

**CITY OF SHEFFIELD**  
**METROPOLITAN DISTRICT**

**MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**

**COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO**

**Question Of Councillor Angela Argenzio To The Leader Of The Council (Councillor Julie Dore)**

- Q. Will this Council use its £3m stake in Sheffield International Venues (SIV) and the City's status as a City of Sanctuary to stop the planned appearance of Franklin Graham at FlyDSA Arena on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, considering that Mr. Graham uses his platform to advocate for conversion therapy for gay people and LGBTI+ people and is believed to promote hate against Muslims?
- A. Question to be answered by Councillor Mary Lea, Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure.

**Questions of Councillor Richard Shaw to Councillor Paul Wood  
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

**Q.1 When were you first presented with proposals to close area housing offices at Lowedges, Jordanthorpe and Firth Park?**

A.1 When I became Cabinet Member in May, I was briefed on all issues in my portfolio. At that stage, the Customer Access Review had taken place and I was briefed on its findings and the issue as a whole. This work showed that following introduction of Housing+ this has dramatically affected footfall as tenants are now working directly with their patch officers, so not needing to walk to the sub-offices.

I have been briefed on the proposals as they have been developed and made it clear that any proposals must be subject to full consultation, before a decision will be made.

**Q.2 Do you agree with these proposals?**

A.2 I will listen to the feedback of the consultation and this will inform my view.

**Q.3 If the closure of Lowedges and Jordanthorpe housing offices goes ahead, the nearest area housing office would be Newfield Green, which is two bus rides away for most tenants in Beauchief and Greenhill ward. Do you believe this is an acceptable distance for tenants to travel for assistance?**

A.3 As stated above, all consultation responses and relevant information such as this and the views of local Members will be considered before any decision is made on this issue.

**Question of Councillor Alison Teal to Councillor Paul Wood  
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

**Q. How many women and families have been housed in the Earl Marshall in the past month?**

A. 10 women and families have been placed in the last month and this has only been when no other emergency accommodation is available within our own stock.

**Questions of Councillor Paul Turpin to Councillor Paul Wood  
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

**Q.1 How much Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money has been spent by Wards?**

**A.1 Spend/committed: £59,026**

The following wards have committed CIL funds – not all of this will have been spent yet:

- City £13,822
- Nether Edge & Sharrow £24,254
- Stannington £18,000 (provisional cost;)
- Fulwood £2,950 (provisional cost;)

1 application from Nether Edge and Sharrow awaiting approval.

**Q.2 How much is available for Wards?**

**A.2 Available: £1,437,068.09**

Ward / LAP	Current allocation based on IMD or minimum 10% retention
Broomhill & Sharrow Vale Ward	£29,497.57
City Ward	£63,061.72
Hillsborough Ward	£46,926.72
Walkley Ward	£60,305.55
Darnall Ward	£104,991.22
Manor Castle Ward	£106,711.83
Park & Arbourthorne Ward	£82,349.74
Richmond Ward	£54,428.30
Burngreave Ward	£134,342.14
Firth Park Ward	£117,482.42
Shiregreen & Brightside Ward	£85,626.31
Southey Ward	£98,934.92
Beauchief & Greenhill Ward	£65,816.17
Gleadless Valley Ward	£78,633.74
Graves Park Ward	£20,516.68
Nether Edge & Sharrow Ward	£52,071.19
Beighton Ward	£33,960.92
Birley Ward	£35,429.09

Mosborough Ward	£33,325.60
Woodhouse Ward	£51,312.40
Crookes & Crosspool Ward	£13,105.22
Dore & Totley Ward	£14,025.06
Ecclesall Ward	£9,187.56
Fulwood Ward	£12,342.04
Bradfield Parish Council	n/a
Ecclesfield Parish Council	n/a
Stocksbridge Town Council	n/a
East Ecclesfield Ward*	£14,607.09
Stannington Ward*	£18,076.85

The table above are the latest figures, accurate as of 30/06/19 – Q3 report is due soon.

