

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 19 JULY 2013
ORDINARY MEETING

Question from Mr P McKay, Herefordshire

Question 1

At present Council has its rights of way data viewable on one web page, with its roads data viewable on another web page overlaid with waste collection data, all viewable though when looking at road data have to keep switching from waste collection data to road data.

At Full Council meeting of March 2011 I was advised that it is Councils objective to have complete and correct highway records and when I asked Full Council meeting May 2012 if the objective of getting the Highway Records online could now be given priority, and the date this could be expected I was advised that positional accuracy checks are currently being undertaken before the information is converted for uploading to the website; I am pleased to advise that this should be completed by the autumn.

I am now advised via Freedom of Information that The Statutory Street Register, also known as the Local Street Gazetteer, is in a format that is ready to be published, but discrepancies between the Local Street Gazetteer and the highways extents have been found, with Herefordshire Council currently reviewing the two data sets to establish the full extent of the work required and have commenced corrective work.

So may I now ask when this information is now expected to be published online, and with a significant number of Definitive Map Modification Order Applications on the register if completing and correcting the highway records with them being published online could be covered by this years, and future years, annually published Authority Monitoring Reports ?

Question from Ms A Sheppard, Herefordshire

Question 2

Learners with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) aged 19-25 years have always had a right to further education, but the historical lack of relevant specialist provision in Herefordshire has prevented all but the most able of these young people from accessing further education locally. These rights have recently been strengthened by statute and the county's only OFSTED graded outstanding provision for learning disability (Barrs Court Specialist School and College) has offered to make specialist provision available to young people aged up to 25 years. Barrs Court is prepared to make this provision available either:

- *As a college of further education with funding secured via the Education Funding Agency;*

and/or

- *As a day care provider with funding secured via personalized budgets and Direct Payments.*

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Both of these examples have been successfully facilitated by special schools in other local authorities and could be implemented just as well by Barrs Court in Herefordshire.

Although some 5,000 Herefordshire citizens have signed a petition to indicate their support for this proposal, Herefordshire local authority (LA) has never been supportive.

In a press release released in November 2012, an elected member declared that the LA had commenced a review of LDD provision in October, but the terms of reference for such a review had never been shared. The performance indicators on the proposed timeline for this review have not been met either, suggesting that the LA might be struggling to shape a strategic plan that can facilitate LDD provision that will be of an equally outstanding quality as that which is already offered by Barrs Court. Barrs Court already operates a 16-19 years LDD provision at The Hub (formerly St Owens) and with a little re-structuring of the day care services on offer at The Hub, more, or all of the building, could be dedicated to delivering outstanding LDD provision at minimal cost. However, once again the LA has resisted such a proposal out of hand, despite the financial gains this would bring to Herefordshire Council.

My question today is to ask the elected members of Herefordshire Council how the local authority is planning to meet its statutory obligation to make LDD provision available locally that will be of the same outstanding quality as that which can be made so readily available by Barrs Court?

Question from Ms L Williams, Herefordshire

Question 3

Public Toilets

Do the council really believe that the withdrawal of the above services will not be detrimental to Hereford citizens and the tourist industry as a whole?
