which included an update on the national pay negotiations. Since the Civic Affairs Committee, we have received news of the national pay awards for Chief Executives, Chief Officers and on 28 February for staff covered by the National Joint Council (NJC) award (Bands 1-11).

The Local Government Association has notified councils of agreements on the national pay awards for Chief Executives and Chief Officers (Director and Head of Service grades), both at **1.5% for 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022**. Following the delegations from the Civic Affairs Committee, Officer Decision Notices have been taken and published. Budgetary provision has been confirmed by the Head of Finance.

The Local Government Association has notified councils of agreement on the national pay award for staff covered by the NJC award of **1.75% from 1 April 2021**. This is the majority of Council staff. Following the delegations from the Civic Affairs Committee, an Officer Decision Notice has been taken and will be published. Budgetary provision has been confirmed by the Head of Finance.

The Draft Pay Policy Statement will be updated prior to publication on the Council's website in line with these awards.

Contact Officer: Deborah Simpson, Head of Human Resources.  
[deborah.simpson@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.simpson@cambridge.gov.uk)

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## Council 24.2.22

### Agenda Item 6c

#### **Amendment proposed by Cllr Bick (in bold and underlined)**

##### 22/8/Civ – Draft Pay Policy Statement

The Committee received a report from the Head of Human Resources. The report set out a draft pay policy statement as required under the Localism Act. The Localism Act requires the Council to have considered, approved and published a pay policy statement for each financial year. This must be approved by Full Council and be in place by 31st March each year.

**Resolved** (unanimously) to recommend to Council:

- i. To approve the draft Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 attached as Appendix 1 of the Officer's report.
- ii. To delegate authority to the Head of Human Resources to update the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 should a chief executive and/or chief officer and/or NJC pay award be agreed.

**Add:**

- iii. **To ask the committee to reconsider its decisions (iv) and (v) in relation to Chief Executive and Director performance appraisal, allowing further discussion to take place first, in the meantime leaving the existing process in place.**

The Committee also agreed:

- iv. Unanimously - To note the update on the review of senior officer salaries which was scheduled for late 2021 and has now been moved until 2022 due to the delay in the national pay award settlement for 2021 and the forthcoming review of the senior management structure.
- v. By 4 votes to 2 - For director performance reviews to be undertaken by the Chief Executive, as outlined in Section 5 of the officer's report.
- vi. By 4 votes to 2 - For chief executive performance reviews to be undertaken by the Leader, as outlined in Section 5 of the officer's report.

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## PROPOSED Members' Allowances Scheme 2022 - 2023

Councillors are not paid a salary. However, they do get allowances to cover some of the costs of being a Councillor. The Basic Allowance, the Special Responsibility Allowance, childcare and carer's allowance, and travelling costs are set by the Council having noted recommendations put to it by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

### 1. Basic Allowance, and Special Responsibility Allowance (taxable)

**Basic allowance:** This is an annual flat rate payment to all Councillors, intended to recognise the time devoted by Councillors to work in their wards and political groups, recognising the level of out-of-pocket expenses Councillors incur in carrying out their functions. It also recognises that Councillors undertake their Council work for the sake of public service and not for private gain. Each Councillor will receive an annual allowance of **£5,554**, and a one-off stationery allowance payment of £75 at the start of the year.

**Special Responsibility Allowance:** This is paid to Councillors who have a higher than average workload, and/or hold particular positions of responsibility within the Council. The number of SRAs that any councillor may hold is limited to three.