**Questions of Councillor Angela Argenzio to Councillor Paul Wood  
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

**Q.1 What are the results of the internal investigation into how people are processed at Howden House?**

A.1 The enquiry about an individual household that presented as homeless at Howden House has been investigated. This found that the family came into Howden House in the afternoon and the First Point Service referred them to the Housing Solutions Service for an assessment and advice. The Housing Solutions Service telephoned them at 3.30pm but could not get a response. The family responded to a message left by the service and they were seen by an officer at approximately 4.45pm. It was apparent that the family had nowhere they could stay and a full assessment would not be possible before the Council Offices closed. Therefore the service authorised emergency accommodation and gave the customer the contact details for the out of hours service who would be able to arrange this. They were clearly frustrated and became verbally aggressive but were assured that accommodation would be arranged. A review of the use of Howden Housing and access to emergency services is underway.

**Q.2 Have any new measures been put in place to ensure that vulnerable people don't fall through the cracks?**

A.2 I appreciate that it is difficult for people to understand why they would need to contact the service again out of hours when they have already seen somebody. Therefore we are proposing to improve the hand-over to the out-of-hours service so that we stay in contact with the customer rather than them needing to contact us again. This should give a better level of customer care and the reassurance needed that they will be provided with the help they need for emergency housing.

**Q.3 Will the Hanover TARA residents be individually sent a copy of the long awaited report regarding the cladding?**

A.3 Yes. A meeting will be held with residents and copies will be available at the meeting. We are aiming to meet residents before Christmas, subject to their availability.

**Q.4 In what format will this be?**

A.4 This will be a written document. It will be available on the website but also paper copies will be provided on request.

**Q.5 Will it be also available in languages other than English (including Somali and Arabic)?**

A.5 Officers will follow the guidance given on translation and interpretation services. There is no legal requirement to translate documents under the Equality Act but we will have due regard for any individual requests for translation and meet these in a proportionate and cost effective way. The report will be published on the Council website and we will use plain language. If a request is received for translation we will signpost the requestor to the Google Translate service on the website. Alternatively we will consider translating key sections or arranging for an interpreter if there are a number of requestors wanting the same language translating.

**Questions of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)**

**Q.1 Provision of nurseries is fast becoming a challenge for providers. In fact some are close to financial breakdown. Clearly this is alarming and will become a responsibility for the Council. What support and help is in place for providers?**

A.1 We are not aware of any nurseries in Sheffield which have closed due to lack of funding. We realise that the Funded Early Learning fees are not always sufficient to meet the cost of delivering childcare, however these are set by national Government and Sheffield merely passports these to the providers.

Since the introduction of the 30 hour offer for working parents in 2017, providers have been permitted to charge for additional services in order to make up the shortfall between the funded fees and the actual cost of delivery.

Sheffield City Council is proactive in encouraging providers to access all the available funding to boost their income such as Early Years Pupil Premium, Disability Access Funding etc. and will continue to provide advice and guidance to nurseries.

Providers can raise their concerns through the Early Years Working Group which represents this sector on the School Forum and their representatives in this group are closely involved working in partnership with the Council.

The Council also hold provider briefings each term where all providers have an opportunity to attend and raise any concerns they might have on an individual basis with officers of the Council.

**Q.2 It is clear that more needs to be done for young people in the City. Third Sector providers are a major contributor but even they need support. What further support, financial and professional, is being put in place?**

A.2 The Council is doing a lot to help young people in Sheffield, and we work alongside a wide range of other partners, including the voluntary sector, health and the police. Every year the Council invests over £3m in services to support young people and help them make the right choices as they go through their teenage year, and the majority of this investment is in the voluntary sector. Sheffield Futures, for example, run 40 sessions every week funded entirely by the Council. These run across the city in youth clubs and street outreach, providing places for young people to go, things to do and trusted youth workers to talk to. Our Community Youth Teams work with hundreds of young people every year who are at risk of getting into crime, drugs, or harmful relationships. We invest in specialist support services for young people affected by drugs and alcohol, or who are young carers, both of which are run by voluntary sector organisations.

