

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. J.E. CHARLES

TO THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCES

AGENCY STAFF

Whilst I understand that temporary staff from agencies can provide a useful way to plug short term skills gaps in the workforce, we need to ensure that the taxpayer is not overly burdened with unnecessary costs such as agency fees. With that in mind, How many Agency Staff do we currently have working directly for the Council, and will the Cabinet Member confirm the total spend on agency fees for those staff employed on temporary agency contracts for the financial year 2019/20?

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FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. J.E. CHARLES

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEGAL, REGULATORY AND PLANNING
SERVICES

GREEN ENERGY

What are you doing to ensure any new buildings or refurbishment in the Vale of Glamorgan do have integrated green energy technologies and best practise energy efficiency measures.

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FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. C.A. CAVE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
TRANSPORT

ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN CONSULTATION

In the Rural Vale we have narrow, often pothole-ridden roads that were not designed for today's mix and volume of traffic. Since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic, (and arguably well before this), we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of people (walking, cycling, and running etc.) on our rural roads. This type of activity is likely to continue to increase as people rediscover the physical and psychological benefits of exercising in rural locations. Does the Cabinet Member agree that Welsh Government failed the rural communities by not including rural locations in their recent Active Travel Plan Consultation?

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FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. C.A. CAVE

TO THE LEADER

SUPPORT FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The VoGC has encouraged Town and Community Councils to take on more responsibility for local matters including taking ownership of land and property previously the responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council (VoGC). What support can the Town and Community Councils expect from the VoGC when things go wrong? For example, recently there was an attempt by gypsy/travellers to camp on land previously the responsibility of the VoGC but now in CC ownership. Had the attempt been successful, what support would the CC have been able to access from the VoGC?

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FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. C.A. CAVE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND REGENERATION

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Evidence suggests that children's mental health has been negatively impacted by prolonged absence from school and the lack of social interactions caused by several Covid 19 lockdowns. What is the VoGC doing to support pupils to look after their mental health?

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FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. C.A. CAVE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

HELP FOR CARERS

What is the VoGC doing to help family carers of people with physical and psychological health needs who have been isolated, because of the Covid 19 epidemic, from many of the normal support mechanisms?

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FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. C.A. CAVE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

MEN'S SHEDS

The Cabinet Member is no doubt aware of the benefit of 'Men's Sheds'. We do not have any 'Men's Sheds' in the Vale of Glamorgan and therefore people have to travel outside of the Local Authority area to access this form of psychological support. Can the Member tell us what he is doing to try and secure 'Men's Sheds' in the Vale of Glamorgan?

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FROM COUNCILLOR G. JOHN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
TRANSPORT

REDUCING QUEUES ON HIGHWAYS

Could you please tell me what action has been considered to take to reduce the queues on the Highway, for residents living in the Western Vale when travelling to Barry, especially at peak periods. The increase in vehicles has grown since the housing developments have sprung up and with another 2,000 homes expected to be built in the near future in the St. Athan area. At least another 4,000+ vehicles will add to the nightmare and with the lack of public transport available at peak times it means the use of the car will increase, leaving long queues to Weycock Cross and beyond. With the recent decision taken at Planning to build a Business Park at Rhoose when it was reported 3,225 vehicles would use the site, the situation will be impossible.

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FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. R. NUGENT-FINN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, ARTS AND CULTURE

KNAP SKATE PARK

Having spoken to the YP who use the park frequently, the feedback is that the ramps feel unsafe and are in a state of disrepair. Are there any plans to repair / improve?

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FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. R. NUGENT-FINN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
TRANSPORT

TENNIS COURTS AT ROMILLY PARK

Can you please provide full details of the plans and access including all funding and budgetary elements in relation to the tennis courts at Romilly Park?

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FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. R. NUGENT-FINN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
TRANSPORT

PARKS REGENERATION

Pencoedtre Village has 3 parks in total and Palmerston Estate has 1 near the School. All parks are used by children from the area and surrounding. They are all in a poor state of repair and in comparison to parks improvement and regeneration across the Vale, they are lacking behind. Is there any regeneration, improvement opportunities for the parks in the Cadoc ward?

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FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. R. NUGENT-FINN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
TRANSPORT

WESTON SQUARE PARK TOILETS

They currently stand within the boundary of the park and play area; they have not been in use for a considerable time. Even though they have community art and paintings on the outside, the residents are keen to know what if any plans there for them.

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FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. R. NUGENT-FINN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
TRANSPORT

STEPS AT EASTERN SHELTER, BARRY ISLAND

Following my question at last Full Council, the steps at the Eastern Shelter at Barry Island remain un-repaired. My concerns as tabled before, are the risks attached for the public accessing the steps as the inbuilt tread is missing from a number of steps. Do we have a target date for repairs? Also, a number of the low-level lighting remains unrepaired, do we have a target date for these repairs?

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FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. R. NUGENT-FINN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
TRANSPORT

EASTERN PROMENADE TOILETS

The majority of the hand washing facilities in these toilets are out of use. I have spoken with the toilet attendants and was informed that the automatic hand washing facilities have been problematic from the beginning, with various issues such as overheating and causing them to catch fire as well as a long waiting period for parts and servicing. The water in the 2 remaining facilities is also considerably hot, which is a health and safety concern.

Can you inform me of plans for repairs, safety elements and alternative arrangements for the public accessing the toilets for essential hand washing facilities as we approach the busy summer season?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE LEADER

BARRY DOCKS INCINERATOR

Could the Leader update Council on the progress made on the Council Motion passed in February 2020 on the Barry Docks Incinerator and last reported through a question to Council from Councillor Collins in March 2021, with particular reference to the independent review and enforcement action?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND BUILDING SERVICES

OPTIMISED RETROFIT PROGRAMME

What progress has been made on the implementation of the Optimised Retrofit Programme in the Vale of Glamorgan, which aims to reduce carbon emissions and householders utility bills, and what future steps are planned for retrofitting urban Council housing properties?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
TRANSPORT

ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMMES

During recent months, the Council has supported road safety programmes in primarily rural areas, such as the Welsh Government initiative in St. Bride's Major and more recently announced programmes in Aberthin and Peterston-Super-Ely. While we await the new legislation for 20mph zones to be introduced, what plans does the Council have to trial 20mph zones within urban towns, such as Barry, to learn lessons regarding compliance and enforcement of speeding rules in built-up areas?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND REGENERATION

SUMMER HOLIDAY LEARNING SUPPORT

What work is the Council undertaking over the Summer holiday to support children to catch up with their learning, following interruption as a result of the Coronavirus, with particular reference to children in receipt of the Pupil Development Grant and the School Holiday Enrichment Programme?

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FROM COUNCILLOR L.O. ROWLANDS

TO THE LEADER

WORKPLACE BULLYING

Will the Leader please confirm how many incidents of workplace bullying have been reported by the Council employees in the past year?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE LEADER

ACCREDITED LIVING WAGE EMPLOYER

In December 2018, it was resolved that the Vale Council works towards becoming a formally accredited Living Wage Employer with the Living Wage Foundation and commits to paying all direct employees the Real Living Wage, as well as developing policies to ensure that the Real Living Wage is paid to indirectly employed staff. What progress has been made towards these aims?