

Questions by Members – Council – 13 March 2024

<u>Written Question</u>	<u>Written Answer</u>	<u>Verbal Supplementary Question</u>	<u>Verbal Supplementary Answer</u>
Q1. Councillor Liam Walker to Councillor Andy Graham, Leader of the Council:			
Can you please update Council on the Motion passed for improving mobile signal in West Oxfordshire?	Gareth Elliott, Director of Policy and Communications at Mobile UK, has been invited to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 10 April 2024 to give a presentation on the current situation regarding the mobile phone industry, coverage, capacity, and future plans to improve the overall network.	N/A	N/A
Q2. Councillor Liam Walker to Councillor Andy Graham, Leader of the Council:			
Can you please update Council as to the letter sent to the Cabinet Member for Highways and any further response received about junction safety improvements at Barnard Gate after the Motion to full Council was passed?	<p>Officers have written to Councillor Andrew Gant (OCC Cabinet Member for Transport Management) on my behalf, to make him aware of the debate Council had regarding the A40 at Barnard Gate, and the resolutions that were agreed. I have also offered to meet with the Councillor Gant to discuss the issue.</p> <p>Councillor Gant has been made aware that Council meets on 13 March 2024 and has been asked for an update before the meeting.</p>	Yes, just to see if he has had a response from Councillor Gant ahead of this meeting?	<p>Yes, I have had a response. I have also actually had a meeting with Councillor Gant on this matter, as it is an important one for us as a district. As a result of that meeting, I asked for further details so that we could hear what the intention was, so I'm going to read, you, if you'll bear with me, the response:</p> <p>“The junction is included in our list of collision problem sites, with a record of two serious, and three slight injury collisions in the 5-year period 2018-2022 (the last 5-year period for which full data is currently available); Data for 2023 is largely complete with a serious injury collision being recorded in November.</p> <p>Having discussed with officers, I can confirm that we will include consideration of this junction within our Vision Zero work and associated capital programme as</p>

			<p>appropriate. In addition, in terms of the specific requests, I can confirm that we will carry out a safety assessment of the junction to help inform any short or longer-term action that may be deemed beneficial or necessary.</p> <p>Any immediate action identified is likely to be a short-term restriction, with any wider more permanent physical changes needing to be considered against other Vision Zero infrastructure improvement demands.”</p> <p>He finishes to state that he would be happy to meet with me further, to discuss the concerns, options and priorities, and so I kind of think that this is a reasonable response at this stage, and I kind of think that we can actually go a bit further, and I intend to take up the offer, in order to do so.</p>
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Q3. Councillor Michele Mead to Councillor Andy Graham, Leader of the Council:

<p>Can you tell us please how many bookings have been received for the hire of the newly refurbished Council Chamber?</p>	<p>A small officer group led by Councillor Tim Sumner, who has Executive responsibility for the Agile Working Project, has been set up to work through the logistical and other associated issues involved with formally hiring out the newly refurbished Council Chamber, prior to the space being actively marketed.</p> <p>The Chamber has already been used successfully to host a Town and Parish Forum and Planning Appeal</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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	<p>Hearings with the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>The Council has already been approached by a number of organisations who are interested in using the facility.</p>		
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Q4. Councillor Alex Wilson to Councillor Andy Graham, Leader of the Council:

<p>The Swift Brick Motion was brought to the Council months ago, and it was put to be scrutinised, however this has not gone to Scrutiny and has not returned to this chamber.</p> <p>Please could the Executive clarify why this has not gone further and if there are any other motions that have been brought to this Council and not actioned?</p>	<p>The Swift Brick Motion was considered by the Climate and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 23 March 2023. The Committee agreed a recommendation to the Executive that officers include within the current review of the Local Plan specific policies in respect of Swift nesting sites, as per the motion.</p> <p>The Executive responded to the recommendation on 21 June 2023, with the following comment: “The Local Plan review will consider a range of policy options relating to nature recovery and biodiversity net gain including the use of measures such as swift bricks to encourage a reversal in their well-documented population decline.”</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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