However, we know that young people's lives are under increasing pressure in this modern world. As a Cabinet we are committed to giving more help to young people who are the future of our city. We have been conducting a review of young

people's services to see what more we can do to help give young people a positive future. This has involved talking to lots of different groups, organisation and young people themselves to find out what they think, and we will be making more announcements about plans in the new year.

**Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Terry Fox  
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

**Q.1 What conference venues has the Council booked in external premises in the last 12 months?**

A.1 I will respond to this question in writing and publish the answer on the Council's website

**Q.2 What is the total expenditure for these conferences for each venue?**

A.2 See above.

**Question of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Terry Fox  
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

**Q. Are there any plans for the Council to adopt a 'Wellbeing Economy'?**

A. Question to be answered by Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment).

**Question of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance) - to be answered by Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)**

**Q. Are there any plans for the Council to adopt a 'Wellbeing Economy'?**

A. We are committed to creating an economy that works for all and tackles the economic inequality in our city and will shortly be presenting our new economic strategy to outline the Council's approach to achieve this.

**Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q. As a councillor for Crookes, my constituents are continuing to contact me about the state of buses in my Ward and in the city. What pressure are you putting on bus providers to improve services and how can we help?**

A. I have met with both major operators and SYPTE to express, in strongest terms, opposition to any reduction to bus services in Sheffield. As part of the ensuing discussion, it has been agreed to pursue the proposed Sheffield Bus Charter. Bus operators' support for this approach, in principle, has been secured.

The first step is working up "heads of terms" to confirm the areas to be covered by the Charter. As a cross party approach, it is anticipated that this would involve opposition politicians and an early discussion has been held with Councillor Ian Auckland. Further work will seek to agree essential components of the Charter that must be met by bus operators, SYPTE and the Council itself, in order to work towards an improved bus network for the City.

I also gave evidence to the Sheffield City Region Bus Review and will continue to support using the powers we have for franchising bus services in the region as well as taking bus services back into public control under a different government.

**Questions of Councillor Ian Auckland to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q.1 Will you please list all holders, since 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2015, of the Head of Planning post, or equivalent, or when vacant? Please include all holders "Acting or Interim or Substantive Post holders" and dates of tenure.**

A.1 Individual past employee names, or names of people engaged on interim contracts, is not something that can be provided and is covered by GDPR regulations. The current Interim Head of Planning has been in post since February, 2019.

**Q.2 Is there a timetable for seeking to appoint a permanent Chief Planning Officer?**

A.2 A recruitment process for the post took place earlier this year but it was decided not to appoint. It is anticipated that a further round of recruitment will take place early in 2020.

**Q.3 Will you please provide "before" and "after" structure charts in connection with management proposals for the re-structure of the planning and building control service?**

A.3 It is not possible to provide details of the proposed structural changes to the Planning Service as the process remains within the bounds of a Collective Dispute.

**Question of Councillor Tim Huggan to Councillor Bob Johnson**  
**(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q.** The 51 and 52 bus services are frequently delayed on their way into town from Lodge Moor and Crookes by cars queueing to enter the Durham Road Car Park. Are there any plans to create a 'clearway' on Durham Road that would help give a more reliable bus service for residents of both Crosspool and Crookes?

**A.** The city has a traffic camera located at the junction of Clarkson Street with Western Bank and officers are able to monitor the situation. The queuing we are aware of seems to have been caused by two events. Firstly, the impact of new students coming to the city at the start of the academic year and secondly, a faulty entry barrier on the car park operated by Q Parks and owned by the University of Sheffield.

The fault has been repaired and the levels of queuing appear to have reduced although, again, on Tuesday 12th November, there was severe queuing caused by failure of one of the roller shutters doors to the car park. Buses become trapped in this congestion but there are no highway restrictions that alleviate queuing. Traffic Regulations Orders are used to prevent waiting and stopping. These vehicles are not doing either.

Use of clearways and bus lanes is something we are looking at as part of the bus charter.

**Questions of Councillor Alison Teal to Councillor Bob Johnson**  
**(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q.1** What evidence is there to show that free parking improves business in the city centre during the Christmas period?