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Leader  | <b>£16,662</b>           |
| Deputy Leader/s   | <b>£2,777</b>            |
| Executive Councillor  | <b>£11,108</b>           |
| Leader of the Main Opposition Group - Lib Dem                           | <b>£5,554</b>            |
| Scrutiny Committees - Chair   | <b>£2,222</b>            |
| Scrutiny Committees - Opposition Spokes (Liberal Democrat)              | <b>£2,222</b>            |
| Scrutiny Committees – Minority Spokes (Green/Independent)               | <b>£1,666</b>            |
| Planning - Chair  | <b>£5,554</b>            |
| Planning - Vice-Chair   | <b>£2,777</b>            |
| Planning - Member   | <b>£1,666</b>            |
| Licensing - Chair   | <b>£1,388</b>            |
| Licensing - Member - if they have attended 4 or more meetings           | <b>£417</b>              |
| Joint Development Control - Chair / City Spokes                         | <b>£2,777</b>            |
| Joint Development Control – Members                                     | <b>£1,111</b>            |
| Civic Affairs - Chair   | <b>£1,388</b>            |
| Area Committee - Chair  | <b>£1,111</b>            |
| Full Council - Chair  | <b>£1,388</b>            |
| Greater Cambridge Partnership Board Member                              | <b>£2,777</b>            |
| Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly Member                           | <b>£833</b>              |
| Combined Authority Cabinet Member                                       | <b>£5,554</b>            |
| <del>Combined Authority, Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee Member</del> | <del><b>£1,388</b></del> |
| <del>Combined Authority, Audit &amp; Governance Committee Member</del>  | <del><b>£555</b></del>   |
| Combined Authority committee members                                    | <b>£1,111</b>            |
| Police and Crime Panel Member   | <b>£855</b>              |

## **2. Travel and Subsistence Allowances**

Councillors are paid at the same rates as Officers.

Mileage allowances are:

Casual User Mileage (up to 10,000 miles): 45 pence per mile

Casual User Mileage (after 10,000 miles): 25 pence per mile

Bicycle rate is based on the HMRC advised rates, which is now 20 pence per mile.

The motorcycle rate is 24 pence per mile.

Travel and subsistence allowances are payable for those duties prescribed in Regulations; that is:

- a. A meeting of the executive;
- b. A meeting of a committee of the executive;
- c. A meeting of the authority;
- d. A meeting of a committee or sub-committee of the authority;
- e. A meeting of some other body to which the authority make appointments or nominations;
- f. A meeting of a committee or sub-committee of a body to which the authority make appointments or nominations;
- g. A meeting which has both been authorised by the authority, a committee, or sub-committee of the authority or a joint committee of the authority and one or more other authorities, or a sub-committee of a joint committee and to which representatives of more than one political group have been invited (if the authority is divided into several political groups) or to which two or more councillors have been invited (if the authority is not divided into political groups);
- h. A meeting of a local authority association of which the authority is a member;

In addition travel can be claimed for:

- i) Meetings that are approved Council duties (including site visits);
- ii) Meetings instigated by an officer, which are (or had the potential to be) cross party;
- iii) Training and development for councillors organised by the Council; attendance at conferences and seminars that have been booked by officers;
- i. Duties undertaken on behalf of the authority in connection with the discharge of any function of the authority conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises;
- j. Duties undertaken on behalf of the authority in connection with arrangements made by the authority for the attendance of pupils at a school approved for the purposes of Section 342 of the Education Act 1996; and

k. Any other duty approved by the authority in connection with discharging the duties of the authority or its committees or sub-committees.

Reimbursement of public transport fares can be made when attending approved council duties. For journeys by train, also accommodation, please book through the Council's approved travel provider, Click Travel, as the Council can reclaim the VAT. For flights, please liaise with Members' Services.

You can only claim travel costs **from outside** Cambridge if your absence from Cambridge was unavoidable or if a meeting is called at short notice, and you have to make a journey which you would not otherwise have made. The exception to this rule is attending Planning or Licensing Committee meetings, as these take place more frequently than other meetings.

If a claim is made and an officer is unclear whether or not the travel expense should be reimbursed, the officer shall consult the political group leaders prior to approving payment. If any claim remains unresolved, it is the responsibility of the Chief Executive to determine.

You cannot claim subsistence allowance for duties carried out within three miles of your home or if meals are provided.

You cannot claim subsistence allowance for duties carried out within three miles of your home or if meals are provided.

**Subsistence:** can only be claimed where meals/accommodation are not provided.

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| <b>Breakfast Allowance:</b> | £6.72 |
|-----------------------------|-------|

(More than 4 hours away from normal place of residence or where the authority permits, a lesser period, before 11 am.)

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| <b>Lunch Allowance:</b> | £9.28 |
|-------------------------|-------|

(More than 4 hours away from normal place of residence or where the authority permits, a lesser period, including the lunchtime between 12 noon and 2 pm.)

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| <b>Tea Allowance:</b> | £3.67 |
|-----------------------|-------|

(More than 4 hours away from normal place of residence or where the authority permits, a lesser period, including the period 3 pm to 6 pm.)

