

Council – 25 April 2019

Councillors' Questions

Part A – Supplementaries

1	<p>Cllr Will Thomas</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member please answer the following questions regarding the Common Land near Bracelet Bay, Mumbles.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When did Swansea Council acquire the common land comprising Bracelet Common. 2. Has a lease on the Big Apple car park ever been granted to AMECO, if so when. <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Business Transformation & Performance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The land was acquired 09/10/1931. 2. The site of the Big Apple Car park is privately owned and has never been in Council ownership.
2	<p>Cllrs Peter Black, Jeff Jones, Chris Holley</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member provide feedback on the new initiative of searching black bags for non-recyclable material at the kerbside.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>“Regarding the Keep it Out campaign, it is still very early days, however the initial impact is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the first month, black bags have been checked for recyclables at over 20,000 properties spread right across the authority • Initially only about 15% of properties were found to have recyclables in their black bags on the first check, and this has been reducing as the campaign has progressed. These residents are being engaged with through door knocking and letters advising of the recyclables and offering further support to recycle. • The response from residents has been fantastic and first indications are that, of those residents engaged with, 7 out of 10 properties are then recycling fully by their next black bag collection. I.e. no recyclables found at the next black bag check, and have been given Thank You letters. • The remaining who still have recyclables in their black bags are again engaged with through door knocking and letters advising of the recyclables and offering further support to recycle. The letter also

contains a formal notice detailing the requirement not to put food, cans/tins, glass containers, paper and card, and plastic bottles tubs and trays in their black bags.

- By the third visit to those who had not already started fully recycling, we are only issuing 2 or 3 final warning letters for every thousand properties originally checked.
- The tonnage of black bags collected has already reduced by over 110T per fortnight (around 12%) which would result in around 3,000T of waste being diverted from landfill or incineration per year.
- Tonnage of food, cans, glass, paper, card, and plastics collected at the kerbside increased by around 40T per fortnight. The difference could well be through waste minimisation and increased recycling through other avenues eg HWRCs, or of other material such as nappies.

It must be stressed that these are very early results, with a more in depth analysis on going.”

3 Cllrs Chris Holley, Peter Black, Jeff Jones

Can the Leader tell Council what hospitality the Cabinet has had or given over the last three years, has it been connected to the Swansea Bay City Deal, other potential investors or other Councils.

Response of the Leader of Council

Following the referendum result in 2016 Swansea has sought to strengthen its economic links with counties outside of Europe. In addition the signing of Wales’s biggest city deal in March 2017, with the UK and Welsh Government, created a further significant opportunities to promote Swansea and the Swansea Bay City Region on the international stage as a place to invest.

Swansea has reaffirmed its Sister City relationship with Nantong (pop 7.1m) in China, and a new Sister City relationship with Wuhan. The relationship with Wuhan (pop 10.7m) followed extensive discussions between Swansea Council, Government of Wuhan, the UK Consular General to Wuhan and the Chinese Government. These were widely reported in the press at the time.

The Wuhan Sister city agreement provides a basis for economic cooperation, and was signed by Cllr Robert Francis-Davies during the Prime Ministers visit to China in 2018.

China economic relationship building

As part of the relationship building and economic discussions a number of visits to Swansea have taken place by high ranking Chinese and British foreign office official. During the visits delegations have received formal civic or city welcome. Namely

Chinese New Year event at the Brangwyn on 9 Feb 2017 – attended by Chinese Embassy delegates

2nd August 2017, 10th, 23rd, 26th October 2017 and 28th November 2017 formal receptions at the Mansion House were provided. These were for delegation from Nantong, Consul General Wuhan - Nick Whittington, delegation from Jianxu Province, delegation from Wuhan and Chinese Minister for Transport.

11th -17th November 2017 – Leader and office China visit Beijing & Wuhan to discuss finalise details for Wuhan Sister City arrangements

Skyline Tourism

As a result of the City Deal signing and Tourism initiatives Skyline New Zealand have signed Heads of Terms for a £70m development on Kilvey Hill and are currently in final discussions with the council and Welsh Government on proposal. A number of meeting preceded the signing of the heads of terms.

Skyline were hosted to two events on 28th July 2017 and 7 June 2018. One at La Brasserie and the other at Mansion House.

Skyline are due to visit the UK again shortly.

MIPIM

Swansea Council attended MIPIM 2018 to promote the City Deal, the marketing of Swansea Central phase 2 and the potential for site marketing to select a Strategic Partner to work with the council to deliver the next wave of regeneration projects.

The Swansea Central Phase 2 opportunity was formally launched by the Department of Investment and Trade (DIT) in the UK promotional area.

The Capital Region had a significant presence and they invited Swansea to use their facilities and attend their events. A number of further networking events were attended which provided networking opportunities with the UK's leading property professionals, developers and investors. Informal refreshments were provided at these events.

