

**Agenda item no. 5 - Questions from members of the public**

| Question Number  | Questioner               | Question   | Question to                                    |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| PQ 1   | Ms Boughton, Ross on Wye | What measures does Herefordshire Council have in place to protect electrosensitive people, such as myself, from the high frequency microwave radiation that will be emitted by the technology and equipment to be installed and utilised by '5G'? I am aware that Herefordshire Council is not insured for damages claims for public health issues of this nature, and it would therefore be not only morally correct, but financially prudent, to ensure that electrosensitive people are not exposed to this damaging technology, that is dangerous not only to electrosensitive people, but to all life forms including bees and other pollinators.   | Cabinet member health and adult wellbeing      |
| <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Herefordshire Council take specialist Health Protection advice from Public Health England.</p> <p>The Advisory Group on Non Ionising Radiation (AGNIR) is an independent scientific advisory group that reported to Public Health England (PHE) and has used many studies to carefully assess whether certain people are especially sensitive to exposures to radiofrequency fields (RF fields). The finding of this was that there is increasing evidence that RF fields below guideline levels do not cause symptoms and cannot be detected by people, even those who consider themselves sensitive to RF fields. Public Health England and AGNIR agree that this does not undermine the importance of the symptoms that are experienced.</p> |                          |  |  |
| PQ 2   | Ms Stace, Leominster     | <p>On 8th March 2019, Herefordshire Council declared a Climate emergency and identified a number of actions to address this. One consequence of the climate emergency, which is exacerbated by many other factors, is an ecological crisis, with many species undergoing catastrophic decline or faced with extinction, as outlined in the State of Nature Report 2019. This has been recognised by many of the Local Authorities who have declared climate emergencies subsequently.</p> <p>Would Herefordshire Council celebrate the first anniversary of their climate emergency by expanding the declaration to encompass the ecological crisis?</p> | Cabinet member environment, economy and skills |
| <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Yes. As part of the Councils' commitment and ongoing work to tackle the climate emergency, we also recognise the importance of addressing the ecological crisis as these are intrinsically linked.</p> <p>We will continue to work in partnership with organisations and groups across Herefordshire to develop a countywide strategy addressing both important issues.</p>   |                          |  |  |