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Evening Meal Allowance:</b> | £11.49 |
|--------------------------------|--------|

(More than 4 hours away from normal place of residence or where the authority permits, a lesser period, ending after 7 pm.)

**Overnight Subsistence.**

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Absence overnight from the usual place of residence: | £79.82 |
|--|--------|

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| In London, or attending an approved conferences: | £91.04 |
|--|--------|

### 3. Members' Childcare and Carer's Allowance

A Childcare/Dependent Carer Allowance is payable for actual expenditure incurred whilst undertaking approved council duties. No cap shall be put on the overall budget for this Allowance, or on that which is paid to an individual member of the Council in any given year. This allowance is set by the Council having had regard to the recommendations annually of the Independent Remuneration Panel. The Panel considered allowances for childcare and dependent relatives and concluded that it was appropriate for actual expenditure to be reimbursed. The allowance should be subject to receipts being submitted. The member must provide care for a person who normally lives with the member as part of his/her family and who is:

- a. A child below school age during school hours;
- b. A child under 14 outside of school hours; and
- c. An elderly, sick, or disabled dependent requiring constant care.

A Carer will be any responsible mature person who does not normally live with the member as part of the member's family.

Payments made under this scheme will be open to public inspection and the carer must be paid at least the Living Wage.

Travel, subsistence and care allowances is payable for any invitations (except social events) from any official bodies. The Scheme is set so that payment of care, travel and subsistence allowances would be such that unexpected circumstances or new responsibilities or activities were covered by default, i.e. that rather than having a prescribed list of activities that ARE covered, have a list of proscribed activities (that are not covered).

#### **4. Expenses**

In addition to the basic and stationery allowance, the Council can also provide:

- a. Hire of accommodation for Group Away Days/workshop (maximum of 3/annum); and
- b. Personalised business cards.

#### **5. Changes**

Entitlements will be payable on a part-year basis in any given year where:

- a. The scheme is amended;
- b. A Councillor either is elected to or leaves the Council; or
- c. A Councillor takes on, or gives up, a position for which a special responsibility allowance is payable.

#### **6. Co-optee's Allowance**

A co-optee's allowance of the Living Wage for hours served, plus out of pocket expenses, is available.

#### **7. Adjustment**

There is an adjustment of allowance levels by reference to the National Living Wage index.

#### **8. Advice**

Members may receive initial advice on the impact of receiving allowances on their tax and benefit position by contacting Mike Scott, Payroll Manager, in the Council's Finance Team. However, independent financial advice is also recommended.

#### **9. Timeliness**

Please make all claims within two months. Claims which are received by the fifth day of each month will be paid in that month.

#### **10. Foregoing**

Any member of the Council may, by notice in writing given to the Democratic Services Manager elect to forego any part of his/her entitlement to any Allowance under this scheme.

17 February 2022

## **Council Meeting: Oral Questions**

**24 February 2022**

### **1) Councillor Bick to the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources**

How does the Executive Councillor feel about the extensive overseas marketing of the new private housing on council-owned sites at Ironworks (the former Mill Road Depot) and Timberworks (Cromwell Road) being constructed by the Council's joint venture with Hill?

### **2) Councillor S Baigent to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Well being**

Can the Executive Councillor give an update on the city's food justice work and, in particular, comment on whether there are any plans for Cambridge to become a Right to Food City?

### **3) Councillor Sargeant to the Executive Councillor for Communities**

We hear a lot about the allocation of community grants, but sometimes less about what happens to those grants. Could the executive councillor please update us on the outcomes of some of the activities which have received funding in previous years?

### **4) Councillor Flaubert to the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport**

Could the Executive Councillor please confirm that she is committed to working with the Cambridge South station development process to ensure that Hobson's Park and its vital biodiversity and amenity areas are protected as much as possible during and after any works that may take place.

### **5) Councillor Gawthrope Wood to the Executive Councillor for Housing**

Can the Exec Cllr provide information on the additional winter support for rough sleepers in Cambridge?

**6) Councillor Hauk to the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport**

Following the recent collapse of a roof wall in Whittle Avenue, Trumpington, during storm Eunice, what is the Council doing and what will it do to ensure that the new developments are and will be built up to the required and expected standards, especially with respect to the health and safety of their residents

**7) Councillor Bird to the Executive Councillor for Communities**

Following on from the council's recent stand on racism against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, what will be taking place to enhance our community development work with those communities and to promote and celebrate GRT culture

**8) Councillor Gehring to the Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and City Centre**

Does the Executive Councillor think that there is a fundamental problem with Green Bin collection in Cambridge?

