

Public Question Time

Full Council

26 September 2013

A series of questions has been received from Mr Brian Cockbill. No public questions were submitted in writing at the time of publications prior to the meeting.

Mr Brian Cockbill, 44 Stratton Road, Stratton St Margaret

- 1a Who is responsible for displaying notices on the Notice Board outside the Civic Offices in Euclid Street?
- 1b Why are vacancies on Haydon Wick Parish Council displayed and not those on Stratton St Margaret and Covingham Parish Councils?
- 1c Is there a legal requirement to display such notices?
- 2. Where are the Legal Notices for the removal of the Pedestrian Corssing at the intersection of Euclid Street and Theatre Square displayed?
- 3. Have the Traffic Signals at Whalebridge been adopted by the Council and, if not, why?
- 4. The Borough Council are hoping to divest some services that they are responsible for to Parish Councils without any monetary contribution. Since the Special Expenses council tax element is intended to compensate for the parish councils' services in non-parished areas what increase in this charge is proposed for the current and future financial years?
- 5a The terms of reference for the Scrutiny Committee Working Group investigating Digital City excluded the report compiled by the former Deputy Chief Excecutive, why was this?
- 5b Have all Council Members now had sight of this report

The Leader of the Council has responded:

Thank you for your questions

- 1a Each Service area is responsible for displaying relevant notices.
- 1b The Notices are for the Notice of Election and Declaration of Results for the contested elections in Haydon Wick. Stratton St Margaret Parish Council have not had an election called so there are no notices to display.

- 1c Only within the Parish, however, that is a minimum requirement and the Returning Officer can choose to display in alternative places within the Borough.

The Cabinet Member for Highways Strategic Transport and Leisure has responded:

Thank you for your questions.

2. Notices are published in relevant section of Advertiser and also adjacent to the site. The pedestrian crossing at the southern end of Princes Street is being refurbished as part of the Swindon Travel Choices project to encourage more people to walk and cycle to the town centre. The highway infrastructure improvements, including safer crossing points to Kingsbridge Point were completed earlier this month. Upgraded controlled crossing equipment for use by both pedestrians and cyclists is due to be installed in early October.
3. The traffic signals at the Whalebridge junction and the junction of Princes Street and Gordon Road were adopted on 1 May 2013 following the completion of their maintenance period and a 28 day fault free period at the end of this.

The Cabinet Member for Finance has responded:

Thank you for your questions.

4. The 2013-14 Special Expenses charge was set at exactly the same level for 2013-14 as it was for 2012-13, at £27.81 per Band D equivalent household. The overall level of expenditure on Special Expenses reduced from £1,162,238 to £1,001,388 recognising the changing in methodology agreed by Cabinet to calculate the charges and the known reduction in the tax base as a result of changes made between the two financial years as a result of Council Tax Support changes.

Budgeting plans for 2014-15 have not been progressed enough to be able to confirm the level of increase or reduction for next year but very little change is expected. The final figure cannot be calculated until the tax base and net Budget of the Council is known much later in the year.

The Leader of the Council has responded.

Thank you for your question

- 5a I have already answered these questions and referred you to the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee as this is a matter for this particular committee. If you feel you have further questions please contact the Chair of Scrutiny.

- 5b This is a matter for Scrutiny Committee to determine which documents they review.