

Agenda Item 5

Council Meeting – 17th July 2024

Petitions Received from Members of the Public, answered by the Relevant Policy Committee Chairs

Name of Lead Petitioner	Petition Details	Relevant Policy Committee Chair(s)
Lesley Smith	<p>Petition: Parking issues on Scraithwood Drive</p> <p>No of signatures: 145</p> <p>Name of Speaker: No Speaker</p> <p>A written response will be provided to the petitioner, a summary of that response (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Sign or start a petition Sheffield City Council (petition logs can be found within the Supporting information section)</p>	Cllr Ben Miskell (Chair of Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee)
Mohammed Issa	<p>Petition: Save Burngreave Vestry Hall</p> <p>No of signatures: 186</p> <p>Name of Speaker: Mohammed Issa</p> <p>A response was provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council</p>	Cllr Kurtis Crossland (Chair of Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee)
Mohammed Ansar	<p>Petition: Requesting the Council to bring forward a date for the introduction of a road-side food waste service.</p> <p>No of signatures: 5</p> <p>Name of Speaker: No Speaker</p>	Cllr Joe Otten (Chair of Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee)

	<p>A written response will be provided to the petitioner, a copy of that response (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Sign or start a petition Sheffield City Council (petition logs can be found within the Supporting information section)</p>	
Mohammed Ansar	<p>Petition: Requesting the Council to charge Sheffield households for each collection of garden waste instead of paying for the full 19 collections, making it more affordable for all.</p> <p>No of signatures: 5</p> <p>Name of Speaker: No Speaker</p> <p>A written response will be provided to the petitioner, a copy of that response (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Sign or start a petition Sheffield City Council (petition logs can be found within the Supporting information section)</p>	Cllr Joe Otten (Chair of Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee)
Mohammed Ansar	<p>Petition: Requesting the Council to increase the amount of plastic, tin and glass it re-cycles in line with other Councils.</p> <p>No of signatures: 7</p> <p>Name of Speaker: No Speaker</p> <p>A written response will be provided to the petitioner, a copy of that response (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Sign or start a petition Sheffield City Council (petition logs can be found within the Supporting information section)</p>	Cllr Joe Otten (Chair of Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee)
Karen Hague	<p>Petition debated at the meeting – ‘Relating to the Funding of Therapy Services Delivered by Sheffield Women’s Charity, Vida’</p> <p>A response was provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council</p>	Cllr Angela Argenzio (Chair of Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee)

Questions Received from Members of the Public, answered by the Relevant Policy Committee Chairs

Name of Questioner	Question	Relevant Policy Committee Chair(s)
Saghir Hussain	<p>Hydrogeologist Survey.</p> <p>When exactly will the Tier 2 city-wide hydrogeologist survey commence, and what are the -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • primary objectives? • detailed scope and point of reference of the Tier 2 hydrogeologist survey? • What is the exact timeline for the commencement and completion of the hydrogeologist survey? When can we expect the final report? • What key metrics and data points will the hydrogeologist survey focus on to assess the flooding issues at Shiregreen Cemetery? <p>How will the Council ensure that the findings directly inform actionable plans for Shiregreen Cemetery? Can the Council please respond to the following:-</p> <p>Desired Outcomes:</p> <p>What are the desired outcomes of the hydrogeologist survey? How will these outcomes inform the long-term strategy for managing flooding at Shiregreen Cemetery?</p> <p>Actionable Recommendations:</p> <p>How will the survey ensure that its findings translate into actionable recommendations? What specific types of interventions are anticipated based on preliminary insights?</p> <p>Stakeholder Involvement:</p> <p>How will the Council involve key stakeholders, including the Sheffield Muslim Burial Council, in the hydrogeologist survey process? Will there be opportunities for stakeholder feedback?</p> <p>Integration with Existing Plans:</p>	Cllr Kurtis Crossland (Chair of Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee)

