

Questions from M and K Bucknell, Hereford

- 1 The Council recently announced the giving away of a valuable public asset - namely the rights to the River Wye in the centre of Hereford. When appraising this decision
 - a What monetary valuation was reached for this stretch of the River?
 - b How did the Council reach this valuation?
 - c What additional factors did the Council factor in on the expenditure and loss of income?

- 2 When walking through Castle Green on a summer's evening, we are aware that there are two distinct groups of young people. Firstly, the groups of young people who are sitting on the green, smoking, drinking alcohol; some of whom who get noisier throughout the evening. Secondly the group of similar aged teenagers who are learning river safety and kayaking skills at the Castle Green Canoe Training Centre.
 - a What facilities, north of the river do the Council offer to the young people of the city of Hereford?
 - b What plans, if any, do the Council have for the maintenance and development of facilities for the youth and future generations of young people of Hereford, particularly north of the River?
 - c We understand that all Council buildings, including the Canoe Training Centre, are going to be sold by the Council. Why is the Council selling an excellent and unique facility with access to well trained and qualified staff who can work with our young people?
 - d The Council has a duty of care to young people, so why is the Council reluctant to invest in facilities for them? Lack of investment is resulting in bored youngsters, using drugs and alcohol, often resulting in anti-social behaviour. What are the costs to the Council in Hereford City for the removal of graffiti, dealing with anti-social behaviour, police, primary care trust and social worker involvement caused by the actions of these bored youngsters?

Questions from Ms D Maber on behalf of the North Tupsley Action Group, Hereford

- 3 As a newly formed Community Association for the Whittern Way and surrounding areas, we have been requested by our members to find out why there has been no investment in North Tupsley.

The dog bin situation is an ongoing problem which no-one at Herefordshire Council seems able to resolve, despite the best efforts of our local councillor. The dog mess situation near to Broadlands Primary School is a health issue. There is a neglected and abandoned play area, which is sited in the wrong place, but no facilities for the young people in the area nor for anybody else for that matter.

In order to provide a community focus, we are in the process of compiling a Business Plan in order to purchase the lease on the White House public house in Whittern Way. This pub has been on the market for upwards of two years but is in need of refurbishment. We have been in contact with the owners and they are very interested in letting us have it. This building would be eminently suitable as it has huge potential and has sufficient capacity to be converted into a community building, right in the very centre of the estate.

We really need Herefordshire Council to partner us in this huge endeavour. Would you be able to help us?