



Council – 2 July 2020

Councillors' Questions

Part A – Supplementaries

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| 1 | <p>Councillors Peter Black, Jeff Jones & Wendy Fitzgerald</p> <p>How many recorded incidents of fly-tipping have been recorded by the council since the beginning of March and what are the comparable figures for the same period in 2019.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>I can confirm that the recorded incidents of fly-tipping are as follows: March 2019 – 409 March 2020 – 420 April 2019 – 423 April 2020 – 483 May 2019 – 492 May 2020 – Figures still being compiled</p> |
| 2 | <p>Councillors Steve Gallagher & Lyndon Jones</p> <p>Now that Parkway Residential Home appears to be operating could the Council please advise on how many residential patients are in residence. Also have they been tested for Covid-19, as we do not want to get in the situation that nursing homes have previously found themselves in that they have residents who are negative for Covid-19 but then are infected by other residents (who have not been tested) being placed there.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Community Health Services</p> <p>There are currently 7 residents in Parkway all of whom were tested negative for Covid-19 before admission.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Councillors Will Thomas, Myles Langstone & Lyndon Jones</p> <p>Although Welsh Government have advised not to go to beauty spots and stay within 5 miles of your home thousands of people have obviously not paid any attention to this and the number of people at Langland and Caswell since the council reopened the car parks is incredible.</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member please look at reintroducing the beach litter patrols asap.</p> <p>As soon as the council opened the car park it sent a message that the beach was open for visitors. It is extremely dangerous to not have lifeguard cover on beaches as busy as Langland and Caswell, and this needs to be put in place asap to keep the public safe. Do we have a date when lifeguards will be in situ.</p> |

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| | <p>Response of the Cabinet Members for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management and Investment, Regeneration & Tourism</p> <p>Our decision to reopen our car parks was taken, as always in line with, and following Welsh Government guidelines. The Councillors will be fully aware that the weekend prior to opening the car parks, we had to contend with many people visiting the beaches and causing congestion on our highways network. The 5 mile travel restriction, does mean that these beach car parks are now open, but for the residents of Swansea only to also enjoy. As the Councillors are also aware, we are already carrying out daily litter picks on Llangland, Caswell and the Promenade areas. In regards to the lifeguard services, these are provided by the RNLI, and we respect their decision not to provide lifeguards until they can ensure the safety of their volunteer staff, and the Public who attend the beaches.</p> <p>When we announced the reopening of our car parks, we also announced that there would be no toilet provision, and no lifeguards, we also explained why.</p> <p>The Councillors need to be mindful that throughout this pandemic, we are following guidelines and announcements from Welsh Government based on the best scientific evidence available. We have to respond to that advice in the best way we can. We have limited resources available as a result of following social distancing guidelines to protect our staff and the Public. We have prioritised our resources where we see the greatest need. Throughout this pandemic, I have nothing but praise and admiration for our Officers and staff as they endeavour to meet the challenges they are faced with daily.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Councillors Peter Black, Mary Jones & Susan Jones</p> <p>Has the council been notified of its share of the £3.75 million funding for mental health in maintained schools, which includes new support for children under the age of 11, announced by the Welsh Government, and what plans are being made to utilise that funding.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning & Skills</p> <p>The Council has been informed of the second tranche of funding to support the emotional health and wellbeing after its initial spending plan for £95k, to increase counselling services, was accepted by Welsh Government on 4 June. A new spending plan for training at £32k, intervention at £45K and below year 6 at £35K will be drawn together by the emotional health and wellbeing steering group (including schools representatives) by 17 June for approval by Heads of Service in Child and Family Service as well as Achievement and Partnership Service. The plan can be shared, if required, once ready.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Councillors Lynda James, Susan Jones & Jeff Jones</p> <p>Will the Leader/Cabinet Member inform council on the current occupancy of Parkway, Ty Cila and other respite homes.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Community Health Services</p> <p>In order to continue managing the risk of covid transmission, respite provision isnt currently being provided but homes are providing emergency placements when needed.</p> |