**9) Councillor Sweeney to the Leader of the Council**

Given the Government's recent announcement that it is going to remove most of the remaining covid protections, what is the leader's message to Cambridge residents?

**10) Councillor Pounds to the Executive Councillor for Housing**

Can the Exec Cllr for Housing give an update on the government's 'First Homes' policy

**11) Councillor Payne to the Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and City Centre**

Can the Executive Councillor offer an update on the development towards a city-wide litter strategy?



**12) Councillor Lee to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Well Being**

Whilst noting that national regulation is needed for pavement and highway usage, will the Executive Councillor agree to work cross party within the city, with our County colleagues and with local volunteer groups to look at how best to promote the safe use of (legal) e-bikes and e-scooters and deter antisocial and illegal use across our city council open spaces and shared paths, moving at speed and often without lights, putting pedestrians and vulnerable road users at risk?

**13) Councillor Copley to the Leader of the Council**

Despite covid restrictions being rolled back, a number of residents are still vulnerable and / or shielding due to their health conditions. How can the council best support these residents as they continue living with uncertainty and personal covid risk?

**14) Councillor Scutt to the Executive Councillor for Communities**

Can the executive councillor provide an update on the plans for lending, loaning and reuse projects in the city?

**15) Councillor H. Davies to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Well being**

Council has been really encouraged to see the start of the herbicide-free trial this year. Can the Executive Councillor update members on progress so far, and timescales for action?

**16) Councillor Dalzell to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Well Being**

Our Council owns a number of enclosed green spaces that do provide important refuge for nature. When these sites are licensed for use by third parties, what steps does the Council take to ensure that local wildlife is suitably protected?

**17) Councillor Porrer to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Well being**

Could the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces please provide an update on the proposed electricity supply to the centre of Parker's Piece,

which is going to be essential to stop future fossil fuel use at events contracted with the council to take place on this land.

**18) Councillor Healy to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Well being**

Can the Executive Councillor update members on the partnership working with other local councils to support the national scheme to resettle Afghan refugees?

**19) Councillor D Baigent to the Leader of the Council**

What is the leader's response to the recent levelling up white paper?

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## Agenda item 9b

Councillor Thornburrow proposed the following amendments to motion (deleted text ~~struckthrough~~ additional text underlined).

~~Council calls on the Executive Councillor for Planning & Transport to consider with her scrutiny committee options for the on-site achievement of more of the local plan policy standard for sports facilities as soon as these can be developed by officers, and then to reconsider her decision to approve the currently proposed Reg 19 version of the Area Action Plan in the light of this.~~

Council calls on the Executive Councillor for Planning & Transport to consider with the scrutiny committee and in discussion with the Council's sport and leisure team, options for the on-site achievement of more of the local plan policy standard for sports facilities. This should be part of a wide and comprehensive review being undertaken on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and within the context of her decision to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee to approve the currently proposed Reg 19 version of the Area Action Plan.

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## Agenda Item 9d

Councillor Gilderdale proposed and Councillor Collis seconded the following amendment to motion (additional text underlined).

Council notes:

- That misogyny, sexism, and gender-based violence are all rooted in inequality and an abuse of power. This form of violence is mainly committed towards women and girls, and includes stalking, harassment, and sexual abuse.
- That trans women and women of colour are also more likely than cisgender people to experience violent victimisation.
- That data on gender-based violence is often inaccurate, with reporting and conviction rates remaining shockingly low.
- That, amid national debates last year around women's safety, police forces recorded a record number of rape offences in England and Wales, while the ONS reported that sexual offences had increased by 8%. Drink spiking must therefore be understood within the broader context of gender-based violence which, as a council we are actively combatting while striving to support all victims of abuse and harassment.
- People's safety across the city, particularly at night, is of utmost importance to the council and local organisations.
- Harassment and drink spiking can affect anybody, but statistics show that the majority of victims, as well as those most likely to feel unsafe due to the risk of drink spiking are women and those of marginalised genders.

