

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 18 July 2014

Question from Mr P McKay, Leominster

Question 1

Registering Unrecorded Rights of Way

Natural England's Commissioned Report NECR035 titled 'Stepping Forward' regarding the proposed cut-off date of 2026 for registering unrecorded rights of way says paragraph 6.22 that "In accordance with their existing statutory duties, surveying authorities will themselves need to assess the potential for loss of useful or potentially useful pre-1949 rights to the cut-off provision, and take action to prevent this", so may I request your confirmation that you propose to undertake such an assessment along with resultant action plan, the date by which this could be expected to be made available for inspection, and whether or not this duty is included within your Development Plan - Core Strategy ?

Answer from Councillor H Bramer Cabinet Member Contracts & Assets

Answer to question 1

Whilst resources are limited I can confirm that all statutory duties in relation to this issue will be complied with.

The council has published a Rights of Way Improvement Plan which is the appropriate document to set out the council's approach to meeting this duty, rather than the Core Strategy.

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Question from Mr M Sandaver, Herefordshire

Question 2

Weekly Bin Collections

Why are the council failing to provide weekly bin collections if they have served us well for decades, why on earth would leaving smelly rubbish in coloured plastic bins suddenly be a good idea?

Answer from Councillor H Bramer Cabinet Member Contracts & Assets

Answer to question 2

The council, in line with its corporate plan priorities, is focussing its reducing resources on keeping children and young people safe and giving them a great start in life, enabling residents to live safe, healthy and independent lives and investing in projects to improve roads, create jobs and build more homes. To focus the council's limited resources on our priorities all services were reviewed to identify savings and wherever possible to improve performance.

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In line with two thirds of councils across the country we have taken the decision to move to alternate weekly collections because, as well as delivering financial savings of some £500,000 a year, the following benefits are expected:

- The number of collection vehicles could be reduced.
- 75,000 fewer miles would be travelled by collection vehicles every year. This is the same as three times around the earth at the equator.
- Significant carbon savings could be made.
- Black sacks are prone to vermin attack causing litter hence the move to bins would reduce this environmental problem.
- Only general rubbish contained in the bins would be collected which would reduce the amount of trade waste illegally collected from black sacks.
- Overall general rubbish tonnages would reduce.
- Recycling performance would improve.
- Waste disposal tonnage and hence costs of disposal would reduce.
- The service would be in the cheapest 10% of the country's collection services.