

## Members Questions & Responses for WODC Full Council – 19 July 2023

Question	Raised By	Executive Member / Lead Officer	Response
<p>For some time, it has been the belief that both the play area and recreation ground on Raleigh Crescent would be transferred to Witney Town Council. It is disappointing that only the play area has been transferred. There is a significant amount of Section 106 Money from the Windrush Place development which is designated for an “Offsite MUGA” and the current location of the basketball court and green shelters would be ideal.</p> <p>Enabling Witney Town Council to undertake a design and build procurement would mean that our young people in West Witney would have a new fantastic outdoor space built reasonably quickly. Now that West Oxfordshire District Council have not transferred the land, what are the plans to procure a MUGA for Raleigh Crescent?</p>	<p>Cllr Thomas Ashby - Conservative, Witney West.</p>	<p>Cllr Joy Aitman - Executive Member, Stronger Healthy Communities / Andrew Turner</p>	<p>Officers meet with Officers from Witney Town Council every month to monitor progress transferring playgrounds and sports facilities to the Town Council as well as using s.106 funding to deliver new facilities like the proposed MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) in West Witney.</p> <p>Because of the nature of the s.106 agreement for the proposed MUGA, Officers from the District and Town Council are working together to deliver this facility. The intention is for West Oxfordshire District Council to transfer the land of the proposed MUGA to Witney Town Council in the future.</p>

<p>Can the Executive portfolio holder for Tourism (Visitor Economy) please update the Council as to what progress is being made to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill's birth in November 2024?</p>	<p>Cllr Julian Cooper - Liberal Democrats, Woodstock and Bladon</p>	<p>Cllr Duncan Enright - Deputy Leader of the Council &amp; Executive Member, Economic Development / Chris Jackson.</p>	<p>As of yet, we are not aware of any plans to commemorate the anniversary locally or nationally.</p> <p>Blenheim Palace have indicated that they intend to run related activity - though as yet no information is available.</p> <p>The Tourism and/or Communications Teams will promote any relevant events.</p>
<p>The Town Centre office has been closed since May with no indication displayed on the window as to when the office is reopening. Please can you tell me the reopening date?, and in the meantime, what provision is being made for residents who do not have access to the internet and need to speak to an officer in customer service face to face?</p>	<p>Cllr Jane Doughty - Conservative, Witney West</p>	<p>Cllr Alaric Smith - Executive Member, Leisure and Major Projects / Lisa Cresswell.</p>	<p>Customer Services have relocated to Woodgreen whilst the work is being carried out at Welch Way, and the team are available to speak to customers face to face, do scanning of evidence/documents, collect recycling containers and provide similar services.</p> <p>Customer Services are providing the same services as at Welch Way, so there has not been any impact on the customer other than needing to visit a different location. There is a poster in the window at Welch Way advising customers that Customer Services are currently based at Woodgreen, or alternatively to telephone Customer Services to obtain help over the telephone.</p> <p>A reopening date will be made available to residents and councillors around the time of the Full Council meeting.</p>

<p>The District Council owned Kilkenny Country Park is still closed to the public. Many people used to travel to this park and it had a fantastic reputation as a great destination to visit. This has very quickly changed and is disappointing that after several site visits by officers and members, the park is still out of use. Can you give a date for when the repairs will be carried out?</p>	<p>Cllr Martin McBride - Conservative, Carterton North East</p>	<p>Cllr Joy Aitman - Executive Member, Stronger Healthy Communities / Bill Oddy.</p>	<p>Kilkenny Country Park in the Parish of Brize Norton has never been closed. An estimated 100,000 people visit the play park in the Country Park every year. A press release was published on 5 July 2023 updating Members and the Community that the Executive has committed over £80,000 of Section 106 funding for improving the play park with new equipment and the refurbishment of some of the existing apparatus.</p>
<p>Carterton has suffered with many streets not having their bins collected. This has gone on for four consecutive weeks. Why has this problem gone on for so many weeks, and what action are you taking to improve the service?</p>	<p>Cllr Michele Mead - Conservative, Carterton South</p>	<p>Cllr Lidia Arciszewska - Executive Member, Environment / Scott Williams.</p>	<p>The overall performance of the waste collection service remains very high with over 99% of household bins being collected when they are scheduled. The current collection vehicles are in the final stages of their usable life, which is leading to increased numbers of vehicle breakdowns. When this happens collection crews in the surrounding area are sent in to assist, but it's not always possible to make all of the collections on the scheduled day due to vehicle capacity and HGV driving hour restrictions - This leads to them being delayed. There has been increased oversight by the management team who recognise the issues and there were fewer service failures last week. The increased monitoring will continue.</p>

<p>With regards to the requirement for Voter ID at last May's elections, please could the Leader of the Council provide any data obtained on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number and age profile of voters who were turned away from polling booths because they had not brought the appropriate ID with them?;</li> <li>• The proportion of those turned away who subsequently returned to vote with their ID?;</li> <li>• The number of polling stations where WODC employed somebody to address residents before they reached the polling area asking whether they had the necessary ID?;</li> <li>• How many people were turned away by these greeters before being formally registered as being without the required ID?</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Hugo Ashton - Liberal Democrats, Burford.</p>	<p>Cllr Andy Graham - Leader of the Council / Sharon Ellison.</p>	<p>54 electors applied for a ballot paper and were initially refused, 35 of these electors later returned with accepted ID and were issued with a ballot paper. The Returning Officer is not required to record age profiles of voters, either in the polling station or by way of 'greeters'.</p> <p>The proportion of those initially turned away, who subsequently returned to vote with their ID, was 64.8%.</p> <p>The Returning Officer employed 26 additional staff members to 'greet' voters. These included all multi stations and those with a greater proportion of electors.</p> <p>The Returning Officer is not required to record the number of voters turned away by the polling station 'greeter' and therefore no information is available in this regard.</p>
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