- It is understood that many of these crimes go unreported yet are widely witnessed across the Night Time Economy (NTE). Statistics from a StoppTops survey show that 97% of drink spiking cases are not reported.
- That the parliamentary Home Affairs Committee opened a new enquiry into drink spiking on 12th January 2022.
- That the worrying trend of injection spiking has received a raised profile in the media recently. Both drink spiking and injection spiking are highly dangerous, premeditated, and criminal practices which have caused increased concern for users of the night-time economy.
- That there were 43 reports of drink spiking made to Cambridgeshire Constabulary between January and October 2021.
- That Anglia Ruskin University Students' Union has raised direct concerns about drink spiking in an open appeal to clubs in Cambridge to ensure there are safety measures in place to prevent drink spiking such as providing drink covers and serving drinks directly into the hands of the customer.
- That Cambridge University Students' Union has issued guidance to university event organisers to improve safety at night-time events.
- Many campaigns note that simply increased security presence in venues is not an effective deterrent for gender-based violence, and therefore we must think critically about effective ways of challenging these issues at their root.
- That Cambridgeshire Constabulary have recently received a large grant to improve safety in the night-time economy and have issued drink testing kits to clubs in Cambridge and Peterborough.
- That Cambridge BID has been awarded Purple Flag status since 2019, an award for safe management of the night-time economy (NTE).

Safety is a priority area for any Purple Flag accreditation, alongside maintaining the vibrancy and diversity of nightlife in the city.

- That, in 2021, the Council ran a Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) training event to increase skills, knowledge and confidence of those working in licenced premises. 15 venues attended as well as Porters' Lodges, transport, police, city council, hotel, and security staff.

Council believes:

- NTE venues across Cambridge have a duty to their patrons to create a safe environment. Spiking is entirely the fault of the perpetrator and never the victim. Therefore, it is important that all venues have appropriate procedures in place to support any victims of assault or spiking.
- Everyone has the right to feel and be safe at night, not only in venues, but in open spaces and public transport across the city. Residents' safety requires a joined-up approach working together for a safer Cambridge.
- While preventative measures are required to limit the impact of drink spiking in the short-term, education is required to ensure a long-term cultural change.

Council will:

- Work with key partner agencies across the city, taking proactive action towards the prevention of harassment and spiking, to make Cambridge a safe place for all at night.
- Explore the possibility of signing up to accreditation schemes, such as Best Bar None or Good Night Out, to set a zero-tolerance policy towards harassment and spiking for all council-run events, setting a standard which can be encouraged in venues across the city.

- Continue to work with our partners in the night time economy, including but not limited to pubs, venues and club owners, Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities and Students' Unions, hospitals, Cambridge BID, the police and CAMBAC, to emphasise the need for urgent action to tackle drink spiking. In particular, close partnership working with Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities, Students' Unions and Sixth Forms who have direct contact with students who play a large role in the NTE.
- Continue running WAVE training throughout the year to ensure venue staff across the city are able to identify vulnerability and safely make appropriate interventions.
- Produce an easily accessible information resource to share with the universities and NTE venues and publicise this through the council's channels, to educate and inform people. This could include debunking common misconceptions about harassment, how to respond to harassment, speaking out if you have concerns about someone's behaviour, what to do if you believe you have been a victim of spiking, including who to go to, how to take care of yourself or a friend, and where to report the incident to.
- Encourage all venues serving alcohol to provide free drink stop tops and covers to prevent spiking, as well as education for club bouncers and security staff about how to recognize and advise someone who may have been spiked or injected and commit to offering funding for this in the next budget cycle, following an assessment of the demand and options available.
- Work with Cambridge BID to develop an application to retain our Purple Flag status for the following three years from 2022.
- Bring a report to the next Environment and Communities Committee to outline the activities of other partners across the city to prevent drink



spiking, and to make recommendations to the Committee which identify further steps the Council can take to facilitate and support this work.

## References

Anglia Ruskin Students' Union Safer Nights Out appeal:

<https://www.angliastudent.com/news/article/union/Safer-Nights-Out/>

Cambridge University Students' Union guidance for party organisers:

<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/news/article/jobs/BEST-Night-Out-Support-for-Event-Organisers/>

*Best Bar None UK:* <https://bbnuk.com/>

*Good Night Out Campaign:* <https://www.goodnightoutcampaign.org/info/>

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## **Written Questions**

### **Question 1 - Cllr Copley**

Many households burn wood or other fuels, either on open fires or in wood burners, to help heat their homes. For some this may be a more affordable option than gas or electric heating, which given the impending further spike in energy prices may apply to an increasing number of households.

