

Council – 3rd February 2021

Petitions Received from Members of the Public

Name	Petition	Cabinet Member
Rob Reiss	<p>Petition to present to Sheffield City Council regarding the provision of winter fuel payments for those who are shielding over winter and are struggling to pay their heating bills.</p> <p>The petition has been signed 585 times.</p>	George Lindars-Hammond
Annie Russell	<p>Will Sheffield City Council declare an ecological or biodiversity emergency today, to sit alongside its climate emergency?</p> <p>Joint petition with 974 signatures to date.</p> <p><i>At the council meeting Councillor Mark Jones said he would send you a document, (please see attached), for you to review and come back with a date to discuss its contents further.</i></p>	Mark Jones

Questions Received from Members of the Public

Name	Question	Cabinet Member
Adam Butcher	<p>1. How can we make sure that the communication for people with a learning disability or disability can understand what is going on with in sheffield</p> <p><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p> <p>https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7677&Ver=4</p>	Jackie Drayton

<p>Declan Walsh</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you please tell me how the provision of gritting bins has changed since the streetsahead programme was instituted. i.e. how many bins were provided when they were distributed in-house versus by Amey. 2. Further to this can you tell me the details of whether there is a programme to clear key commuting routes for bicycles and pedestrians during snow and icy conditions? <p><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p> <p>https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7677&Ver=4</p>	<p>Mark Jones</p>
<p>Matthew Smith</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do book loan issues for December 2020 compare with December 2019 for the council run libraries? 2. Sheffield's two Carnegie libraries at Tinsley and Walkley were funded according to the "Carnegie Funding Formula" which required public support rather than making endowments because, as Andrew Carnegie wrote: "an endowed institution is liable to become the prey of a clique. ". What steps has the cabinet member for libraries taken to ensure the volunteer groups currently running the Associate libraries in Walkley and Tinsley maintain the same standards of neutrality as intended by Andrew Carnegie? 3. Could the cabinet member for libraries endeavour to hold a public open Question and Answer session via Zoom alongside the Head of Libraries at some point this year. <p><i>These questions were answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p> <p>https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7677&Ver=4</p>	<p>Mary Lea</p>

Ann Whitaker	<p>1. Why does it take the City Council Repairs Department several days to repair a boiler, when it should be done within 24 hours and then leave the resident with only one available electric socket in the whole house for 3 weeks, the burst boiler having flooded the electrics. Then take almost 3 months to relocate a socket that was unsafe to use as it was situated under the boiler.</p> <p>This happened recently to an elderly lady living in the High Green area, who has serious health issues, making her life even more difficult.</p> <p>What assurances can the City Council give to residents, that they are taking action to ensure that this doesn't happen in the future.</p> <p><i>These questions were answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p> <p>https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7677&Ver=4</p>	Paul Wood
Jim Coleman	<p>1. Can the Cabinet Member clarify what the waiting times are for the council housing repairs service please?</p> <p><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p> <p>https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7677&Ver=4</p>	Paul Wood
Connor Shreeves	<p>1. Why are you allowed to break your contracts with the tenant but as soon as the tenant break the contract with you there will be out on their ear?</p> <p><i>Answer:</i> <i>Since the start of the pandemic the Council has worked hard to deliver essential tenancy, estate management and repairs services to ensure that the most critical services are delivered to tenants and, fulfil our landlord obligations so that our tenants have access to and living in safe and well maintained homes. We have</i></p>	Paul Wood

also provided regular information to customers on progress, backlogs of work and how they have needed to change during the pandemic to ensure that both tenants and staff executing works are safe.

We have managed to safely maintain the vast majority of housing services, repairs given the nature of the works have been limited to essential health and safety and, the most urgent repairs. This has been in line with national and Council guidance.

If any tenant is dissatisfied with the way that repairs have been carried out on their home then I would encourage tenants to put this in writing so we can investigate and address.