A number of significant meetings were held and these leads are now being followed up by officers. In addition the positive response from potential partners provided the confidence to launch a PIN notice to further test the market looking for a Strategic Partner to help continue Swansea's regeneration."

On occasion a box in the Liberty stadium is used for economic development and investment and to market Swansea to potential investors or partners. The box has been used on the following occasions.

19 August 2017 Swansea City v Man United

14 October 2017 Swansea City v Huddersfield

21 October 2017 Swansea City v Leicester

30 January 2018 Swansea City v Arsenal (armed forces and veterans)

22 December 2018 Ospreys v Scarlets

16 March 2019 Swansea City v Stoke

In addition there are a number of Civic events, including granting is freedom of the City to individuals and organisations that have been attended by Cabinet and other elected members where hospitality has been provided. These include

26 May 2017 Lord Mayor's Inauguration (Ceremonial Council)
24 August 2017 Ceremonial Council – Honorary Alderman
14 September 2017 Dinner for Welsh Guards
15 September 2017 Reception for Honorary Freedom Parade for Welsh Guards
16 March 2018 Dinner for HMS Cambria
17 March 2018 Honorary Freedom Ceremony and Reception for HMS Cambria
18 May 2018 Lord Mayor's Inauguration
04 October 2018 Honorary Freedom for Sir Karl Jenkins
24 October 2018 Reception for Helping Hands
28 March 2019 Dinner for Honorary Recorder
04 March 2019 Dinner for Singapore Delegation (Health and Social care visit)

A number of events in support of the City Of Culture bid are also recorded. They are

27th October 2017 Parliamentary reception in support of the Culture Bid
15th January 2018 City of Culture Bid partner thank you event at the Mansion House

Finally the Council supports, sponsors or partners events or awards in the City. The arrangements for these events include hospitality. These include

Grand Theatre Panto opening evening and Cast thank you events
Liberty Stadium Concerts
BBC Proms in the Park
BBC Radio One Biggest Weekend
South Wales Evening Post Community Awards
Lord Mayors Awards
Swansea Bay Tourism Awards
Commonwealth Games recognition event
Swansea Life Awards
Women in Business Awards

Not all Cabinet Members or Councillors attend all events listed. Details of hospitality received by all Councillors including Members of the Cabinet is published at <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/Councillors>

4 Cllrs Wendy Fitzgerald, Lynda James, Gareth Sullivan

For many years Royal Mail made use of Pouch Boxes, often located on pavements, across Swansea. Can the Cabinet Member inform Council how many of these still exist, if they are maintained by Royal Mail and what arrangements are in place to remove them if it is clear they are no longer required.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management

	<p>They belong to the royal mail we do not hold any records on their location or numbers. As with all statutory type boxes we have powers to enforce if they are dangerous. If it is believed that a box is abandoned then we would be happy to contact Royal Mail to request removal but the decision would be theirs.</p>
5	<p>Cllrs Mike Day, Chris Holley, Mary Jones</p> <p>Could the Leader tell Council who organised the launch of Swansea celebrating its 50 years as a City, how it was funded and whether there is a dedicated budget for the welcomed celebrations during 2019. Could he further inform Council who was invited to the launch and the rationale for those being invited. How many people accepted the invitation and how many declined.</p> <p>Response of the Leader of Council</p> <p>Swansea's 50th anniversary as a city is a wonderful opportunity to promote our city and hold celebrations throughout the year. We have put together a programme of events and initiatives to mark the anniversary. The aim of the launch event was a call to arms for both the media and our partners. It helped to raise awareness of Swansea 50 and to inform groups and individuals of the Council's plans for the year and to encourage them to promote Swansea 50 and to take part in events. Our Communications Service took the lead with input from Cultural Services and other services. The recent launch was a great success and the invite list included key stakeholders who engage with the council regularly in support of its initiatives and who can play a role in ensuring Swansea 50 is a success. These include the city's two universities, Swansea City FC, community councils, DVLA, ABMU Health Board, Swansea BID and community and arts groups. A total of 87 people accepted the invitation and more attended on the day. No information is held on how many declined or did not respond to the invite. The event was funded from the corporate promotions fund. There will be a dedicated budget for the celebrations during 2019.</p>
	<p>Part B – No Supplementaries</p>
6	<p>Cllrs Wendy Fitzgerald, Mary Jones, Lynda James</p> <p>The Council, in conjunction with NPT, is required to fund the office of Coroner. Could the Cabinet Member advise Council what financial contribution Swansea makes to this post and how the level of remuneration is determined and increased.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Business Transformation & Performance</p> <p>A detailed report on salary and financial contribution was taken to Cabinet on 17 January 2019 which can be found at Minute 135.</p>

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=124&MId=7943&Ver=4&LLL=0>

More recently the Joint Negotiating Committee for Coroners reached an agreement to apply a 2.0% uplift on salaries with effect from 1st April 2019 and 1st April 2020 respectively and this is covered by Circular 63.