

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Questions to Portfolio Holders**

**Service Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Panel**  
**Wednesday 16 March 2022**

**Question received from Councillor Hoptroff: -**

**Q1.** “What is the time scale for work on the Trestle Market alterations and when is this due to start?”

**Response from Councillor Ralphs, The Leader:**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question received from Councillor Malyon: -**

**Q2.** “Could you tell me why or if it is true that Scooter Fest cannot use the Trestle Market when the event happens on 22/5/22?”

**Response from Councillor Ralphs, The Leader:**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question received from Councillor Page:-**

**Q3.** “What process does SMDC follow when it receives a request from a community organisation to use Council facilities and buildings? Please could the response be provided in writing so that the Panel have this minuted?”

**Response from Councillor Ralphs, The Leader:**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**CONT.**

**Question received from Councillor Bentley:-**

**Q4.** "When are these areas in Leek and Cheadle going to be cleaned up, as visitors and residents of the Moorlands don't want to see this when they shop in our towns."



### **Response from Councillor Hart, Portfolio Holder for Property & Tourism: -**

Most of the photos appear to relate to weed growth in the block paved areas around the Market Street car park, Leek . Generally, the service arrangements with AES are required to apply a herbicide treatment to all the pay and display car parks twice a year across the Staffordshire Moorlands. This tends to be undertaken in the drier months of May and then again in August to provide best coverage throughout the main growing season. A number of the photos show evidence of the last treatment (as the vegetation is browned and lying flat). Warmer winters do provide a habitat for continued weed growth but at a much less vigorous rate than experienced in the summer. More than two applications of herbicide are not usually recommended for environmental reasons. The area at the side of the market hall and entrance to the butter market off Derby street has been added to our weed killing schedule for 2022 by the markets team.

Some of the street furniture within the car parks, such as bollards and planters cause issues of access for the mechanical sweepers. The AES team have already started to target these areas in advance of a “Spring Clean” and will seek to remove the accumulations identified in the photos. Throughout the winter the frequency of cleansing is reduced as AES teams are diverted onto gritting duties when the conditions dictate this action must be prioritised.

AES will be targeting the identified car parks with jet washers over the coming weeks to clean up the signage and the areas targeted as part of the spring clean before they treat the areas with herbicide.

We can advise that Leek Town Council employ a lengths man but we are not aware of the town council’s work programme. In addition Cheadle Town Council do submit an invoice for £400 annually as part of the lengthsman scheme to the council (via AES) and they state on their invoice that this is for works around the Town Centre. The types of issues identified in the photos could be tackled via the lengthsman function.