**A.1** There has been some form of free parking offer in the city centre in December for many years. We would have to stop providing that offer to ascertain the impact it has on retailers at what is their most crucial time of year. This offer is the Council responding to requests from city centre retailers to support them. We are open to other ways in which we can help ensure a vibrant retail and evening economy, but this is the support that has been requested and we're keen to provide that support.

**Q.2** What is the cost to the public purse to give private car drivers free parking and would it not be better to use this money to provide a free Christmas bus?

**A.2** This information is set out in the decision report. However, as there has been a parking offer at this time of the year for well over a decade, the parking budget is set each year in the expectation of an offer, so there is no impact on the Council's overall budgetary position.

The Council does work with SYPTE and bus operators to run services at Christmas, although the loss of income from parking wouldn't support a free bus service over all the days at Christmas when bus services don't run.

We subsidise buses up to a cost of £37,000 to provide a basic network for the city on Boxing Day and New Year's Day when otherwise services would not run. The Boxing Day service is delivered on a partnership basis with bus operators First and Stagecoach and SYPTE contributing to the cost. The New Year's Day service is a competitive tender funded by Sheffield City Council alone.

**Q.3 Can you please share the business case for staff reduction in the Planning Department? If you are not willing to share, please explain the lack of transparency?**

A.3 A "Case for Change" to be provided was provided in some detail when staff and unions were consulted on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Further supplementary information in relation to financial issues was provided to staff and unions as requested.

It is not possible to provide details of the proposed structural changes to the Planning service as the process remains within the bounds of a Collective Dispute.

**Questions of Councillor Peter Garbutt to Councillor Bob Johnson  
(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q.1 How much parking revenue is anticipated to be lost due to free Christmas parking?**

A.1 This is set out in the decision report. However, as there has been a parking offer at this time of year for well over a decade, the parking budget is set each year in the expectation of an offer, so there is no impact on the Council's overall budgetary position

**Q.2 How many more cars are expected to be brought into the City by the free Christmas parking scheme?**

A.2 The Council only operates 20% of the parking in the city centre. The retailers feel that the offer of free parking will help add to the overall Christmas offer in the city centre and reduce the impact of people deciding to drive to Meadowhall instead of driving to town. There is no expectation that a short period of free parking will drive people to change their method of transport.

**Q.3 What is the estimated carbon impact of this?**

A.3 There is no additional carbon impact expected as it is not expected to influence the way in which people travel for such a short period of the year.

**Q.4 Why was this money not used to subsidise free Christmas public transport instead?**

- A.4 The Council does work with SYPTE and bus operators to run services at Christmas, although the loss of income from parking wouldn't support a free bus service over all the days at Christmas when services don't run.

We subsidise buses up to a cost of £37,000 to provide a basic network for the city on Boxing Day and New Year's Day when otherwise services would not run. The Boxing Day service is delivered on a partnership basis with bus operators First and Stagecoach and SYPTE contributing to the cost. The New Year's Day service is a competitive tender funded by Sheffield City Council alone.

Initially, the festive bus service offered a promotional £1 flat fare as a maximum cost per journey (all concessions still applied). However, patronage figures since full fares have been charged do not show any significant change.

The increased cost of operating these services has precluded such an offer in more recent years and the Council-set budget for the service has not increased since it was first introduced by resolution in 2008. Further subsidy would be required to operate a free service on Boxing Day and New Year's Day. More work would need to be done to establish if this might lead to an increase in patronage and/or necessitate additional services to be run – which has an additional cost implication.

**Question of Councillor Ruth Mersereau to Councillor Bob Johnson  
(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

- Q. Regarding the scheme being developed to deal with pavement parking (mentioned in your answer to my question on this topic last month), you stated that Ward Councillors will get details of the scheme in 2020. Please can you tell me when in 2020, and whether Ward Councillors will have the opportunity to feedback on plans?
- A. Resource has been assigned and the Council is expecting that a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will be promoted toward the end of financial year and local Ward Members will be informed before it is advertised. This Order will cover as many of the known problem locations as possible. Once the Order has been secured, the implementation of the necessary sign should follow quickly and we can then start making a difference around the City Centre.

