

# COUNCIL MEETING – 14 OCTOBER 2021

## MEMBERS' QUESTIONS RULE OF PROCEDURE 15

### AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 (A)

**Questions from Councillor Peter O'Brien to Councillor Garry Purdy, Leader of the Council:**

*“At the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 27 July 2021, Members (and residents) were informed that from 26 July, the collection of excess recycling, and the separate collection of food waste, would be suspended for a period of 3 months, that is to 26 October.*

*Subsequent to that meeting, information from the Council (for example the media release of 25 August) has stated that excess recycling will now be suspended for a period of 3 months from 31 August (thus to 30 November, a total of 4 rather than 3 months), and food waste now for an unspecified period.*

*Could you please*

- i) confirm which, if any, Members were consulted prior to these changes being made to the previously announced suspensions*
- ii) confirm that the fortnightly collection of excess recycling will be resumed on or before 30 November, and clarify the date from which the weekly collection of food waste will be resumed*
- iii) explain to Members and residents why changes to the collection of excess recycling and of food waste can be made without approval of Members of the Council, in contrast to changes to the collection of green garden waste.*

*Thank you.”*

### **RESPONSE:**

**The suspension of excess recycling is for a period of three months, not four months. The suspension of garden waste started 2<sup>nd</sup> August for a four week period, which enabled Serco to utilise those drivers to clear the back log of recycling waste – as noted in Recommendation 3 of the report referred to.**

**The suspension of excess recycling waste began when this work was complete – from the 30<sup>th</sup> August. This was advertised via the Council's website, its social media streams and all Members were informed via an email from the Communications and Marketing Manager. Leaflets were also issued to all residents.**

**In order to sustain effective service delivery, Officers are responsible for making operational decisions not elected Members. Any permanent changes to contractual service delivery arrangements are the responsibility of Members –**

however these are temporary not permanent changes to service, hence they were taken at an operational level with no prior Member involvement.

Notwithstanding, it was considered appropriate to seek Members approval for the temporary suspension of the garen waste collection service since this was the first year of the introduction of a chargeable waste service, and was aligned with a recommendation to set a reduced charge for 2022/23. These issues had been discussed extensively at the Member Briefing sessions provided in the lead up to the Extraordinary meeting of Council on the 26 July. These briefings took place on both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, and all Members were invited to attend.

It is currently proposed that all suspended services will resume week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> November.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 (B)**

**Question from Councillor Clare Gamble to Councillor Garry Purdy, Leader of the Council:**

*“It is nearly three months since the majority group of this council voted to give more money to Serco, in return for a reduced, poor quality and erratic waste collection service for residents. Despite no longer having to collect food waste or side recycling, and suspending garden waste collection for 4 weeks, Serco have failed to provide the promised, minimal, service.*

*How many missed collections have there been since 27.07.21? How many late collections have there been since 27.07.21? i.e. collections not made on the day they were supposed to happen.”*

### **RESPONSE:**

**Since 27<sup>th</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> October there have been 2,995 missed bin collections, out of a total of 437,947 collections. This number includes the collections that were not made on the collection day but they were collected at a later date. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide a separation of missed/late collections as requested, without a significant amount of work which we currently do not have time to undertake.**

**During the 4 week garden waste suspension there were no suspended rounds and the majority of collection were done on time. During the suspension of the garden waste service we had 390 missed bins out of 137,560 collections.**

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 (C)**

**Question from Councillor Clare Gamble to Councillor Chris Furness, Chairman of the Community & Environment Committee:**

*“In the recent debate on PSPOs, it was stated that there was no evidence that there was a problem with BBQs being used on council land. This summer Derbyshire Fire Service put up signage saying fires were not allowed in Bakewell Park. To what degree would you consider that it has been a successful campaign, that altered the public’s behaviour?”*

**RESPONSE:**

**I understand the Fire Service have, on request, erected posters in a number of locations, including Bakewell Recreational Ground.**

**It is difficult to say if this has had any impact, as we haven’t received any reports of fires/BBQs in areas which would be covered by the PSPO since the beginning of the current Order in 2018, including this summer since the posters have been in place.**

