

## Public Questions and Petitions

Council – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Petitions Received from Members of the Public

No petitions were received at this meeting.

### Questions Received from Members of the Public

Name	Question	Cabinet Member
Martin McKervey	<p>Would those present at this meeting please join me in expressing the thanks and gratitude of the business community in Sheffield for everything that Cllr Dore has done to help and support business in our city?</p> <p><b><i>These questions were answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></b></p> <p><b><u><a href="http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&amp;MId=7676&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&amp;MId=7676&amp;Ver=4</a></u></b></p>	Robert Johnson
Graham Turnbull	<p>1. I brought a petition to Council in December 2018 asking for Safe School Streets to be trialled in Sheffield and they were. Thank you. Will 2021 be the year that we finally roll out schemes and how many can we expect?</p> <p><b><i>These questions were answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></b></p> <p><b><u><a href="http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&amp;MId=7676&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&amp;MId=7676&amp;Ver=4</a></u></b></p>	Robert Johnson (Transport and Development)

<p>Russell Johnson</p>	<p><b>1. Improving Local Democracy</b>  Will Cllr Johnson commit to implementing a Modern Committee system for SCC before the outcome of the vote in May. Does he agree with me that this would enhance accountability and reduce the ‘tribal’ character of the Council in recent years, thus helping to rehabilitate Sheffield Labour in the eyes of the public?</p> <p><b>2. An Honest, Open and Compunctious Council?</b>  Will the new Leader bravely seize the opportunity created by the regime change to initiate a meaningful process, without fear or favour, to uncover the whole truth about the SCC-Amey Street Tree Scandal?</p> <p>The jointly agreed Street Tree Strategy for future management of urban trees has been widely welcomed, and the proposed ‘Archive’ may be a useful repository for information. Unfortunately, neither of these help in the important task of revealing the facts underlying the Debacle.</p> <p><i>These questions were answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p> <p><a href="http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&amp;MId=7676&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&amp;MId=7676&amp;Ver=4</a></p> <p><b>3. Rebuilding Sheffield’s Reputation?</b>  Will the Council, under refreshed leadership, take the bold step of placing the Injunction Costs monies, in a new tree planting fund to be focused on Wards with a high level of deprivation? Such a move would go some way to redefining the Council’s position on peaceful protest against injustice, in keeping with fine Labour traditions.</p> <p><i>Answer:</i>  We are currently exploring if we can so that, as part of the Street Tree Working Strategy.</p>	<p>Robert Johnson</p>
<p>Sophie Thornton</p>	<p>1. Why are council housing repairs waiting times so long in Sheffield when compared to the waiting times of other local authorities across Yorkshire?</p> <p><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p>	<p>Paul Wood</p>

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Isabel O’Leary	<p>1. Were there any unavoidable financial losses to SCC if Amey did not carry out the tree "felling programme" (as referred to in other legal communications to court) pursuant to Service Standard 6.38 or any other part of the Streets Ahead contract? If so, please specify the relevant clause.</p> <p><i>Answer:</i>  <i>If the conditions exist where the Council is in breach of contract because it inhibits the ability of the Service Provider from fulfilling its contractual obligations of providing the service and the performance standards specified- and this leads to the service provider incurring additional costs. Then, there is the potential for the Service Provider to submit a claim to the Council for the additional costs. We’re not in a position to comment on how the Service Provider might have pursued a claim of this nature – this would be for the Service Provider to interpret the Contract and present their case for breach.</i></p>	Mark Jones
Justin Buxton	<p>1. Why did the leader of the council specifically state when asked by the presiding Judge, that she was "happy" with the council's attempt to imprison residents pursuant to a civil injunction previously granted, when all the council needed to do was implement an excusing clause to the Streets Ahead contract at no cost to the City?</p> <p><b><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></b></p> <p><a href="http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&amp;MId=7676&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&amp;MId=7676&amp;Ver=4</a></p> <p>2. What was the total net cost of all the legal action, evidence gathering and any other associated costs related in any way to all actions related in any way to the civil injunction Sheffield City Council obtained from Justice Males at Leeds Crown Court, including all subsequent committal proceedings, this would include any other associated costs related to each case, as mentioned above.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">  Cost</p>	Mark Jones

	<p><b>Original Injunction Summer 2017</b></p> <p><b>Alison Teal, Calvin Payne &amp; Siobhan O'Malley Committal</b></p> <p><b>Alastair Wright Committal</b></p> <p><b>Simon Crump, Fran Grace, Benoit Compin, Paul Brooke Committal</b></p> <p><b>Injunction renewal 2018</b></p> <p><b>Total:</b></p>	<p>£141,000.84</p> <p>£41,519.50</p> <p>£14,800.22</p> <p>£20,680.94</p> <p>£77,862.94</p> <p>£405,151.38</p>	
<p>Kurtis Crossland</p>	<p>In relation to the proposed crossing on Station Road in Halfway:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When will the feasibility study take place?</li> <li>2. Will the results of the study be made public? If so, when?</li> <li>3. Will the incoming Cabinet Member support the campaign for the crossing?</li> </ol> <p><b><i>These questions were answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></b></p> <p><b><u><a href="http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&amp;MId=7676&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&amp;MId=7676&amp;Ver=4</a></u></b></p>	<p>Robert Johnson (Transport and Development)</p>	

Ruth Hubbard	<p>1. In November's full council meeting, the Leader responded to a member of the public presenting a petition about free school meals and asking for greater collaboration by delivering an extraordinary attack on that member of the public. She was egged on by at least one other member of the ruling group. Whilst this was not the first time the Leader was rude or, in my view, aggressive in responding to members of the public (including me), the attempt to belittle and humiliate this member of the public was particularly nasty and bullying. To be clear, and to ensure that councillors are aware of the impact of such behaviour (rather than adopt a Priti Patel stance) I should say that many members of the public are nervous before asking questions because the Leader was known for responding in a hostile way. As a result, the ante room at the Town Hall before full council, where public questioners are asked to gather, was frequently something of a support group for members of the public, sometimes attending the Town Hall for the first time or from far flung parts of the city. In November's full council, the Leader was called out by two other public questioners for her behaviour. Can I ask what action others, and the Monitoring Officer, took following the November full council meeting in response to this bullying incident?</p> <p>2. In recent months the former Leader ruled out a public inquiry into the street trees scandal in Sheffield. Given that the former Leader was likely, herself, to be a main subject of the inquiry, how is it possible that the decision on this could be made by her given the clear conflict of interest involved. How has this been dealt with? (I note that the Monitoring Officer who might normally step in to deal with this clear conflict of interest is, herself, likely also to be a key subject for an inquiry.)</p> <p>3. One of the key reasons members of the public ask full questions at full council is in order to ensure there is a public record of answers given. Frequently people are told they will be responded to in writing. Also frequently, members of the public return to say they have not received an answer in writing. I have often been told I will receive an answer in writing but I don't think I have ever received such a letter. Will the</p>	Robert Johnson

	<p>council consider a follow up mechanism to ensure that where written replies are committed to that these are completed, and – in the absence of other reasons why information should remain confidential - will the council ensure that these answers are made public in council minutes given that the reason for asking is precisely to ensure they are made on public record?</p> <p><b><i>These questions were answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></b></p> <p><b><u><a href="http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&amp;MId=7676&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&amp;MId=7676&amp;Ver=4</a></u></b></p>	
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