

CABINET – 9TH JULY 2020

ITEM 5 QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

A. Mr M. Hunt – Garendon Obelisk and Woods Surrounding

“Would the Leader thank officers for the recent attention they have given to the protection and refurbishment of the Garendon Obelisk and their on-going care for the monuments and listed landscape?”

The woods surrounding the Obelisk are within the Garendon Development Site Area, and at one end integral to Booth Wood in a continuous landscape feature. What are the current and future plans for these woods which lie within the development site?

Would the Leader agree that it would be silly not to manage this area of woodland jointly for the protection of wildlife and controlled public access?

When do we expect Booth Wood to become Local Nature Reserves?”

The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:

Booth Wood lies within the boundary of the Garendon SUE development area and is part of a wider area of woodland that surrounds the Obelisk.

The woodland within the Garendon estate will be managed for conservation and to control access/recreational use as the new housing develops but its characteristics are quite different from Booth Wood. Booth Wood is an established semi natural woodland with a varied structure and canopy composition whilst the woodland elsewhere on the Garendon estate is even aged plantation with a closed canopy and is understood to have fairly limited ground cover. It is therefore appropriate to treat them differently.

The Estate woodland is to be managed by a Management Company as set out in the legal agreement to the planning permission. Booth Wood is owned and managed by the Borough Council and that arrangement is expected to continue alongside those of the Management Company.

The Council expects Booth Wood to be declared as an Local Nature Reserve later this year.

B. Mr M. Hunt - Jubilee Park Outdoor Gym (Loughborough)

“What was the final cost of the Jubilee Park Outdoor Gym, how is use monitored and do we have plans to increase its use?”

The Leader, or his nominee will respond:

The outdoor gym at Jubilee Park was installed at a cost of £20,000, following consultation with local Councillors and feedback received about improvements to open spaces in the area. Outdoor gyms provide free access to gym equipment in the outdoor environment for those who wish exercise outside or who may not feel comfortable in a gym.

The Council monitors use and condition of the equipment through its regular programme of inspections for play and outdoor equipment. Users of the equipment can download the Proludic Sports app to monitor and track their exercises on the outdoor gym. We will continue to work with Active Charnwood to encourage healthy lifestyles and access to sports and recreation across all parks in the Borough for local residents.

C. Councillor Bolton – Council Tax Support and Payment

- “(i) How many residents have put in claims for council tax support since 1st April 2020?
- (ii) Of those who have put in a claim, how many have been successful?
- (iii) How many residents have failed to pay their council tax on time in the period April to June 2020?
- (iv) How many residents took up the option of deferring their council tax payments to a later date?”

The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:

- (i) *902 claims have been received during this time.*
- (ii) *Identifying the successful and unsuccessful new claims can only be done by a manual check and count which would be extremely labour intensive, estimated to take approx. 1.5 days work. Based on the current work load of the team this would be difficult to provide at present.*
- (iii) *Approximately 2500 (this figure has been calculated by taking the number of unpaid Direct Debits plus the approximate number of reminders issued last week relating to this financial year).*
- (iv) *3063 accounts.*