

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 15 QUESTIONS – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Notice of the following questions has been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15:

**1. Question to the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Kingsbury**

The new contract for environmental enforcement with District Enforcement has raised significant concerns among local businesses. I am sure we all agree on the need for enforcement against fly-tipping and genuine environmental damage. However, in Welwyn, several businesses have been threatened with fines for minor, technical issues related to waste disposal—without warning or time to correct the situation—despite their efforts to act responsibly and in an environmentally friendly manner. Given that District Enforcement is paid based on the fines they issue, with the council also receiving a portion of the revenue, there appears to be an incentive to pursue minor infractions rather than focus on serious environmental offenders. Does the portfolio holder agree that enforcement should prioritise genuine environmental risks rather than penalising minor non-compliance, which risks harming the local economy and discouraging responsible businesses?"

**2. Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Thusu**

Following the recent release of an independent report, it is my understanding that this Borough council has had to yet again had to bear extensive costs on dealing with complaints involving a Labour councillor at Hatfield Town Council.

Given that thousands were spent in 2020 on dealing with bullying allegations by the former Labour leader of Hatfield town council, can we get confirmation how much public money has already been spent on a recent review into Hatfield Town Council and the behaviour of rogue councillors and an explanation why WHBC is having to foot the bill for misbehaving labour town councillors?

**3. Question to the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Bardett**

Wilshere Road is one of a number of roads in Welwyn West that have service roads to access the rear of the properties and their garages, these service roads are in a poor state of repair. Maintenance of these roads is the responsibility of this council, and in 2023 works appeared to start with the marking of potholes to be repaired. Recent attempts through member casework to get an update on progress of the works elicited the response "... the maintenance of the road is within the remit of responsibility of Herts County Council" and the case was closed. When it was pointed out that this was incorrect the case was reopened the subsequent response was "that there is a quote in place do works to service roads across the borough", ... At the moment this isn't part of any planned works."

Can the portfolio holder confirm when the quoted works to the service roads will be added to the planned works with a scheduled start and finish month and year.

Further can they advise where Wilshere Road lies on the priority list for the quoted works so that the residents can be advised accordingly.

**4. Question to the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Walsh**

For too long, our streets and greenways have been stained due to the actions of some who have used these public spaces as their own private dumping ground. A disgusting act which, despite the best efforts of our local volunteer community who go picking this up, continued to harm the proud image we should have of our towns and environs.

With this in mind, it has been very reassuring to see and hear of the actions of the litter enforcement team appointed by this council at no cost to this council in identifying culprits and issuing penalties.

Can I ask for an update on the performance of this new initiative