**Questions of Councillor Kaltum Rivers to Councillor Mark Jones  
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate  
Change) to be answered by Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet  
Member for Transport and Development)**

- Q.1 Has there been any monitoring and evaluation on the effectiveness of anti-idling signs and educational materials since they have been introduced?

- A. It is hard to come up with a metric to cover this approach. The primary objective is to raise awareness and educate parents about the damaging effect on children's health and on local air quality of vehicle emissions from idling. However, feedback from the officers undertaking the enforcement is that when approached and informed about the effects of idling engines on children they invariably switch off their engines. The effectiveness is borne out by the fact that only one ticket has been issued since the scheme started in October 2018.

**Q.2 Are there plans to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these materials?**

- A. The only monitoring we plan to take is by looking at the feedback we get from the Enforcement Officers and from schools and the public. The level of perceived abuse will help determine how effective the scheme is and whether further action is needed.

**Questions of Councillor Tim Huggan to Councillor Mark Jones Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)**

**Q.1 Does the City Council have any plans to double tree cover in Sheffield by 2045 or sooner, as part of any action to support the Climate Emergency it has declared?**

A.1 Our friends in Extinction Rebellion would ask that we tell the truth. So that is what we will do.

Labour's Green New Deal provides figures for Labour's ambition to promote new environmentally relevant jobs and sustainable investment for the whole of Yorkshire and Humber region. This includes an undertaking to plant an additional 38 million trees, creating 13,000 hectares (ha) of new forest by 2024 and establishing 10 new National Nature Parks within the Yorkshire and Humber region. However, the Administration in Sheffield has already been implementing our own ambitious strategy, despite the withering effects of the Government's austerity agenda that this City has had to endure.

In December, 2018, Sheffield City Council approved the Trees and Woodlands Strategy for 2018-2033. Subsequent to the publication of the Tree and Woodland Strategy, the Council undertook the internationally recognised tree survey, i-Tree eco survey to help guide the decision-making process and formulate policies outlined within the Trees and Woodland Strategy. The i-Tree survey demonstrated that Sheffield compares favourably with other cities, in that Sheffield has one of the highest levels of canopy cover in the country. The percentage canopy cover for Sheffield is currently at 18.4% across the local authority area. The percentage canopy cover for urban areas rises to 21.6%. That means that over one-fifth of our built-up areas are covered by tree canopies. By comparison, London has 14% and Edinburgh has 17% for example. The Liberal Democrat/Green controlled Council of York only has a canopy cover of 9.8% (Doick K.J. *et al*: Charteredforesters.org). A report by the Sorby Natural History Society in 2006 confirmed that in terms of broadleaved woodland cover, Sheffield can justify its claim to be greenest major population centre in the country.

Within the Trees and Woodlands Strategy document we made a commitment to plant additional trees with a target of 100,000 over the next 10 years. Sheffield City Council is also working with Yorkshire Water and the Sheffield City Region to identify suitable planting sites, as the Woodland Trust says, the "right tree, right place". The Leader of the Council signed the recent letter supporting Northern Forest initiative, which, though ambitious for its time, has now been superseded by political promises from across the spectrum.

In Sheffield City Council's considerations regarding increasing canopy cover we will focus on some of the wards in the east of the city where tree cover is lowest. Over the last five years we have already planted approximately 100,000 trees and have created a number of small woodlands. These 100,000 trees are additional to the 100,000 trees mentioned above.

To raise the urban tree cover levels within Sheffield's boundaries from 18.4% to

20% would require the Council to plant an additional 587 ha of woodland. This which would present a massive challenge in terms of the land availability, especially given the requirement on the Council to provide upwards of 40,000 additional homes over the coming years.

In 2017, the Woodland Trust showed that Sheffield has the highest percentage of the population who have access to a woodland larger than 2 ha within 500 metres of where they live. The Council currently manages approximately 1,150 hectares of broadleaved woodland and 400 hectares of conifer plantation. We manage 182 woodland sites, which are Forest Stewardship Certified, 70 of the 182 woodland sites are ancient woodland sites.

