

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1	Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt to ask Cllr Ben Crystall, the Leader of the Council
<p>The new Executive has expanded with the addition of the Executive Member for Resident Engagement. Given engaging with residents is a function of all Councillors' roles, can the Leader please explain what the purpose of this role is, and by what metrics the Member's work will be judged?</p>	
Question 2	Cllr Geoffrey Williamson to ask Cllr Ben Crystall, the Leader of the Council
<p>There is an inconsistency between the pledge to halt our Old River Lane scheme made by parties leading up to the recent election and comments made in public following the election by the same parties who now form the new administration. Can the Leader please provide clarity on the plans this Council has for the development to proceed?</p>	
Question 3	Cllr Sue Nicholls to ask Cllr Vicky Glover-Ward, the Executive Member for Planning and Growth
<p>According to DEFRA, nutrient pollution is an urgent problem for the country's freshwater habitats and rivers. Increased levels of nutrients (especially nitrogen and phosphorus) can speed up the growth of certain plants impacting wildlife by the process of eutrophication.</p> <p>Natural England has previously advised 32 Local Planning Authorities that where protected sites are in an unfavourable condition due to excess nutrients, development should only go</p>	

ahead if it will not cause additional pollution to sites. In March 2022, Natural England advised a further 42 LPAs that their areas are covered by this advice.

This advice from Natural England means that new residential development must achieve 'nutrient neutrality' - meaning that the nutrient load created through additional wastewater (including surface water) from the development is mitigated.

Can I ask whether East Herts Officers have been contacted by Natural England over concerns about nutrient neutrality in any of the district's nature reserves, waterways or bodies of water?

[Nutrient Neutrality FAQs | Local Government Association](#)

Question 4

Cllr Ian Devonshire to ask Cllr Tim Hoskin, the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability

At the recent Much Hadham Parish Council Annual General Meeting, a concerned resident raised the issue of EV chargers for the village hall. I recall that there was a previous call to parish councils and a Teams meeting was arranged to request their buy-in on this matter. Additionally, I understand that the previous Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability expressed enthusiasm for East Herts' collaboration with suppliers of EV chargers to ensure wide coverage of appropriate charging infrastructure, including Fast Rapid and Ultra Rapid chargers throughout East Herts.

Therefore, I would like to enquire about the current progress of the EV charging infrastructure in East Herts District Council. Can the Executive Member provide a comprehensive progress report on the situation? Specifically, I am interested in knowing the status of the Much Hadham Parish Council's request for EV chargers at the

village hall and the overall implementation of the initiative to ensure a wide coverage of appropriate EV charging.

Question 5

Cllr David Willcocks to ask Cllr Sarah Hopewell, Executive Member for Wellbeing

Cool spaces provide opportunities for people to shelter from the sun, cool down and rest during hot weather, for example, Libraries, leisure centres, places of worship and community centres. Cool spaces can offer respite and recovery in urban areas during hot weather and may contribute to reducing heat-related harm to health. Following record-breaking temperatures exceeding 40C in the UK last year, and with further extreme weather events predicted this summer, have the council any plans to list and advertise available cool spaces for the residents of East Herts?

Question 6

Cllr David Jacobs to ask Cllr Joseph Dumont, Executive Member for Corporate Services

Following the recent changes to voter ID requirements, will the Executive Member for Corporate Services confirm in the elections of 4th May 2023:

- a) how many polling station electors were refused a ballot paper due to insufficient or invalid Voter ID at the polling station?
- b) How many of those refused polling station electors returned with valid IDs and proceeded to vote?

Question 7

Cllr Nahum Clements to ask Cllr Sarah Hopewell, Executive Member for Wellbeing

The Hertford Theatre will be a thriving hub for arts and culture in Hertford and the surrounding area. It stands to be a fantastic asset

for residents and community groups. However, the previous administration committed to spending significant sums on the project and concerns were raised about the viability of the original business plan. It is important that we exercise great care when spending public money.

Will the Executive Member for Wellbeing please confirm:

1. The total spending committed to the Hertford Theatre project to date; and
2. Which aspects of the project are still to be funded, and the estimated cost of each; and
3. What funding the council has secured for the remainder of the project; and
4. When the Hertford Theatre business plan was last updated; and
5. What plans are in place for addressing any shortfall in funding