

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Questions to Portfolio Holders

Service Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Panel Wednesday 3 Nov 2021

Questions received from Councillor Bentley: -

Q1. When will the Cheadle Car Parks be completed to the design requested by the Car Park Working Group – to include Parent / Child bays, School Drop-off Zones and Coach / Bus parking? An indication of the total cost of the project would also be helpful.

Response from Councillor Hart and Councillor Ralphs:

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Q2. Can we have an update on the Cheadle to Cresswell Railway Track project?

Response from Councillor Ralphs on behalf of Councillor Deaville:

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question received from Councillor Hoptroff: -

Q3. Having investing £90,000 in February this year to refurbish the Leek Bus Station toilet facilities, the ladies toilet remains closed since early March following a fire. The Leek Town Mayor Cllr Lyn Swindlehurst has been approached by visitors from Stafford, Cannock and Nottingham, who whilst they love to visit Leek will not do so in the future as our facilities are below their expectations.

When will the facilities that have been heavily invested in be reopened to ensure the regeneration of our town does not suffer?

Response from Councillor Hart:

The Council completed the refurbishment works of the Smithfield WCs in August 2020 at a cost of just over £100,000. These works were specified not only to invest in the quality of the service provision but also to combat the anti-social behaviour and vandalism and high repair costs that has been an ongoing problem at these WCs for a number of years.

Despite this, the ladies toilets was subject to an extraordinary act of vandalism in March 2021 when it was intentionally set on fire. Both the Police and our insurance company were informed. The insurance claim was approved in June this year and the order was raised for the repair works at a cost of £15,347.18. The work was delayed due to the ongoing issues with materials and labour that is being felt strongly in all areas of the construction industry at the moment, but work did start in August. The work has now been completed and the WCs are now open again. The Silk Street WCs have been open and available for the public to use during this period.

Through these periods of anti-social behaviour and vandalism, the Council's Assets and Community Safety team have worked with the Police and understand it is a particular problem with youth crime, although the Police are not able to bring any prosecutions. Discussion have also covered the potential for the public realm CCTV to cover this area, but this is not available at the moment. Officers are investigating alternative options including installation of a standalone CCTV System to determine if this will be a suitable deterrent, but of course it is not possible to install CCTV inside the WCs themselves due to privacy issues.