We must also be mindful of the need to promote biodiversity within our city boundaries, across our region and across our nation. As such, we must be mindful that we should not simply plant more trees at the expense of other habitats. The JNCC highlights that under certain conditions, trees can grow within areas of peat bog creating a natural and sustainable environment. There are also examples, although rare of true Bog Woodland. However, tree roots often struggle to hold in peat bog, and where trees take hold, the invasion of bog largely results in the loss of rare bog-land habitat. This may be as a result of land drainage and/or natural bog invasion/colonisation.

We have just witnessed devastating floods across South Yorkshire. These floods followed the wettest October on record and the highest rainfall for any day in November. Our already saturated uplands had little or no capacity to absorb the heavy rainfall, resulting in the extensive floods of the Lower Don Valley. These incidents demonstrate, not only that we must up-grade our existing flood defences but that we must engineer in natural resilience and water retention capacity in the Upper Don Valley. It is likely that this would require preservation of, and possible expansion of our existing peat bogs.

Similarly, we must maintain existing, and where possible establish more wild-flower meadows to sustain pollinating insect species. Many of these species are increasingly under threat of extinction. The loss of these species would almost certainly lead to the loss of the many bird species that depend upon these insects for food. The loss of these bird species, seen widely across our nation would significantly diminish our urban environment.

So, whilst we support the principle of doubling trees by all local Councils, and we would encourage Councils like the Liberal Democrat/Green run York Council, who would have to double their existing tree cover to match that of Sheffield to do more regarding tree cover. I cannot, with certainty, say that Sheffield could sustainably double our existing tree cover. This does not mean that we would not try.

This Labour lead authority will continue to plant more trees, as already outlined. I hope you are reassured that we as a Council, we will be exploring how we can plant even more trees as we look to sequester large amounts of Carbon to help us to become a net-zero authority by 2030. We all recognise that the “right tree, right place” provides significant and associated benefits.

**Q.2 What plans does the Council have to increase and enhance biodiversity within the boundary of Sheffield City Council?**

A.2 Through its Ecology Team, the Council contributes daily to its duty to protect and improve biodiversity and to ensure that there is no net loss of biodiversity in the city.

The Ecology Team comments on planning applications and ensuring that where there might be an impact from development that might affect biodiversity that mitigation measures are conditioned on the developer to offset these potential impacts.

Our current Local Plan policies cover a range of environmental issues, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, and protecting and enhancing biodiversity. Examples include: Unitary Development Plan policy GE15 Trees and Woodland, which encourages tree planting and requires developers to retain mature trees and replace any trees that are lost; and Core Strategy policy CS67 Flood Risk Management, which requires the use of SUDS on all sites where feasible and practicable. There are also policies on enhancing the green network to increase its value for wildlife (UDP policy GE10 Green Network) and encouraging environments that promote biodiversity (Core Strategy policy CS63 Responses to Climate Change).

The Ecology Team provides advice to anyone on matters relating to ecology and biodiversity.

It carries out ecological surveys for specific species like bats, badgers and great crested newts.

In addition to the work of the Ecology Team the wider Council's Parks, Countryside and Bereavement Services manages:

- 2000 greenspaces and parkland
- 1550ha of woodlands and forest to the highest international standard (FSC) in 182 sites of which 70 are ancient woodlands. Two woodlands have been awarded Green Flag status
- 17 Local Nature Reserves
- 253 Local Wildlife Sites which aim to be in positive management
- 5 Sites of Special Scientific Interest like Ladies Spring Wood

We manage a Biological Records database of nearly 0.5 million records including an agreement to provide this service for Barnsley Council.

The Council manages 2.7million trees, over half of the estimated 4.5million trees in Sheffield's boundaries through a dedicated team of Tree Officers, Woodland Officers and Rangers.

Sheffield has one of the highest levels of tree cover in the country at 18.4% across the whole and 21.6% across the urban area.

We have been instrumental in a ground breaking project to increase the Willow Tit population which has seen a dramatic decline in numbers over recent years.

