



## **Council**

**Monday 20 July 2020**

### **Agenda Item 9 (a), Written Questions**

**Question From: Councillor Conrad Copeland**

**Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Barry Wood**

**Topic: Castle Quay**

#### **Question**

“Given the new economic realities and the increased economic uncertainty of the Covid-19 crisis, is there an updated risk assessment available to councillors for the Castle Quay development that takes into account the potential vulnerabilities of each tenant and any concessions that may need to be offered to them to maintain their presence in the centre?”

**Question From: Councillor Ian Middleton**

**Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Barry Wood**

**Topic: Climate Emergency Motion**

“A year ago this council passed a climate emergency motion promising a plan within 6 months and tangible action after that.

The motion made reference to the fact that we only had 10 years to set the planet on a course that would avoid climate meltdown. We now only have 9 years left to prevent that outcome. Yet in that time we have done next to nothing, while continuing to support fossil fuel investments and the destruction of our green belt.

The only palpable moves towards increasing the council’s commitment to decarbonisation and climate change mitigation amount to little more than tokenism. There have been some paltry budget allocations, much of which was already in the pipeline anyway, and the engagement of environmental consultants whose narrow remit avoids much of the council’s work in areas such as planning and development – a major cause of environmental degradation in Cherwell. We need to go further than that.

Whilst I appreciate the past 6 months we have been overtaken by events, climate change has not stood still. There should have been more progress made towards



the goals set out in our climate emergency motion. COVID-19 has been one of the greatest threats our planet has faced, but it will be nothing compared to the misery, death and destruction that future generations will face if we don't halt climate change now.

When are we going to see coherent policies, leadership and action on meeting the commitments this council unanimously voted for in 2019?"

**Question From: Councillor Perran Moon**

**Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Barry Wood**

**Topic: Coronavirus**

"As the UK is released from Coronavirus lockdown, the threat of local outbreaks such as that experienced in Leicester, has increased. The Oxfordshire Local Action Control Plan, while heavy on 'aims', 'objectives' and 'themes', does not actually contain a coherent Action Plan! Can Cherwell District Council please confirm what specific actions would be taken by this Council, in the event of a local spike in positive cases of coronavirus in our area?"

Further, our area employs many thousands of people in small and micro businesses which have had to temporarily shut during the coronavirus outbreak. The window for the application of the Cherwell District Council discretionary grant scheme was less than 2 weeks and many of our local businesses missed out, as they were simply not aware of it. For those businesses not eligible for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure grant and which are not 'rateable', what additional support is Cherwell District Council offering, to prevent hundreds of local small businesses collapsing, with the consequent loss of jobs in our area?"