	<p>How will the findings of the hydrogeologist survey be integrated with existing strategic planning reports and ongoing initiatives at Shiregreen Cemetery?</p> <p>Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council</p>	
<p>Shakil Ahmed (questions summarised and presented by Saghir Hussain)</p>	<p>Shiregreen Cemetery Flooding:</p> <p>What immediate and effective measures will be taken to address the serious health and safety risks posed by the flooding at Shiregreen Cemetery? What is the timeline for these actions?</p> <p>Immediate Measures:</p> <p>What specific immediate actions will the Council take to mitigate the current flooding at Shiregreen Cemetery? Can you provide a detailed timeline for these measures?</p> <p>Hydrogeologist Survey:</p> <p>Can you provide a detailed scope and timeline for the upcoming Tier 2 hydrogeologist survey? How will the Council ensure that the survey results are acted upon promptly?</p> <p>Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council</p>	<p>Cllr Kurtis Crossland (Chair of Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee)</p>
<p>Amjid Tahir (questions summarised and presented by Saghir Hussain)</p>	<p>Future Community Meetings:</p> <p>What is the planned structure for future meetings with wider community representatives to ensure meaningful participation and transparency? Can the Council provide a specific schedule for these meetings?</p> <p>Overall Aims and Objectives:</p> <p>How does the Council plan to align its overall burial service strategies with the urgent needs and expectations of the</p>	<p>Cllr Kurtis Crossland (Chair of Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee)</p>

	<p>Muslim community? What benchmarks will be used to measure success?</p> <p>Feedback and Follow-up:</p> <p>What mechanisms will be established to ensure that feedback from the Sheffield City Bereavement services to the Muslim Community and the broader community is actively incorporated into policy decisions? How will follow-up actions be communicated and verified?</p> <p>Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council</p>	
<p>Iqra Besharat (questions summarised and presented by Saghir Hussain)</p>	<p>What are the specific long-term strategies being considered to prevent future flooding at Shiregreen Cemetery? How will the Council prioritise these strategies based on the hydrogeologist report?</p> <p>What budget and resources have been allocated to address the flooding at Shiregreen Cemetery? How will the Council ensure that these resources are used efficiently?</p> <p>How will the Council involve key stakeholders, including the Sheffield Muslim Burial Council, in the decision-making process for addressing the flooding at Shiregreen Cemetery?</p> <p>Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council</p>	<p>Cllr Kurtis Crossland (Chair of Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee)</p>
<p>Asif Ditta (questions summarised and presented by Saghir Hussain)</p>	<p>1. Potential Funding Sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What potential funding sources have been identified for addressing the flooding at Shiregreen Cemetery? <p>2. Strategic Planning and Space Shortage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What concrete actions will the Council take to address the critical shortage of burial spaces in Sheffield, and how will these be reflected in the upcoming 25-year strategic planning report? 	<p>Cllr Kurtis Crossland (Chair of Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee)</p>

	<p>3. Accessibility Improvements:</p> <p>- Can the Council commit to a specific timeline for the installation of tarmac footpaths and other accessibility improvements for individuals with disabilities in our cemeteries?</p> <p>Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council</p>	
<p>Clara Cheung</p>	<p>On 21 February 2024, the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee of the Council approved the Partner City Policy, which stated that shared values such as the ability to demonstrate the promotion of human rights should be taken into account when building sister-city or relationship or trade collaboration with international cities. It is a good initiative, as the Human Rights Council at the United Nations also shows that local governments are at the forefront of bringing human rights to all, and should adopt the human rights-based approach in policy-making.</p> <p>Based on the current partner city policy, the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee then, in the same meeting in February, decided to give up the sister-city relationship with Anshan, China, not to reinstate the trade and collaboration agreements with the cities of Daqing and Nanchang in China, but to maintain the sister-city relationship with Chengdu, China.</p> <p>Regarding this renewed relationship with cities in China, I would like to raise the following questions:-</p> <p>1. Would Sheffield City Council write to the city councils of Anshan, Daqing and Nanchang in China to inform them about the termination of the previous partner relationships with them? If yes, when, and will the Council officially make any public statement regarding this matter? If not, why not?</p> <p>2. In Sheffield's remaining sister-city in China, Chengdu, there is a well-known Christian Church: Early Rain Covenant Church. According to Release International (a UK-based Christian ministry), "Early Rain may have been targeted because of its open approach to church mission, which has included posting sermons online and street evangelism. The church also ran a Bible school for about 100 students and a</p>	<p>Cllr Tom Hunt (Chair of Strategy and Resources Policy Committee and Leader of the Council)</p>

primary school." Its meetings, in our sister city Chengdu, regularly attract more than 800 people each week.
"The influential leader of Early Rain Covenant Church, Pastor Wang Yi, has been a prominent campaigner for greater religious freedom. In 2018 he wrote a declaration, signed by hundreds of Chinese pastors, which includes a statement of Christian beliefs and a call for an end to persecution."