During the pandemic we have delivered essential services in line with tenancy agreements and landlord obligations for which rent is paid but I do accept that as we come out of lockdown there will be some backlogs of work that needs to be addressed. I would like to assure you that we have not been evicting for any breaches of tenancy so our tenants have a secure tenancy during this very difficult period and are working closely with tenants to ensure that critical work is prioritised.

2. As a landlord you have to organise the inspection like you have done but why have you not looked at other alterations to the property such as looking for leaking internal pipes, broken or faulty heating systems and cracked walls or rotten window frames?

Answer:

It would be the tenant responsibility to report the repairs if these become an issue in the first instance. Upon this a repair operative or inspector will be sent to the property and address any outstanding repairs if these are identified on the day of the visit.

It is in the councils interest to keep properties up to the lettable standard

3. Am I going to get a rent reduction as compensation for the 9 months last year you left me with rotten and mouldy walls from January to September 2020 and from December 2020 until you fix the problem again?

	<p><i>Answer:</i> <i>The council have a complaints process to address where there is a delay in repairs. Where justified the relevant compensation will be provided to the tenant.</i></p> <p><i>As the pandemic has progressed and such issues as above could have longer term impact and slowly get worse, the repairs and maintenance service have revised the urgent category to include these types of repairs to ensure that they don't become a detriment to the tenant or the property.</i></p> <p>4. Are you going to replace the damaged plaster board, skirting boards, replace mouldy carpets and give me a redecorating grant to decorate the effected areas.</p> <p><i>Answer:</i> <i>Any repairs required as the result of another repair required, will be logged to be completed to standard. If this has not been completed then upon identifying the address, the repairs service will investigate this further.</i></p> <p><i>Typically, following any urgent or emergency works if damage has been caused a follow on job is arranged with the tenant.</i></p> <p>5. You as a landlord have to ensure that the house/ flat a tennant lives in is "fit to live in" so why are you letting tennants live in an unfit house if the mould is seriously effecting your health as it as mine as I've told you on multiple occasions. Please explain to me in detail why you are still allowing this to happen?</p> <p><i>Answer:</i> <i>The service is including such repairs as essential to avoid any impact to the tenants health or damage to the property. This is a result of reviewing the category of works that is carried out whilst the pandemic is ongoing.</i></p>	
Russell Johnson	<p>1. Recycling In 2018-19, (latest available figures) Sheffield was ranked 300 out of 345 Local Authorities for overall recycling performance. https://www.letsrecycle.com/councils/league-tables/2018-19-overall-performance/ <u>Why?</u></p>	Mark Jones

	<p>2. Air Quality Is the Council aware that there is widespread abuse of clean air legislation by burning unauthorised materials and/or by using non approved stoves or fireplaces. Discussions on social media reveal the impression that SCC does not engage in effective action in accordance with its responsibilities, and that this was the case before the Covid crisis. <u>Why?</u></p> <p>3. Apology? (This question is not answered by the begrudging and limited apology regarding the Rustlings Road LGO Report requirement – please resist the temptation to further deflect this request by referring to that). I urge the Leader, on behalf of the whole Ruling Group, to issue a sincere apology for the harm caused to Sheffield’s people and their assets by the Council’s behaviours during the tree felling debacle. To help Members appreciate the importance and value of moving towards atonement, I offer a short quotation from Nick Hayes’ <i>Trespass</i>: <i>‘An apology is an acknowledgment of responsibility, the moment an addict first looks in the mirror and sees himself. It is the first step to recovery. It is a spell that, once uttered, changes the story, resets the balance. It can level the fences, turning division into unity’.</i> A proper apology, followed by a shared collaborative process to uncover the truths beneath this most unfortunate chapter in the history of Sheffield local Governance, would be cathartic and restorative. (The proposed Archive could be helpful in this). Apologising will help to cleanse the toxic reputation of Labour in my city for the Party’s natural supporters. I am one of those people.</p> <p>4. SCC’s response to the LGO Rustlings Road Report. Will the Council be making their response to the Ombudsman public? If yes, when? If no, why not? (Publishing now will make a FOIR unnecessary)</p> <p><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p>	<p>Robert Johnson</p>
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Ann Woolhouse	<p>1. I go to Rother Valley on a fairly regular basis; when I do I park in the car park at the back entrance, The car park is quite small and in a poor state of repair. One of the reasons people park their cars on the road and roundabout, The other, that despite the poor condition it is often full. I would like to know what the council intend to do about this? For clarification, this is the car park by the roundabout opposite Meadow Gate Avenue and is in the Sheffield area.</p> <p><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p> <p>https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7677&Ver=4</p>	Mary Lea
Nigel Slack	<p>1. With the Government having given very clear indications that, despite pre-Brexit promises, they intend a bonfire of workers rights and protections, will this Council confirm that a commitment to paying the Foundation Living Wage will continue to be SCC policy for their own employees?</p> <p>2. Will Council also confirm that the same Foundation Living Wage will be expected of all contractors of SCC and how they intend to enforce that within their 'Ethical Procurement Policy'?</p> <p><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p> <p>https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7677&Ver=4</p>	Terry Fox
Justin Buxton	<p>With reference to Sheffield Legal Services (SLS) http://www.sheffieldlegalservices.org/#services:</p> <p>1. Is SLS a commercial venture / enterprise?</p>	Terry Fox

