

# COUNCIL MEETING – 8 DECEMBER 2021

## CABINET QUESTION TIME

### 1. Question from Councillor S Dobson to the Cabinet Member for Greener and Safer Chelmsford

Our dog club met up on a beautiful sunny morning on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November at Hylands Park. In the past we have been concerned about whether we can park near each other, especially with the weather being so good.

This was certainly not an issue on Sunday at Home Farm. There were around 20 cars in the car park; two people only in the cafe and the Stables was deserted.

In previous weeks it would have been heaving.

Does the Cabinet Member have statistics for usage since the charges were introduced and how do these compare with previous figures prior to charging?

### **Cabinet Member to respond**

### 2. Question from Councillor R J Poulter to the Leader of the Council

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 empowers, but does not require, Local Authorities to undertake community governance reviews.

Such reviews consider, inter alia, changes to parish boundaries, creation of new parish councils and changes to the number of parish councillors. No such review has been undertaken in Chelmsford for many years. In the words of the Leader at the last Council meeting no-one can recall when such a review was last undertaken.

Council has authorised that a review now be undertaken. Terms of reference were agreed in December 2020. The result of the review was presented to the last Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

1. Why in view of the huge impact of Covid 19 on council finances was this review undertaken at this time and not deferred?
2. What is the total cost to the Council to date (including the cost of officer time) and what is the final anticipated cost to the Council also including the cost of officer time?

### **Leader to respond**

### 3. Question from Councillor R T Whitehead to the Leader of the Council

I am pleased that after a public consultation the Hamburger option has been selected for the Army & Navy junction.

The Leader of the City Council, who is a member of the Task Force, said in his press comments

“It’s vital that we take this chance to look at the whole of Chelmsford’s network, and improve the options for cycling, walking and buses, including Park and Ride. This will help reduce congestion and improve the local environment.”

It is my understanding that funding is being sought from the Government to enable this long-standing problem to be resolved. When I was a member of the group looking at the various options it was agreed that as part of the traffic management options a new park & ride would be provided in Widford. This would lessen the traffic coming into the city centre and that Sandon Park & Ride would be further extended for the same reason, producing a considerable improvement in air quality.

I believe that the application to Government for the whole project included funding for the Widford option, so could he confirm that the Widford option is still being pursued?

It is over two years since the flyover was demolished so could he also advise us of the timescale for the work to start, as, despite the initial reduction of traffic due to Covid, there are now long delays at the junction once more.

#### **Leader to respond**

### 4. Question from Councillor R T Whitehead to the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Chelmsford

Given the on-going reduction in the use of the City Council’s car parks due to Covid and the loss of discretionary income from them, does the City Council propose to readjust the designation of long stay car parks to accommodate shorter stay parking and to use surplus sites for new housing, including affordable housing?

Is a new car parking strategy to be published before the Council’s budget proposals are announced next year?

#### **Cabinet Member to respond**