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| | <p>The current occupancy is as follows: Ty Cila – 4 residents Alexandra Rd – 2 residents MaesGlas – 8 residents</p> |
| 6 | <p>Councillors Mike Day, Cheryl Philpott & Jeff Jones</p> <p>The Council had previously advertised Prior Information Notices (PINs) on the Sell2Wales website various properties/sites for development and/or disposal. Can the Leader give Council an update on the current position with regard to those Prior Information Notices (PINs).</p> <p>Response of the Leader</p> <p>Sell2Wales was used as a form of early market testing for some potential development sites to help shape decisions on whether further work should be done do bring these sites to the open market for disposal. A PIN notice was put together for Pilot Direct Development Sites & Bayside Sites published 10th May. A report was submitted on the 9th January on the bay Sites which recommended further due diligence on a number of sites and confirmed specific action on the marketing of Langland Bay Tennis Courts. In that regard, agents are to be instructed shortly. A report was submitted to Cabinet on the 23rd January concerning the Direct Development Sites which confirmed the best way forward, this included specific actions around Home Farm where a cross party working group was set up. Due to recent events, that group has not met for some time. No decisions will be taken on the future of Home Farm until the group has reconvened and its findings have been reported to Cabinet.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Councillors Lyndon Jones, Will Thomas & Myles Langstone</p> <p>We have had a number of requests to ask if season tickets can be made available at beach car parks, like at Caswell Bay.</p> <p>We appreciate that this is something the Council do not offer at the moment, but as the facility is in place to administer it for City Centre car parks and according to our Council website, Langland car park and Langland car park for Langland Brasserie staff, we hope this is something that the Council would consider offering at all beach carparks, as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>Season tickets have been purchased by businesses in Mumbles, to support staff parking whilst in work. Season tickets have been purchased at Langland, Bracelet Bay, Knab Rock, The Dairy and The Quarry car parks.</p> <p>A small number of season tickets have been purchased by local residents, however, the emphasis is on supporting local businesses and the tourism industry in Mumbles and the wider foreshore areas, which are popular visitor destinations</p> |
| 8 | <p>Councillors Mike Day, Jeff Jones & Lynda James</p> <p>Can the relevant Cabinet member summarise what use the Council has made of the Sell2Wales website in the last year. What is the current state of play for these</p> |

notices, that is, how many bids have been awarded, how many are due to be awarded, and when decisions are likely to be made on the outstanding ones. How many have been, or are likely to be, awarded to in-house providers.

Response of the Leader

Thank you for your question on the Council's use of the Sell2Wales website. As you will know the Welsh Government provides the web-based portal - Sell2Wales - for Councils to use to publish their requirements for goods, services and works. Please see below a summary table in response to your question based on activity in the past twelve months:

| Notice Type: | Nature: | Notes: |
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| Prior Information Notice (PIN) Count | 6 | Request for information from suppliers (to inform potential procurement activity) |
| Contract Notice Count | 147 | New published tenders |
| Contract Award Notice Count | 157 | Awarded tenders (higher than the number published - in the box above - as some will have been first published in the previous reporting period) |
| Corrigendum Count | 9 | Amended notices (that had been published) |
| (VEAT) Notice Count | 1 | Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency Notice (providing notice of an award) |

A detailed spreadsheet is available containing the data summarised in the above table, but as it is more than 300 lines long this can be supplied directly to interested Councillors upon request, and will be supplied to Cllrs Mike Day, Jeff Jones, Lynda James.

With regard to the use of in-house Council staff and services the Council takes the default view that our internal services will always be used when possible, thus notices that reach the stage of publication on Sell2Wales are for projects and requirements which have been assessed by the relevant Responsible Officer and budget holder as requiring external supplier support, for example due to the need to utilise external technical skills (except for PIN notices which are generally published to facilitate a review of supplier capability or solutions available in the market, but without yet committing to one particular solution or to enter into a contract) and / or where our various grant funding bodies require us to undertake an open competition, to fulfil their funding terms. A review of whether to use internal capacity would thus be undertaken prior to the Council placing a notice on Sell2Wales.

9 Councillors Jeff Jones, Chris Holley & Peter Black

Considering this is the 4th time of asking, can the Leader furnish Members with details of income from the LC car park for the years 2017- 2018 and 2018-2019 as promised in the last 3 Full Councils.

Response of the Leader

Income generated from the Oystermouth Road (LC/Waterfront) Car Park.

