

Agenda item no. 4 - Questions from members of the public

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Sarah Melia, Leominster	During the 30th July CYP Scrutiny Committee the term 'Child Friendly Herefordshire' was used with examples given of parks being available to children. My child's local Herefordshire Council maintained park has been in a state of disrepair since she was born. She is now 6 years old and her park has continued to deteriorate. The play 'surface' is a cushion of weeds which have grown in the bark and the play structures have not been cleaned for over 5 years. Repeated contact with BBLP has been unsuccessful in addressing this. An example of the responses to reports of issues with it are "Balfour Beatty are not contracted to clean playground equipment unless safety related and...HC are not commissioned to do it either". How will Herefordshire Council ensure their own park provisions, where they exist, are 'child friendly' and well maintained?	Cllr Bramer
<p>Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your question and comments regarding the condition and maintenance of your local play area.</p> <p>We are aware of how important play areas are across the county for our young children. As an administration we are currently looking at how we can provide longer term investment to improve the quality of all our play areas across Herefordshire to address exactly the points that you have raised.</p> <p>In the meantime, I will ask the relevant service area to review the situation at your local play area and to see what steps can be undertaken in the immediate future and I will further ask that you be contacted directly with the outcome.</p>			
<p>Supplementary question:</p> <p>Many thanks for the response to my question 'How will Herefordshire Council ensure their own park provisions, where they exist, are 'child friendly' and well maintained?'</p> <p>Without Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timescaled targets being set, it could be many months before the issues with my local play area are addressed and many years before play areas across Herefordshire are fit for purpose to meet your ambitions to be 'child friendly'.</p> <p>What SMART targets will Cabinet agree today, relating to the response given to my question?</p>			

Supplementary response:

Thank you for the question.

I can confirm that once the inspections have been completed, we will be prioritising work to ensure we can achieve the best outcomes for our play areas across the County.