

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1	Patrick Kane to ask Cllr Ben Crystall, the Leader of the Council
<p>Following EHDC’s purchase of Water Lane Hall in 2019 and its subsequent designation as an Asset of Community Value, the building is falling into a state of serious disrepair. It is our understanding that EHDC is responsible either directly for maintenance (as the building owner) or indirectly (enforcing maintenance actions as the landlord of URC). In particular the toilets are backing up and overflowing because of drainage issues and water is leaking through the roof. Hirers have reported these and other issues to the URC and EHDC, but they have not been addressed and are getting worse. Without this work being done-before the winter the hall will almost certainly become unusable and unsafe, thus failing to remain an Asset of Community Value.</p> <p>Does EHDC intend to conduct essential maintenance on the building before the start of the winter, using the £170k budgeted for this work, or to compel the tenants to do so?</p>	
Question 2	Graeme Smith to ask Cllr Ben Crystall, the Leader of the Council
<p>Since the designation of Water Lane Hall as an ACV in 2023, Friends of Water Lane Hall (FoWLH) have shared a proposal to renovate WLH to face onto the new Old River Lane, relating positively to the new ORL development. We understand that EHDC is currently re-negotiating with the United Reform Church about the re-location of URC parking spaces which were allocated in 2019 to URC on a 100 year lease behind the Lemon Tree. The renovation opportunity - and the future viability of WLH - would be invalidated in the event that the 11 leased car parking spaces are moved back into the area of the current WLH car park (part of the EHDC purchased property), and would lose our community the opportunity to harmonise this area of the town centre with the new Old River Lane development. Essentially, moving the car parking to the back into the WLH boundary would block public</p>	

access forever.

What assurances can EHDC council give that this community space to the Old River Lane side of Water Lane Hall (but within the WLH boundary) will not be given away to car parking?