17/18 - £334k - £75k

18/19 - £311k – £41k

19/20 - £156k - £39k

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| | <p>The council have an agreement with the LC2 and Waterfront Museum to reimburse visitors to those attractions (in red). However, this agreement will not continue in the new car parks once they are operational.</p> |
| | <p>Part B – No Supplementaries</p> |
| <p>10</p> | <p>Councillors Chris Holley, Gareth Sullivan & Cheryl Philpott</p> <p>As there is already quite a lot of empty office space in Swansea together with the impact that Coronavirus is having on the need for people to work from home, is there the need for any additional office space to be built.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism</p> <p>The proposed office developments offer a range of additional facilities and high quality accommodation not currently available in Swansea. The impact of Covid-19 has witnessed a shift towards home working, however, there remains a need for teams to come together for collaboration and knowledge transfer purposes, and for community building and social interaction.</p> <p>Officers are in regular contact with market experts and occupiers to continually assess the changing economic context and demand levels. Feedback from market agents and prospective occupiers indicate growing demand for modern, flexible, collaboration focused office space in Swansea. This demand appears not to be heavily impacted by the Covid-19 situation, evidenced by recent market commentary and the ongoing significant interest in 71/72 The Kingsway.</p> <p>Whilst there is some vacant office space, much of this is dated, of poor quality and mainly small scale, which does not meet occupier requirements, therefore leading to low take up levels. A report completed by Cushman & Wakefield stated “there is currently no Grade A offices available in the City centre”, and “due to the lack of availability in the City centre and SA1, current activity in Swansea is more focussed on the out of town market as opposed to the City centre which is unlike the majority of UK markets where the city centre dominates”.</p> <p>This shortage of large high quality spaces is further highlighted by previous speculative enquiries received by the Council, such as one for circa 25,000 sq ft of grade A office space, however there is nothing in the city centre of this size or quality. The empty office space in Swansea is therefore often a result of the existing offices not meeting changing occupier requirements, rather than a lack of demand.</p> <p>Prior to the pandemic there was a gap in the supply of commercial floor space in the city centre. The Local Development Plan Growth Assessment (under the City Deal Growth Scenario) indicates a need for approximately 516,668 sq ft/48,000sqm of office floor space. Additionally, as we emerge from the pandemic, many office workplaces will require additional flexible office space to facilitate social distancing.</p> <p>The new developments such as 71/72 The Kingsway and the Swansea Central North office hub will deliver a wide range of meeting and collaboration facilities and flexible work space. The new offices will provide environments that promote well-being through maximising natural light, ventilation and air quality and safeguard occupiers through the use of ‘no-touch’ technology, selection of anti-viral materials and well-designed circulation routes and large floors plates to enable effective social</p> |

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| | <p>distancing. Flexibility and adaptability are core design principles of the proposed office developments, thus the buildings can respond to changing market demands and ways of working.</p> <p>Attracting people to live and work in the city centre is crucial to Swansea's economic recovery post Covid-19 and its long term sustainability as a vibrant and diverse destination. The delivery of office space that meets occupiers' requirements is foundational in attracting businesses to Swansea, and retaining existing business and talent.</p> |
| 11 | <p>Councillors Chris Holley, Mary Jones & Susan Jones</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm that trading standards are investigating shops which have used the pandemic to exploit the public by over charging and exploiting any shortages in goods.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>All complaints in respect of Price Gouging have been responded to by Trading Standards and each trader has been written to explaining the law around pricing. For each complaint received Trading Standards has reported the trader to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA). The CMA will consider the evidence in each case and make a decision if direct action needs to be taken. The CMA have also said that they will assess whether they should advise the Government to consider taking direct action to regulate prices as there is no specific offence in statute for price gouging.</p> |
| 12 | <p>Councillors Peter May & Irene Mann</p> <p>An article in the Evening Post (11th March 2020) reported on an idea to pedestrianise Uplands Square. It quotes that "Crucially, they [council officers] confirm it could be trialled on a temporary basis, at virtually no cost. This would really enable the community to 'suck it and see', using evidence of how it works in practice to decide whether the change should be permanent, or be abandoned."</p> <p>Any temporary trial would involve closing off the signalled Gwydr Square interchange with Uplands Crescent. The quote indicates that consultation would come after the interchange is closed for the trial.</p> <p>a. What has been the outcome of the legally required Traffic Regulation Order process needed to facilitate this trial closure and in particular the views of the emergency services..</p> <p>b. It was also mentioned in the article that a private company had been asked "to examine the proposition." How was the examination funded. If council funding was involved from which specific budget heading did it come from and how much was it.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>Local Ward Members have enlisted the assistance of a consultancy, on a voluntary basis, to develop outline proposals for a potential scheme to pedestrianise Gwydr Square to follow on from the success of the Uplands Market. This would enable local traders to benefit from a potentially permanent pedestrianised area. However, an initial experiment is considered the best approach to test if the proposal would be effective. This experiment would be undertaken using temporary materials so as to minimise costs.</p> |

However, it is important to stress that the proposals are at feasibility stage, at present. No council funding has been identified, and public opinion would be sought, through local member engagement with the local community, prior to any formal design being undertaken.

A major benefit of undertaking a trial is the ability to learn from suggestions and comments from the public, during the trial period, to inform whether the closure should be made permanent, or allow any final design to be amended prior to introducing quality permanent materials. There is a formal mechanism for capturing these comments and objections, as part of any trial, through an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order. The process dictates that all comments and objections received throughout the trial period must be formally reported and considered by the appropriate head of service, under delegated powers, prior to any associated permanent Traffic Regulation Order being sealed.

As a matter of course, we will consult with key consultees. Such as the emergency services, would have to indicate their support for any trial to take place, enacted by an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, and these organisations would be consulted as part of any design process.