Many people have made the choice to install wood burners or fireplaces in the belief that these heating methods are environmentally friendly (in accordance with advice at the time). However, domestic wood burning is now known to be a significant cause of UK particle pollution: government statistics show that domestic wood burning was responsible for 38% of the pollution particles under 2.5 microns in size (PM2.5) in 2019, the latest year for which data is available (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/emissions-of-air-pollutants>). There is also a lot of confusion reported regarding recent changes to the rules (e.g. see <https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/new-rules-open-fires-log-22132993>).

In the latest Air Quality Annual Status Report (<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/10093/air-quality-annual-status-report.pdf>) it was stated that the City Council was considering extending the Smoke Control Area to cover the whole district, but at the time the report was published was waiting to see what national measures will be included in the Environment Act. That Act has now been published (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/enacted/data.pdf>).

Could the Council provide an update on the Smoke Control Area policy now that the Environment Act has been published? Would the Council commit to a review of domestic solid fuel heating in Cambridge, to include: how many households in Cambridge burn solid fuels; what contribution this makes to air pollution in Cambridge; whether the current Smoke-Free Zones (<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/smoke-pollution>) were effective at improving air quality and whether evidence supports extending them to cover a greater

area, and what actions would be the most effective to achieve the goals of improving air pollution (without contributing to fuel poverty)?

**Answer:**

The New Environment act impacts the control of smoke and solid fuel burning in two key ways:

Firstly, there are new rules around the sale of solid fuels:

Retailers of solid fuel will also be required to tell customers that it is illegal to buy unapproved fuel for use in a Smoke Control Area (SCA), unless they're using an exempted appliance which lists that fuel as acceptable for use. It also removes the limits on fines that can be issued for the sale and delivery of unapproved solid fuels to a building in an SCA.

This follows legislation last year Prohibiting the sale of 'wet wood' and standardising labelling and sale of manufactured solid fuels under 'The Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations 2020 and comes into force in England from May 2021'

Secondly, The Act includes the setting of new legally binding long-term targets to improve air quality and reduce fine particulate (PM2.5) emissions by October 2022. It also makes it quicker and easier for local authorities to enforce penalties for smoke emissions from homes in a Smoke Control Area (SCA).

Specifically looking at The Clean Air Act, some positive changes relating to enforcement will be brought about through The Environment Bill. The amendments to the Clean Air Act 1993 made through the Bill will help local authorities reduce pollution from domestic burning. Specifically, the amendments will:

- Replace the criminal offence of emitting smoke from a chimney in a smoke control area with a civil penalty regime, which allows for the removal of the statutory defences that currently hinder enforcement. This will enable quicker, simpler and more proportionate enforcement

at a local level against the emissions of smoke within a smoke control area (SCA).

- Give local authorities powers to address pollution from solid fuel burning on inland waterway vessels (for example, canal boats) in smoke control areas.
- Strengthen the offences in relation to the sale and acquisition of certain solid fuels for use in smoke control areas, by removing the limit on the fine for delivering unapproved solid fuels to a building in a smoke control area, and requiring retailers of solid fuels to notify customers that it is illegal to buy unapproved fuel for use in a smoke control area unless burning in an approved appliance.
- Amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 allow local authorities to take more substantive action against those who repeatedly emit smoke and endanger human health by extending the system of statutory nuisance to private dwellings in SCAs. Smoke from chimneys that causes a nuisance could result in a local authority issuing an abatement notice. Breaching such a notice is a criminal offence and could result in the payment of fine, as is already the case outside SCAs.

So how is the Council reacting to this:

1. We are currently undertaking a DEFRA funded study of Particulate matter pollution levels at key locations away from busy roads in Cambridge with a particular focus on houseboat moorings and residential areas not impacted significantly by traffic, in order to inform a consultation on expanding Smoke Control potentially to the whole of Cambridge.

This study has been delayed by the pandemic but is now underway. We will have some preliminary data by the summer and plan to go out to consultation (following member approval) later in the year.

The study will not require a review of all homes in Cambridge to assess the numbers using solid fuel heating but is instead measuring the impacts of any solid fuel burning on air quality in residential areas.

