

Members Questions & Responses for Council – 24 July 2024

Question	Raised By	Executive Member	Response
Question 1 – How many hirings have we received for the new Council Chamber yet?	Councillor Thomas Ashby – Conservative, Witney West.	Councillor Tim Sumner – Executive Member for Leisure and Major Projects.	We are currently working on the marketing plan to ensure we will be in the best position to maximise the use of the facility.
Question 2 – When will the plans be released for the new 3G Pitch in Witney?	Councillor Thomas Ashby – Conservative, Witney West.	Councillor Tim Sumner – Executive Member for Leisure and Major Projects.	A report regarding the new 3G pitch will be presented to the Executive on 11 September 2024.
Question 3 – What are the plans to fill the shops in Marriotts Walk?	Councillor Jane Doughty – Conservative, Witney West.	Councillor Alaric Smith – Executive Member for Finance.	The Council has appointed letting agents to market the available units who have live discussions with interested parties for all of the vacant units. The interest is from a mix of Local and National retail/ leisure operators’ and announcements will be able to be made when the legal commitments with the tenants have been secured.
Question 4 – Will a structural survey be undertaken at Marriotts Walk to ensure the long-term viability of storing electric vehicles?	Councillor Adrian Walsh – Conservative, Ducklington.	Councillor Alaric Smith – Executive Member for Finance.	No immediate concern was raised regarding this on the Council’s acquisition. Such a survey will be part of the Council’s Asset Management strategy actions.
Question 5 – Our grass verges are in a desperate state, making West Oxfordshire look untidy and dangerous in visibility splays. What plans does the Council have in place	Councillor Thomas Ashby – Conservative, Witney West.	Councillor Lidia Arciszewska – Executive Member for Environment.	The maintenance of highway grass verges is the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council who are the Highway Authority.

to coordinate, Towns/Parishes, District and County?			The council works in partnership and pro-actively with a number of town and parish councils in the district to maintain the land that they are responsible for.
Question 6 – Since taking over Marriotts Walk, what has the return on investment been to the District Council?	Councillor Ed James – Conservative, Alvescot and Filkins.	Councillor Alaric Smith – Executive Member for Finance.	The return on investment was positive when compared with the forecasted level for the 1 st Year post acquisition.
Question 7 – Does the Leader support the new MPs view that Witney North’s housing plans are moved to the land at Ducklington Farm?	Councillor Adrian Walsh – Conservative, Ducklington.	Councillor Andy Graham – Leader of the Council.	I will be seeing the new MP for Witney next week and I will ask for his view.
Question 8 – How much money has the Council spent on planning appeals?	Councillor Nick Leverton – Conservative, Carterton South.	Councillor Andy Graham – Leader of the Council.	£91,575 in 2022/23 £273,653 in 2023/24
Question 9 – Can the Leader confirm that WODC will continue with bi-weekly bin collections?	Councillor Alex Wilson – Conservative, Kingham, Rollright and Enstone.	Councillor Andy Graham – Leader of the Council / Councillor Lidia Arciszewska – Executive Member for Environment.	There are no plans to not continue with the bi-weekly bin collections.