The Urban Nature Programme transformed existing formal greenspaces into more naturalistic areas together with a programme of planting over 50,000 trees in several sites creating new woodlands.

A project with the Froglife Charity aims to build new ponds in the South East of the city to improve habitats for species like Great Crested Newts and will involve planting 7000 trees.

We are currently developing a project which is looking at the possibility of reintroducing beavers into the landscape as part of our commitment to the re-wilding agenda.

The Council works closely with its partners the RSPB, National Trust and Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust leasing land which is being managed primarily for wildlife.

The Nature Improvement Area in the Peak District helped us reshape the Burbage Valley and replace the conifer plantation with a rich broadleaved woodland using grants from Natural England.

In 2018, the Council changed its highways grounds maintenance programme, changing almost 450,000m<sup>2</sup> of highway grass from a regular cut, onto a biodiversity mowing cycle. Furthermore, rural verges (with the exception of sight lines on junctions) amounting to over 700,000m<sup>2</sup> was also moved from a routine cutting cycle onto a single cut per year. The initial results from these changes has shown colonisation by numerous notable wild flora including Bee Orchids and Cowslips (photos attached) to establish even on main arterial routes across the city.

**Question of Councillor Ruth Mersereau to Councillor Mark Jones  
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate  
Change)**

**Q. What practical steps has the Council taken to cut carbon emissions since the last full Council meeting, in order to get closer to meeting its target of being carbon neutral by 2030?**

A. The Council is continuing to explore opportunities to reduce its own direct carbon emissions. It has embarked on a review of climate-change related activity across the organisation which will help inform the development of its own carbon reduction plan and is conducting a review of its capital programme to assess opportunities to reduce carbon emissions and wider climate impacts.

**Question of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Mark Jones  
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate  
Change)**

**Q. When will the Council change their decision making process to assess all decisions through the lens of the climate emergency?**

A. We already have.

**Question of Councillor Paul Turpin to Councillor Mark Jones  
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate  
Change)**

**Q. Will you be scrapping the 2030 target for being carbon neutral now that Labour nationally have done so?**

A. No. 2030, or earlier if possible. Just to be clear Labour have outlined the most ambitious ever manifesto to tackle the climate emergency, including the below, it is revealing that out of all the parties, you have chosen to attack Labour who are clearly more committed than both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats to tackle the Climate Emergency through the policies below and the Green Industrial Revolution

“Our Green New Deal aims to achieve the substantial majority of our emissions reductions by 2030 in a way that is evidence-based, just and that delivers an economy that serves the interests of the many, not the few.

**Energy**

Energy use in buildings accounts for 56% of the UK’s total emissions, making it the single most polluting sector. We will develop the recommendations of our ‘30 by 2030’ report to put the UK on track for a net-zero-carbon energy system within the 2030s – and go faster if credible pathways can be found. We will deliver nearly 90% of electricity and 50% of heat from renewable and low-carbon sources by 2030. We will build:

- 7,000 new offshore wind turbines
- 2,000 new onshore wind turbines
- Enough solar panels to cover 22,000 football pitches.
- New nuclear power needed for energy security.”

**Questions of Councillor Kaltum Rivers to Councillor Mark Jones  
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)**

**Q.1 Has there been any monitoring and evaluation on the effectiveness of anti-**

**idling signs and educational materials since they have been introduced?**

- A. (Question to be answered by Councillor Bob Johnson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Development.)

**Q.2 Are there plans to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these materials?**

- A. (Question to be answered by Councillor Bob Johnson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Development.)

**Questions of Councillor Paul Turpin to Councillor Mary Lea  
(Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)**

**Q.1 How much is currently spent on staff wages in libraries?**

A.1 The costs of staffing Sheffield City Council run Libraries, including support staff and management and cover for holidays and sick pay, will be approximately **£2.5M** in 2019/20.

**Q.2 What is the breakdown of staff costs referenced in last month's Labour amendment to the Green motion?**

A.2 Assuming Qualified Librarians would be at Grade 6, our current grade for a Library Information Officer (LIO), based on the top of the grade, is £38,314, including on-costs.