2. In order to take advantage of the new protections and simplified regulatory regime brought forward by the Environment Act it is necessary to present evidence for the need to enforce and consult widely on the designation of a new Smoke Control Area. This work is in hand and will be undertaken by the Environmental Quality & Growth Team during 2022 including the necessary gathering and presentation of evidence, public & statutory consultation, and proposals for a new SCA.
3. Preparations are already underway to ensure that there is sufficient staffing resource within the Residential Team in Environmental Health to take on any necessary enforcement of smoke control offences and the administration of fixed penalties.
4. A SCA still allows residents to burn solid fuels, it just requires that they are smokeless unless they are being burnt in an approved stove, which is something that we already encourage all residents to do even if they do not live in a SCA.
5. Working with PECT we provide support to residents in fuel poverty through our Warm Homes scheme which can be accessed here [Warm Homes | Projects | PECT](#)

## **Question 2 - Cllr Bennett**

Recently published research in the Lancet [1] shows that 68% of Cambridge residents lack access to green space as recommended by the World Health Organisation (which recommends every home is within at least 300m of a green space of at least half a hectare in size), with a measurable impact on life expectancy. The data used does not reflect actual access to green space, just its presence or absence. Local knowledge and data suggests that this deprivation is not evenly distributed across the city, with some wards scoring much worse than others on indices of environmental deprivation [2] (see also recent article in the Cambridge Independent which describes how children in the most deprived parts of Cambridge suffer an acute lack of access to green space [3]. Green spaces are being lost to development, while much of what

remains is privately owned with no effective access for residents. A recent report by CPRE [4] recommended “Maintaining, improving and also broadening the use of” the Local Green Space designation as a critical part of levelling up.

Has the planning authority taken account of the need to improve access to green space in the most deprived wards of Cambridge in its ambitions? Will the Council explore the feasibility of purchasing brownfield sites (for example the northern half of St Matthew’s Piece) to create new high quality public green spaces, especially where they are currently lacking? What is the Council doing to raise public awareness of the Local Green Space designation (which enables local communities to protect valued green spaces), and to support communities to apply for this status?

#### References:

1. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(21\)00229-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(21)00229-1/fulltext)
2. <https://mapmaker.cdrc.ac.uk/#/index-of-multiple-deprivation>
3. <https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/the-cambridge-children-who-have-never-seen-the-river-cam-9237379/>
4. [https://www.cpre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Feb-2022\\_CPRE\\_Local-Green-Spaces-full-report-1.pdf](https://www.cpre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Feb-2022_CPRE_Local-Green-Spaces-full-report-1.pdf)

#### Answer:

The Cambridge Local Plan 2018 identifies open spaces in the City for protection and, informed by studies exploring open space and sport provision, set outs requirements for planning decisions to protect and enhance open spaces. This includes seeking delivery of new sites or enhancement of existing sites through S106 agreements. You can find more information on this in our new publication on Investment in community facilities and infrastructure secured by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service. This reports on the money spent and secured on new infrastructure on the city in the last financial year and can be found on our Shared Planning website.

We sought views on the overall approaches to the protection and enhancement of open space in the First Proposals for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. To inform the plan we will be updating our evidence studies, exploring needs and how they can best be planned for. This includes looking at issues at a ward level.

In the First Proposals we referred to the Local Green Space designation. We will consider how we use this designation alongside other policy protections that are available to the plan. Experiences from South Cambs highlights the challenges of getting these designated in a local plan, due to the high bar set by planning inspectors. They are required to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold a particular local significance. Reflecting this, the neighbourhood plan process would be particularly suited to demonstrating this local value and identifying new spaces if communities wish to identify further spaces.

Competing land need, uses and values are prohibitive for a strategy of direct provision where the Council buys and then sets out land as green space. The Council does however successfully deliver new green space through developments and continues to do so. This is demonstrated on the Southern Fringe.

As part of the campaign to prevent the development on St Matthews Piece we explored the potential of purchasing through a Compulsory Purchase Order part of the northern half of St Matthews Piece. After considerable debate, including Hannah Copley and Naomi Bennett, it was decided not to go ahead due the high cost that the City Council would have incurred. However, the cost of taking such action will depend on the site concerned and likely challenge from landowner. Therefore, whilst not ruling out the potential of purchasing brownfield sites, we would suggest it is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The City Council is a partner in the Future Parks Accelerator Project. As a partner we are raising awareness of green spaces and their importance. The project will also provide valuable background information, including national and county level benchmarking, which will help the Council develop



standards for the quantity of greenspace that should be provided now and in future, the quality of this greenspace and its accessibility to users.