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 (D)**

### **Question from Councillor Clare Gamble to Councillor Jason Atkin, Chairman of the Planning Committee:**

*“At the Planning meeting held in September, you had been instructed to make an apology to myself in regard to the formal complaint I raised against you for bullying, harassment and lack of leadership. This was in response to your persistent rudeness, refusal to allow me to ask questions, and deciding questions I asked would not be answered in Planning Committee meetings.*

*Your behaviour was deemed to be “aggressive and hostile”, “which failed to demonstrate fairness and respect”. It was not described as mere abruptness, as stated in your so called apology. You were also deemed to be in need of training in “chairing skills” and on the councillor code of conduct, “focusing on behaviours to be upheld in public office and exhibiting respect”.*

*The so called apology, in which you failed to even to address me, was not one. “ I need to apologise to Cllr Gamble for my abruptness at the last meeting” merely describes action to be taken.*

*Therefore, my question to yourself, is would you like to take this opportunity to make an actual apology?”*

**Councillor Atkin will provide a verbal response.**

### **RESPONSE:**

**Thank you for your question Councillor Gamble and for a further opportunity to address the concerns that you have raised.**

**As members will know, Planning Committee meetings can be challenging meetings to chair. Nevertheless, it is vital that all members feel their contributions are accepted, respected and valued. On this occasion, I apologise that my approach fell short of the expectations I have of myself and that we should hold of each other.**

**I also welcome the opportunity for further training, as well as feedback generally from members and officers on the committee following each meeting on what should improve as well as what has gone well.**

**It is regrettable that you felt the need to complain formally to the Monitoring Officer and my intention will be to ensure that you do not have cause to make any such complaints in the future.**

**I hope that we can put the matter behind us and focus on ensuring that our contributions to the Planning Committee will be positive and respectful from here on.**

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 (E)**

**Question from Councillor Matthew Buckler to Councillor Garry Purdy, Leader of the Council:**

*“1. I note in the Climate Change report on the agenda the point that from now on there should be formal climate change risk assessments on reports to this Council. As we decided, as part of our climate emergency declaration in June 2019, to ensure consideration of climate change in all of our decisions, please can Cllr Purdy elaborate how this has been done to date, as in every report that has come to this Council, there is a statement that the impact on climate change has been considered?”*

*2. Playgrounds*

*As access to parks for both our older residents and young people has been demonstrated as so important for health and well-being during the past year, can Cllr Purdy elaborate how much money has been spent on DDDC owned children’s playgrounds and adult outdoor recreational infrastructure since 2010?*

*3. How much space is allocated to allotments across the District and how many enquiries have we had for taking on an allotment since May 2019?”*

**RESPONSE:**

- 1. Reports to Council and to Committees have long contained a section informing those reading them that the prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property factors have been considered when the report was prepared. Officers drafting those reports have been expected to highlight any significant issues relating to those factors within the reports, which have then been subject to scrutiny by the Council’s Corporate Leadership Team, Members and the public. However, the Climate Change report that is to be considered at this meeting has now proposed a standardised tool for considering climate change issues and ensuring that those considerations are transparent to all those reading the reports. The report explains how it is expected the tool will be used and its effectiveness will be assessed following the suggested trial period.**
- 2. The Council’s revenue budgets do not allow disaggregation to specific elements such as playgrounds - the information requested is not therefore available in the format requested. Funding for the maintenance, repair and replacement has, over the years, been provided from both internal and external sources, such as grant funding for the development and improvement of the sites. There are also minor remedial works which take place from Estate Maintenance budgets and will not be captured to this level of detail. Our Community Development Manager will be more than happy to discuss this in greater detail, if necessary.**
- 3. The District Council currently owns and manages 2 allotments sites, one at Hurds Hollow in Matlock and one at Haddon Roar in Bakewell. The Hurds Hollow site has 12 plots as does the Haddon Road site. Since May**

**2019 the District Council has received 7 enquiries for the Hurds Hollow site and 9 for the Haddon Road site.**