For a Grade 6 in each of the 16 volunteer run library :  $16 \times £38,314 = \mathbf{£613,024}$

To also provide the same in each of the Council's 11 Hub Libraries, where we already have seven Grade 6 Library Information Officers working across the 11 libraries currently, we would need an additional five to place one in each library,

For additional Grade 6 in Sheffield City Council Hub libraries :  $5 \times £38,314 = \mathbf{£191,570}$

Therefore, the total costs per annum to have a qualified librarian in each of the city's libraries (both volunteer run and SCC Hub libraries) = **£804,594 p.a.**

Note – This assumes a corporate grading panel would place a 'qualified librarian' at Grade 6.

**Question of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Mary Lea  
(Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)**

**Q. What plans are there to develop quieter spaces in parks for the benefit of people with autism, mental health issues and other disabilities?**

A. Quiet spaces of all kinds already exist in many of our parks and countryside sites. We often include seating to encourage people to spend more time in these quieter areas, and this can include areas of sites with good views across the green space and surrounding areas. Some of this seating is often at the request of individuals or groups.

Plans and master plans for green space improvements, and the associated consultation, provides opportunities for people to feed their ideas into the improvements they would like for a green space.

It is important to have quiet and reflective spaces in Sheffield's parks and

countryside sites which are accessible to the groups of individuals you highlight.

**Question Of Councillor Angela Argenzio to the Leader of the Council - to be answered by Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)**

- Q. Will this Council use its £3m stake in Sheffield International Venues (SIV) and the City's status as a City of Sanctuary to stop the planned appearance of Franklin Graham at FlyDSA Arena on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, considering that Mr. Graham uses his platform to advocate for conversion therapy for gay people and LGBTI+ people and is believed to promote hate against Muslims?**
- A. Sheffield is a diverse, inclusive and welcoming city. As an organisation, we are committed to promoting equality, fairness and inclusion, and ensuring that people from different backgrounds are fully able to participate in the life of the city and do not suffer discrimination and harassment.

I agree with you that Franklyn Graham advocates views contrary to many of these values and we are completely opposed to, and appalled by, his views and the prospect of him being given a platform in Sheffield. The booking of Franklin Graham for an event in June, was not a decision made by Sheffield City Council. The Board of Sheffield City Trust are currently considering this booking and will be making a decision regarding it, by the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

**Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)**

**Q. It is well documented the elderly care sector is under tremendous pressure. How many care homes have closed in the last five years? Can you list year on year.**

**A. 2014:**

0 closures, 1 opening, net gain of 1 in 2014, overall gain of 1 in 2014  
Opened - Bridgedale

**2015:**

2 closures, 0 openings, net loss of 2 in 2015, overall loss of 1 in 2014-2015  
Closed:  
Dalewood View (site later reopened as Pingley Court)  
Hawkhills

**2016:**

2 closures, 1 opening, net loss of 1 in 2016, overall loss of 2 in 2014-2016  
Closed:  
Croft Acres  
Warren Park (site later reopened as Hilltop View)  
Opened - Porterbrook

**2017:**

3 closures, 1 opening, net loss of 2 in 2017, overall loss of 4 in 2014-2017  
Closed:  
Haddon Court (site later reopened as 'new' Knowle Hill replacing 'old' Knowle Hill site)  
Hartwell  
Hurlfield View  
Opened - Woodhill Lodge

**2018:**

0 closures, 1 opening, net gain of 1 in 2018, overall loss of 3 in 2014-2018  
Opened - Knowle Hill (premises formerly Haddon Court)

**2019 (to date):**

4 closures, 2 openings, net loss of 2 in 2019, overall loss of 5 in 2014-2019 (to date)  
Closed:  
Ash House  
Fulwood Lodge  
Jasmin Court  
Silver Lodge (residents relocated to premises at Hilltop Lodge)

**Opened:**

Hilltop Lodge (premises formerly Warren Park)  
Pingley Court (premises formerly Dalewood View)

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