According to Amnesty International's press release in 2019:
"In early December 2018, police in Chengdu raided the premises of the Early Rain Covenant Church. About 100 members of the church, including Pastor Wang Yi, were taken away and questioned by the police in the following days."

And, "On 30 December 2019, Pastor Wang Yi was [sentenced to nine years at the Chengdu City Intermediate People's Court](#). He had been charged with "illegal business operation" and "inciting subversion of state power," a catch-all charge often used against dissidents and activists who speak out against the government."

News about Pastor Wang Yi has been blocked since his arrest in 2018 and people know little about his situation. However, his wife Jiang Rong was able to visit him in prison in October 2021. This was their first meeting in over three years since his arrest.

Since Sheffield City Council is a liberal local government that sincerely cares about human rights and is also a sister-city to Chengdu, can the Council write a public letter to the city council of Chengdu to inquire about the status of Pastor Wang Yi? If so, when? If not, why not?

Besides, as I recall, the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee members in the previous meeting emphasised the great value of having cultural exchanges with Chengdu. Will Sheffield City Council invite members of Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu for cultural exchange with people in Sheffield? (Either online exchange or, if budget allows, in-person exchange). If not, why not?

Reference:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2019/12/china-appalling-jail-sentence-outspoken-pastor-makes-mockery-religious-freedoms/>

<https://releaseinternational.org/prisoner/pastor-wang-yi/>

Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:

	Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council	
<p>Ada Li</p>	<p>My topic is concerned about the potential cybersecurity threats posed by foreign governments.</p> <p>Talking about CCTV (security cameras and surveillance cameras) used in public and government buildings.</p> <p>How to protect public safety - our privacy and data protection?</p> <p>I am going to bring up 4 concerns for your attention which will lead to underlying risk of using Chinese manufacturers and their products - Chinese made CCTV especially their links to the Chinese government.</p> <p>Firstly, in March this year, news reported that several countries including the US government, our UK government and allies accused China which was probably the one behind the hacking operations. Targeted millions of people include politicians, lawmakers, government officials, journalists, dissidents, individuals considered not supporting Beijing.</p> <p>Secondly, happened on 7 May, the payroll system of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) was hacked by malicious attempts. Despite no data being taken and the name of the country involved not being mentioned, Sky News understands this to be China.</p> <p>This time the targets were employees - personal information, their bank details, privacy protection for everyone is in danger.</p> <p>According to an ITV report in June, documents leaked exposed that the Chinese state operates a hackers-for-hire industry. Chinese government CCP (Chinese Communist Party) hires hackers to make an attempt to monitor the world.</p> <p>More than anything, we need to know - Chinese companies and Chinese manufactures create or build a backdoor to the Chinese government (Beijing) to access data. The Chinese government just uses remote access data whatever and whenever they want from the Chinese companies.</p> <p>TikTok could be a good speculation, a former insider of TikTok claimed a backdoor channel for the Chinese government to access data based on CNN news in June 2023.</p> <p>The UK privacy laws aim to protect privacy and personal information and the importance of informed consent.</p>	<p>Cllr Tom Hunt (Chair of Strategy and Resources Policy Committee and Leader of the Council)</p>

On the contrary, China's privacy laws aim to protect the government.

Through the Chinese-made cameras, who is watching us at the back door?

Have they obtained our informed consent?

What's more. Hikvision, one of the biggest global CCTV camera suppliers, is a Chinese state-owned manufacturer.

Their CCTV cameras were also accused of being used by the Chinese government in the suppression of Uyghur Muslim in Xinjiang China.

Finally, China has been accused of supporting Russia by providing components to Moscow for military supplies based on the BBC interview with Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State.

The behaviours of Chinese manufacturers and the Chinese government are incompatible with our values and moral standards.

Our UK government has banned using Hikvision CCTV in the headquarters area due to security threats. How about the local councils? How about Sheffield Council?

What the Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer said "We need to be absolutely clear about the security of the UK and UK needs to "wean itself off" China when it comes to trade, commerce and technology" in interview with POLITICO in Sept 2023.

My question is what kinds of CCTV cameras are being used in public and government buildings in Sheffield. If there are existing Chinese-made cameras being used, does the Council have a timetable to remove them?

How can the Council procurement process and selection of suppliers take actions to prevent us from these malicious attempts?

