

Members Question & Responses for Council – 19 March 2025

Question	Raised By	Executive Member	Response
<p>Question 1:</p> <p>On 12th December 2024, WODC announced that the planning process at Salt Cross Garden Village has been temporarily paused.</p> <p>Whilst the net zero ambitions at Salt Cross are commendable, the lack of the 5 year housing land supply (5yhls) is leading to an explosion of unsustainable, car led, windfall development, without the necessary accompanying infrastructure, across the villages of West Oxfordshire.</p> <p>This is notable in my ward North Leigh where there have been 7 housing developments approved in as many years and a further 115</p>	<p>Councillor Sarah Veasey</p>	<p>Councillor Hugo Ashton, Executive Member for Planning</p>	<p>Salt Cross Garden Village (previously referred to as the Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village) is allocated in the adopted Local Plan as a strategic location for growth (SLG) and is anticipated to provide around 2,200 new homes and 40 ha of new business space along with supporting community facilities.</p> <p>The detailed planning framework for Salt Cross is set out in the Salt Cross Area Action Plan (AAP). The AAP was submitted for independent examination in 2021 and in March 2023, the Inspector concluded that it was sound subject to a number of Main Modifications.</p> <p>However, following a subsequent successful legal challenge regarding the Inspector’s conclusions on the AAP net zero carbon development policy, that part of the Inspector’s report was formally quashed.</p> <p>The examination was re-opened in April 2024 and remains ongoing. In his most recent correspondence to the Inspector, the Head of Planning confirmed that a modified version of Policy 2 and updated evidence would be submitted by 18 March 2025.</p>

<p>houses are under consideration now - with at least 4 more sites in the pipeline. This is already an increase of more than 50% in the housing stock and we have no improvement in infrastructure to show for it.</p> <p>Can we please have an update on the situation on the Salt Cross Garden Village development as this was a substantial part of West Oxfordshire Local Plan (WOLP) Page 2</p> <p>2031 and is instrumental in WODC being able to demonstrate a 5yhl?</p>			<p>This is expected to lead to hearing sessions in late spring/early summer and formal adoption in late summer/early autumn.</p> <p>In relation to the issue of 5-year housing land supply, it should be noted that because of the relatively long lead-in times associated with development of the scale of Salt Cross, whilst the delays with the AAP are frustrating, the actual impact of this on the Council's 5-year supply position is relatively minimal.</p>
--	--	--	---

<p>Question 2:</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council are responsible for highways but WODC are responsible for keeping it clean so Please can you tell us when was last time the A40 dual carriage way was cleared of litter?</p>	<p>Councillor Michelle Mead</p>	<p>Councillor Lidia Arciszewska Executive Member for Environment</p>	<p>Ubico have been undertaking a litter-pick of the A40 for the last two weeks. They have been working in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council (The Highway Authority) who are conducting grounds maintenance work on the verges.</p> <p>A total of 1,620 kgs (Approx 1.62 tonnes) of rubbish was collected during the work and information has been published on the council website.</p> <p>I would like to put on record my thanks to the Street Cleansing Team at Ubico.</p>
<p>Question 3:</p> <p>Can the Executive member confirm when the footpath and road on the A4095 into Bladon, both reported in early February, are going to be swept and clear of debris left behind from flooding?</p>	<p>Councillor Liam Walker</p>	<p>Councillor Lidia Arciszewska, Executive Member for Environment</p>	<p>Ubico have already swept the A4095 between Long Hanborough and Bladon and are scheduled to sweep the pavement and the road (A4095) again between Lower Road, Long Hanborough and Lamb Lane, Bladon during the week beginning 10th March 2025.</p> <p>An inspection of the location will be conducted week beginning 17th March.</p>
<p>Question 4:</p> <p>Can the Executive member update us with the figures for the number of reported incidents of fly-tipping in West Oxfordshire for the</p>	<p>Councillor Liam Walker</p>	<p>Councillor Lidia Arciszewska, Executive Member for Environment</p>	<p>2022-23 – 1150</p> <p>2023-24 – 1135</p> <p>2024-25 (to Dec) - 794</p> <p>There have been a range of improvements to how West Oxfordshire is tackling fly tipping. Our Officer is provided</p>

<p>year 2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25 periods</p>			<p>with surveillance equipment to target specific hotspot areas and the deployment of these cameras in these locations see a significant reduction in the overall incident rates there. We have increased the fines for fly tipping, duty of care and littering offences and information regarding householder duty of care obligations will be provided to all the parishes and town councils to distribute via newsletters to residents. The Officer has met with parish councils to speak with residents about enviro-crime and provide information to their meetings and he is looking to do more on this. Information will be provided to all charity shops across the district to help them deal with those who fly tip 'donations' in doorways. Working in collaboration with climate change nature recovery at WODC we plan to tackle the damage left behind in certain areas affected by repeated fly tipping and littering.</p>
<p>Question 5: The former Witney Four Pillars hotel has been used to accommodate illegal migrants since November 2022. Is the Executive member aware if this is still the case that it's being used for this purpose and if so, how long is this likely to be in use for?</p>	<p>Councillor Liam Walker</p>	<p>Councillor Geoff Saul, Executive Member for Housing</p>	<p>There are no illegal migrants in the hotel, the individuals / families living there are awaiting the outcome of their asylum applications.</p> <p>The hotel was originally commissioned by the Home Office in November 2022 to house asylum seekers as a result of backlogs in the processing of applications and they have extended their contract with the hotel owner until December 2025. The Council has not been involved or influence in these arrangements but is part of a multi-agency</p>

			group, which includes local churches and voluntary groups, supporting asylum seekers living there.
--	--	--	--