### **Question 3 - Cllr Copley**

A recent planning application (21/04190/FUL) followed the provisional sale of a plot of land on Rawlyn Road to a potential developer. This land was advertised in public notices as “public open space”, and was a key contributor to the character and feel of the neighbourhood (Whitehill Road and Rawlyn Road area). Despite myself (on behalf of Cambridge Green Party) objecting (in November 2020) the provisional sale went ahead.

Since the planning application was submitted, over 100 local residents have written in submitting comments, the vast majority being detailed and well reasoned objections to the proposal, with the vast majority citing loss of green open space as a key reason for their objection. For a small-scale development this represents a huge message from local residents that this open space is valued.

Questions are as follows:

1. Were local residents consulted on the provisional sale prior to it happening, above and beyond the small notice in the printed local newspapers? If so, what consultation did this involve and who was contacted and in what manner?
2. Who in the council were consulted on and signed off on the sale?
3. How many other parcels of land (if any) owned by the City Council that are designated as “public open space” have been disposed of or have current “provisional sales” arranged for them in the last five years within the City of Cambridge? If there are any, where are they located?

### **Answer:**

This question relates to the sale of land at Rawlyn Road which was approved by the Executive Councillor for Housing at the Housing Scrutiny Committee

on 24 September 2020. The sale is conditional upon planning consent being granted for the prospective purchaser's proposed scheme. The planning application was recently refused and it is not known if an appeal will be submitted. The conditional sale has a long stop date in July 2022 and so if planning consent is not obtained by then, any proposed disposal would need to be renegotiated.

With regard to specific questions asked:-

1. Local residents were not consulted prior to the provisional sale being agreed. A notice of proposed sale was published as required. The planning application was subject to usual public and neighbour consultation and this subsequently happened during that process. This enabled consultation on an actual proposed scheme. The planning application was recently refused
2. The sale was approved by the Executive Councillor for Housing at Housing Scrutiny Committee on 24 September 2020.
3. There are no other past or proposed disposals of land designated as public open space that Officers are aware of.

**Question 4 - Councillor Bennett:**

The delayed GTANA (Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment) was most recently reported as due for publication in early January, although councillors have not at time of question submission been informed about it's publication.

Question as follows:

1. Has the GTANA yet been published? If not, when is it expected and what is the reason for delay?
2. If the GTANA indicates need for permanent and / or transit sites, what is the expected timescale for delivery following publication?
3. Have evictions of the Traveller community occurred in the City of Cambridge by City Council since July last year? If so on how many occasions?
4. Is there an update regarding discussions that were referred to during the Full Council meeting of July 2021 between the City Council and the

Biomedical Campus / Addenbrooke's hospital regarding land being made available as a site for the GRT community?

**Answer:**

1. A number of challenges have arisen with the Assessment leading to the delay in publication. All the councils concerned with the project are working with the consultants to try to resolve these issues. We will update councillors once we have a clear and achievable date for publication.
2. It is not possible at the moment to give a commitment around expected timescale of delivery. This will depend on a whole range of factors. A working group is in place, involving officers from both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Council which is already mapping and exploring some of the issues ahead of final publication of the Needs Assessment.
3. We have evicted one Group (mix of same people) on seven occasions as follows:

July 2021 – Arbury Town Park

Aug 2021 – King George V Playing Field

Sept 2021 - Arbury Town Park

Sept 2021 – Crowland Way (Housing Land)

Oct 2021 - Arbury Court Play Area

Oct 2021 – Arbury Town Park

Nov 2021 - Fison Road (Housing Land)

The same family name was given on five of the seven occasions. A representative of that group was asked if they would be willing to engage with the Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment being carried out but they declined.

4. The discussions referred to are informal discussions that councillors have had with Cambridge Biomedical Campus around the need for an Equality Adapted Carpark for travellers needing to visit the hospital for treatments or births. Councillors have encouraged – and will continue to encourage – CBC to consider this important accessibility issue in their ongoing plans for the site, when they build out as per the emerging local plan.

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