Reference

About US, UK accused China behind hacker attacks

25 March 2024, Reuters

US, UK accuse China of cyberespionage that hit millions of people

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/cybersecurity/us-sanctions-chinese-cyberespionage-firm-saying-it-hacked-us-energy-industry-2024-03-25/>

25 March 2024, Sky News

China responsible for two 'malicious' cyber attack campaigns in UK, says Dowden

<https://news.sky.com/story/amp/china-responsible-for-two-cyber-attack-campaigns-in-uk-says-dowden-13101680>

About China hacks Ministry of Defence

7 May 2024, Sky News

China hacked Ministry of Defence, Sky News learns

<https://news.sky.com/story/amp/china-hacked-ministry-of-defence-sky-news-learns-13130757>

7 May 2024, Daily Express

China hacks Ministry of Defence in data breach

7 May 2024, Headline, Daily Express, Newspaper

About CCP hires hackers

Hackers for hire: How the Chinese Communist Party is trying to monitor the entire world, 21 June 2024, ITV

<https://www.itv.com/news/2024-06-21/how-the-chinese-communist-party-is-trying-to-monitor-the-entire-world>

About China's back door and TikTok

8 June 2023, CNN

Analysis: There is now some public evidence that China viewed TikTok data

<https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2023/06/08/tech/tiktok-data-china>

About Hikvision CCTV used by local councils and some councillors raised concerns

18 April 2024, BBC News

Market Harborough: Council reviews CCTV use over China government links

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-68836429.amp>

About Hikvision CCTV used in suppression of Uyghur

4 May 2023, Channel 4 news

Exclusive: Chinese-made Hikvision CCTV cameras, accused of posing risk to national security, found on GCHQ building

<https://www.channel4.com/news/exclusive-chinese-made-hikvision-cctv-cameras-accused-of-posing-risk-to-national-security-found-on-gchq-building>

	<p>About BBC's interview with Blinken</p> <p>19 April 2024, "Blinken says China helping fuel Russian threat to Ukraine", BBC News YouTube Channel</p> <p>11 April 2024, Politico Westminster bans Hikvision CCTV https://www.politico.eu/article/uk-town-halls-to-use-chinese-cctv-security-cameras-despite-westminster-ban-hikvision/</p> <p>About what Starmer said</p> <p>17 Sept 2023, Politico Keir Starmer: UK needs to 'wean itself off' China https://www.politico.eu/article/starmer-labour-uk-needs-to-wean-off-china-biden-obama-trump-power-play-podcast/</p> <p>Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council</p>	
Charlotte Killeya	<p>Skin cancer rates continue to increase across the UK and are predicted to get even higher in future years.</p> <p>Melanoma is the most dangerous form of skin cancer, and the number of cases is also at an all-time high. Cancer Research UK is projecting a record number of Melanoma cases this year.</p> <p>Shockingly, we now have more deaths from Melanoma in the UK than in Australia. I am one of those statistics – at 45-years-old, I'm living with Stage 4 Melanoma.</p> <p>Prevention and awareness are currently lacking and yet they are critical if we are to reduce the number of people suffering from and dying from skin cancer. This requires clear and consistent public health measures at national and local level.</p> <p>As "The Outdoor City" Sheffield is uniquely placed to be an exemplar in the UK on sun safety. Moreover, if we are encouraging our citizens and visitors to enjoy our many beautiful outdoor spaces, we have a responsibility to put in place measures to protect them.</p> <p>Will the Council commit to becoming a "Sun Safe City" as part of being "The Outdoor City"?</p>	Cllr Tom Hunt (Chair of Strategy and Resources Policy Committee and Leader of the Council)

	<p>Will it consider measures such as:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness via social media and on the Council webpage. • As part of its event licensing, make it compulsory that organisers of outdoor events provide free sun cream with a minimum factor of 30. • As a responsible employer, provide information about sun protection and sun cream (factor 30 and above) for their employees who work outdoors. • To look at ways in which we can raise awareness of the dangers of sun bed use in our city. • Pledge to support the #VATBurn Campaign which is asking the government to abolish VAT on factor 30+ sunscreen making it more affordable. <p>Will the Council work with me and skin cancer charities, to put in place these and other measures, to make Sheffield a “Sun Safe City”?</p> <p><i>Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:</i></p> <p>Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council</p>	
Russell Johnson	<p>May I preface the Public Questions by praising the Council for recent progress in City Centre improvements. In particular, Pounds Park is superb, and the Food Hall is a great asset for its intended audience. The general Heart of the City 2 environment is of high quality. I do hope the Council is successful in letting the vacant retail and other spaces and that other parts of the City Centre can be revived as well.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (a) Given the disappointing history of Urban Splash reneging on their commitments to including affordable housing during later phases of the Park Hill project, is the Council sanguine about awarding the John Lewis/Cole Brothers repurposing contract to that Company? (b) Over a year after the announcement for the building’s reuse, there has been no visible progress. May we be optimistic that the scheme will happen, and without demands for public monies? Is there a timescale that Urban Splash and AHMM is expected to comply with? 	Cllr Tom Hunt (Chair of Strategy and Resources Policy Committee and Leader of the Council)

