

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

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Mr Pincham, Hereford	<p>On 28th July 2020, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Economy and Skills stated, in a written response to my supplementary question to the Cabinet meeting on 23 July, that the <i>"Edgar Street stadium project is pencilled in on the forward plan for decision at the end of October. This is subject to the outcome of the review of the capital programme as mentioned by Cllr Chowns"</i>.</p> <p>It is now December. What is the decision?</p> <p>It isn't all that long since 20 000 Hereford supporters travelled to Wembley for the FA Vase Final so there will doubtless be a large number of local people interested in this decision.</p>	Cabinet member Environment, Economy and Skills
<p>Response:</p> <p>The council has not yet taken a decision regarding the possible development of the Blackfriars Street site at Hereford Football Club. Hereford has been selected by government for Stronger Towns Funding, with the potential to seek up to £25m to support the redevelopment of the city. This requires the development of a Town Investment Plan identifying a future vision for the city and potential projects to deliver the vision. This is being led by the Hereford Towns Board. The Town Investment Plan will be submitted to government for consideration in January 2021. To enable the possible Football Club development to be considered through this process, the council have postponed our decision on this site.</p>			
<p>Supplementary Question:</p> <p>On the basis of the Cabinet Member's response can you confirm:</p> <p>Whether the development appraisal documents produced by ENGIE and commissioned by Herefordshire Council for Blackfriars Street (at a cost of £120 000) have therefore been submitted to the independent Towns Fund board (#StrongerHereford board) for due consideration ahead of the Board's submission to MHCLG in January 2021; If the Blackfriars Street project will remain in the council's capital programme regardless; taking into account MHCLG is not due to make a decision on round 2 Stronger Town bids before the Council is due to approve its next budget in 2021; and explain why this development is listed as "abandoned" on the Herefordshire Council website despite your statement that "no decision has yet been made"</p>			
<p>Response to Supplementary Question:</p> <p>A written response would be provided to the points raised.</p> <p><i>Written response below sent – 14 January 2021</i></p>			

Hereford Football Club made a direct application to the Hereford Town Board for consideration in the in the Town Investment Plan. Unfortunately we understand that this project has not been short listed for inclusion in the investment plan at this stage. A very high number of applications were submitted, far exceeding the level of potential funding.

As per our previous response, the council is in the process of reviewing our capital programme at present. Covid 19 has had a very significant impact on the Herefordshire economy, and we will need to make some difficult choices going forward as to how our limited funds can be best utilised to support the recovery of the economy as a whole.

The council's website identifies a forward plan of dates for all key decisions to be taken in accordance with our constitution. As we are not in a position to identify a specific date to take a decision on the next steps of the project, the date of the decision has been abandoned (not the project itself at this stage).

I will be actively reviewing the options for this site early this year.

PQ 2	Mr McKay, Leominster	Would you acknowledge: that Herefordshire is a county that recorded 'Roads used as public paths' (RUPP's) as footpaths or bridleways, due to administrative error by Ministry of Town and Country Planning issuing guidance using the term CRF/CRB inconsistent with the legislation, followed by Herefordshire Council accepting parish information of CRF/CRB, then recording as FP (some through adjacent field) or BR, rather than the statutory RUPP; and that this should be raised in a report covering the technicalities to which reference could be made, correcting the records in similar manner as proposed for Anomalies (Council Meeting 9 October), with the parish data at HARC showing these made viewable online, fulfilling the Plans key aims, and meeting the 2026 cut-off date?	Cabinet member Infrastructure and Transport
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Response:

The council is not aware of any systematic procedural errors in handling of parish council's historical PROW submissions. We are aware that some of these routes were claimed by parishes as RUPPs but recorded as footpaths or bridleways on the First Definitive Map. This is not an error as such - it was the role of the Council to process and assess the information provided by the parishes, and there were Draft and Provisional Map stages prior to the First Definitive Map in which the decisions made could be scrutinised and challenged, this was undertaken at the time. The information submitted by parish councils is available to view at the HARC council offices in Rotherwas. The submissions are scanned in and are available to view there. The resource required to compile and review would be significant and would divert limited resources from other work such as DMMO applications. If we are made aware of anomalies, we will manage the enquiry as we do with the Definitive Map Modification application process.