

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
Response: Herefordshire Council take specialist Health Protection advice from Public Health England. 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.			
PQ 2	Ms Stace, Leominster	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. Would Herefordshire Council celebrate the first anniversary of their climate emergency by expanding the declaration to encompass the ecological crisis?	Cabinet member environment, economy and skills
Response: 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. We will continue to work in partnership with organisations and groups across Herefordshire to develop a countywide strategy addressing both important issues.			
Supplementary Question:			

Would the council consider allocating funding to address issues of mutual concern including nature based solutions including: natural flood management; integrated wetlands and increasing tree cover in the county; reviewing and updating the local wildlife theories to feed into the new core strategy; development of nature recovery networks and strategies as required by the terms of the Environment Bill?

Cabinet Member response:

A range of important issues had been raised in the supplementary question including natural flood management which was being actively discussed at the council in order to reduce the likelihood of flooding occurring in the future. The Environment Bill would confer a number of new responsibilities upon local authorities and a commitment had been made by central government to provide funding in support. The council will consider how best to spend this funding but the list of issues in the supplementary questions were priorities for the council to address the environment and ecological emergency concurrently which would form part of the decision-making for the strategy concerning carbon management.