	<p>2. (a) Would the Council's stated intention that it would like to be seen as open, honest and transparent and accountable be more credible if the full report on the 'accidental' demolition of the Market Tavern were published? This is in light of the inaccurate SCC communications that the historic building had 'spontaneously collapsed'!</p> <p>(b) Media reports indicate that no action is to be taken against those responsible for the 'accidental error'. Surely that can't be true? If it is, this seems to mean that officers can be incompetent and behave in such a way as to inflict damage to the Council's already tattered reputation with no accountability?</p> <p>I would welcome the Leader's comment on this apparently remarkable and unacceptable situation. Particularly after the 'Containergate' fiasco that led to ridicule of SCC.</p> <p>Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council</p>	
Sue Owen	<p>The carpet bombing of Gaza, using hundreds of thousands of tons of explosives, has caused devastation to the population, involving the killing of nearly 40,000 people, including over 15,000 children, and the destruction of homes, hospitals, schools, universities, mosques, churches and infrastructure of every kind.</p> <p>Sheffield City Council is part of the South Yorkshire Pension Fund and the Border to Coast Pension Fund which have millions of pounds invested in the arms industry. The range of investments is extensive and includes Airbus, BAE systems, Lockheed Martin, Elbit, QuinetiQ, Raytheon, Rolls Royce and others, all of which provide parts or full weapons, aircraft and drones that are sold to Israel and are used to kill civilians in Gaza and the West Bank.</p> <p>The International Court of Justice is currently investigating Israel for war crimes and genocide in Gaza. This makes arms companies and their financial backers potentially complicit in genocide.</p> <p>We, as pensioners in the South Yorkshire Pension Authority and citizens of Sheffield do not want to be complicit in war crimes and genocide.</p>	Cllr Tom Hunt (Chair of Strategy and Resources Policy Committee and Leader of the Council)

	<p>There is no legal impediment preventing Sheffield City Council having an ethical stance on investments.</p> <p>Will you make a statement making it clear that Sheffield City Council does not support pension investment in the arms industry? And will you commit to raising a discussion at both South Yorkshire Pension Authority and Border To Coast where representatives of the Council can make the argument for divestment from the arms industry?</p> <p>Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:</p> <p>Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council</p>	
Annie O’Gara	<p>Earlier this year, the Sheffield Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid made a formal complaint, using the Councillors’ Code of Conduct as its benchmark. We believed that the Code of Conduct guaranteed high standards of speech and conduct in public office and that it had been egregiously violated in one of the Council’s most important committees.</p> <p>The Complaint was dismissed with no reference to the Code of Conduct. We were also told that there was no right of appeal. We raised the issue again in the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee with no substantive outcome. Therefore, on June 6th, we referred the matter to the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee asking that the complaint be re-heard using the Code of Conduct for Councillors as the benchmark. Our letter was quickly acknowledged, and the Chair of that Committee said that he would ‘<i>look into this matter and ask for it to be investigated accordingly</i>’. We have not had a further reply.</p> <p>Unless some serious steps are taken to restore faith in the Council’s policies, we will have little choice other than to conclude that EITHER the Code of Conduct is a meaningless document, OR that it is selectively applied – both of which scenarios bring this Council into disrepute.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee require a re-hearing of the Complaint using the Code of Conduct as the benchmark? 2. If not, we ask that the Council remove the Code of Conduct from its policies, having failed to implement it with regard to our complaint. 	Cllr Mohammed Mahroof (Chair of Audit and Standards Committee)

	<p>Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here:</p>	
--	--	--

[Agenda for Council on Wednesday 17 July 2024, 2.00 pm | Sheffield City Council](#)

This page is intentionally left blank