

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 MARCH 2011

Question from Mr P McKay, Hereford, to the Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Question 1

My previous questions have identified shortcomings in the Council's highway records; which term includes public rights of way; and now that Amey have settled in and our highways are being managed well, may I please enquire if we can progress and take into consideration the 2026 cut-off date imposed in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, when unrecorded rights of use are extinguished and it may be costly to reinstate such rights.

Is it the Council's objective to have complete and correct highway records by that date, if this date will be taken into consideration when determining priorities, and if the Right of Way Improvement Plan update will incorporate a section encouraging and promoting Parish Council participation with this objective?

Question from Ms J Stanton, Hereford, to the Leader of the Council Councillor RJ Phillips

Question 2

Deloittes have calculated the repayment of Environmental Information charges to be £6m at one council. What contingent liability is Herefordshire Council putting in their accounts and who is paying it?

Question from S Horsfield, Hereford to Councillor JG Jarvis, Cabinet Member Environment and Strategic Housing

Question 3

What energy efficiency standards will the Council require for new homes in Herefordshire?

Question from R Priestley, Hereford to Councillor JG Jarvis, Cabinet Member Environment and Strategic Housing

Question 4

Our economy in Herefordshire is based overwhelmingly on the use of fossil fuels: coal for electricity, gas for heating and oil for transport. All of these fuels contribute to climate change, and their continued use is not compatible with the sustainability of a healthy biosphere, upon which we are utterly dependent. All these fuels are also finite; their use cannot possibly be maintained at current levels indefinitely. There is much economic data to suggest that extreme price increases are probable over the coming few years: long

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before 2026 they may simply be unaffordable. Prosperity can only be sustainable in the longer term if it is based on energy efficiency, 100% renewables and a proper stewardship of the biosphere. It will take time to transform the economy: now is the time to start.

For how long do you envisage the economy of Herefordshire being able to maintain a certain rate or level of growth based on the massive and continuing use of fossil fuels?

Question 5 disallowed on the grounds that the question is the same or similar to a question raised in the last six months (19 November 2010) Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.14.7 c.

Question from Mrs E Morawiecka, Breinton, Hereford to Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Question 6

The Sustrans/Connect 2 River Wye crossing to the East of the city of Hereford, linking Tupsley and Rotherwas still has not materialised into a planning application. Planning applications have however been submitted for a link road (with no bus lanes) and a large Plough Lane car park with 644 spaces.

After well over 2 years debate over a route, how much longer does this council think it will take before they can determine a route for a footpath and cycle way to cross the River Wye on the eastern side of Hereford City, which will improve the sustainable travel options for local residents and can they guarantee they will be able to complete this route before the funding is lost?

Question 7 disallowed on the grounds that the question is the same or similar to a question raised in the last six months (4 February 2011) Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.14.7 c.

Question from S Brown, Bucknell, Herefordshire to Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Question 8

What Quality Assurance or other nationally or internationally recognised procedures and standards apply to the production of council reports and documents intended for public scrutiny such as consultation documents?

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Question from Mrs M Brown, Bucknell, Herefordshire to Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Question 9

How have the findings of the November 2008 Herefordshire Public Services Strategic Options Public Consultation influenced the Council's policy development, expenditure and financial strategy (please cite examples)?

Question 10 disallowed on the grounds that the question is the same or similar to a question raised in the last six months (4 February 2011) Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.14.7 c.

Question 11 disallowed on the grounds that the issue raised in the question is not a matter for which the Council has a responsibility – Herefordshire Council Constitution 4.1.14.7 a.

Question 12 disallowed on the grounds that the question is the same or similar to a question raised in the last six months (4 February 2011) Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.14.7.

Question from Ms V Wegg-Prosser, Breinton, Hereford to Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Question 13

The 'Vision' of the Hereford Preferred Option states in para 2.5 that 'The provision of a relief road will be key to enabling a congestion free city by enabling *an alternative trunk route ...*'

Can you point to any other local highway authority in England, Wales or Northern Ireland that has provided a developer funded 'alternative trunk route' for the Highways Agency and, if so, were any of these 'alternative trunk routes' roads that had been dropped from the National Roads Programme after failing at a Public Inquiry?

Question 14 disallowed on the grounds that it was the same or similar to a question raised in the last six months (4 March 2011 - the same question has been raised at question 13) Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.14.7 c.

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Question from Professor L Clements, Hereford to Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Question 15

I understand that contraflow cycling on St Owen's Street is ranked 2nd in cycle schemes for Hereford and has been a priority for cyclists since the days of Hereford and Worcester County Council. I further understand that several years ago Councillor Wilcox took the decision that an informal contraflow should be introduced. Could you please inform me what are Councillor Wilcox's plans for delivering this scheme?

Question from D Phelps, Hereford to Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Question 16

When will the Council be conducting the poll on its proposals for a road going around the west or east side of Hereford and what laws and regulations will apply to the poll? Please cite specific relevant legislation and regulations.

Question from Ms P Mitchell, Hereford to Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Question 17

The Hereford Preferred Option consultation document states that the Delivering a Sustainable Transport Policy Study (DaSTS) (2010) 'concluded that the level of growth planned through the Core Strategy would need both a strong package of sustainable transport measures and also new road infrastructure' (para 4.30)

Where is this conclusion arrived at in the DaSTS (please give full quote and paragraph references) and does 'new road infrastructure' specifically mean a relief road?

Question from Professor A Fisher, Hereford to Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Question 18

It is clear that at the time the Council consulted on the Hereford Preferred Option the viability study on the road proposal was 'ongoing' (para 4.26) and therefore could not have informed that consultation.

How many weeks before the Council's advisory poll on the road will the 'viability' study be available for public scrutiny and how will the public be informed of its availability?

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Question from Ms P Churchward, Breinton, Hereford to Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Question 19

The Council emphasised through out the consultation on the Hereford Preferred Option and in other communications, its view that the spatial strategy and specifically the Hereford Urban Expansion are dependent on a relief road. *(eg. At paras 4.11 and 4.31 of the Hereford Preferred Option consultation)

What impact will the potential non-deliverability of a relief road have on the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework, and in particular on the amount of housing built around Hereford?