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. What is the legal status of SLS as an entity? 3. What is the financial relationship between SCC and SLS? 4. Who paid for setup costs and pays day-to-day costs incurred by SLS? What is the figure to date? 5. What happens to any profit made by SLS? 6. Who is responsible for any liability incurred by SLS (including being sued or similar)? 7. Was a business plan submitted to and approved by elected members? If so is this available for public scrutiny? <p><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p> <p><u>https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocument.s.aspx?CId=154&MId=7677&Ver=4</u></p>	
John Hawkins	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I would like to ask is can repairs and maintenance deal directly with tenants reporting repairs instead of waiting times in excess of 40 minute's with the call centre after initial contact afterwards tenants are left in a loop. 2. Also why are vacants left for months empty ie loss of revenue one on Lowedges been empty two and a half years this is not an isolated occasion. 3. Also why are board ups left for months local housing officials failure to monitor or address tenants knock on affect stops repairs and maintenance completing repairs leading to estates looking deprived. <p><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p>	Paul Wood

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Kurtis Crossland	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will the Council commit to supporting children with free school meals for the entire pandemic? 2. Has Westfield moved up the list for a 20mph zone or does it remain “not a priority”? 3. Has the study taken place for the crossing on Station Road and can you give an approximate date for construction yet? <p><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p> <p>https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7677&Ver=4</p>	<p>Abtisam Mohamed/ Jackie Drayton</p> <p>Julie Grocutt</p>
Lindy Stone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In February 2019 Sheffield City Council recognised the urgency of the climate crisis and declared a Climate Emergency. Since this time they have been working on developing a clear data base and are now developing an action plan. <p>In the intervening period, it has become even clearer that alongside the drive to meet a net zero target, it is essential that it is recognised there is an ecological crisis. Biodiversity is in serious decline globally, nationally and locally as the State of Nature report demonstrated. The ecological crisis is both part of and feeds into climate crisis and for the health of the planet is equally dangerous.</p> <p>To name it is to note it. Specific plans do not need to be adopted and developed first. A Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill is making its way through Parliament with extensive support. The Wildlife Trusts across the UK are calling on the government and councils to declare ecological emergencies and</p>	<p>Mark Jones</p>

	<p>several councils have recognised this and done so - including Doncaster MBC. Will Sheffield do the same?</p> <p><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p> <p><u>https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7677&Ver=4</u></p>	
<p>Sophie Thornton</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What steps is the Leader taking to ensure this council treats members of the public and campaigners with respect? 2. Can I have an update to the number of completed boarded up window repairs in Lowedges, Jordanthorpe and Batemoor since I last asked. <p><i>This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):</i></p> <p><u>https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7677&Ver=4</u></p>	<p>Robert Johnson</p> <p>Paul Wood</p>