

Council

Monday 20 July 2026

Written Questions

	Question From	Topic
1	Cllr Mark Cherry	Former Garage Site, Bretch Hill
2	Cllr Michael Wilson	Neurodiversity Awareness Training
3	Cllr Edward Reeves	Area Oversight Groups
4	Cllr Paul Jeffreys	Bins

QUESTION ONE

Question From: Councillor Mark Cherry

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

Topic: Former Garage Site, Bretch Hill

Question

“For over 2 years the former sanctuary housing garage site next to 230 Bretch hill is now on its third owner.

As a consequence, the old garage site has become unsafe dilapidated and prone to antisocial behaviour the Thames Valley neighbourhood police team and community wardens are doing all in their power to tackle this however the whole site needs redevelopment from the new owners and to be made secure.

As the leader of Cherwell District Council can you assure me as a Ruscote ward councillor that you will do all in your power as Cherwell leader to support the Cherwell environmental enforcement team who were trying to get the landowner to move forward with their legal responsibilities and improve the garage site for the local community of Bretch Hill.

QUESTION TWO

Question From: Councillor Michael Wilson

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

Topic: Neurodiversity Awareness Training

Question

“As a councillor with ADHD, I appreciate that the Council provides neurodiversity training through iHasco. Would the council consider offering in person

neurodiversity awareness training to further understanding and support for neurodivergent councillors, staff and residents.

Would the Leader agree to investigate the benefits of face-to-face neurodiversity training and report back to councillors on the options available?"

QUESTION THREE

Question From: Councillor Eddie Reeves

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

Topic: Area Oversight Groups

Question

"Earlier this year, Cherwell District Council agreed to allocate funding for Banbury and other parts of the district to support local development needs. Banbury will have £300,000 allocated through this Fund, for each of the financial years 2026/27 and 2027/28. These funds are to be welcomed.

Area Oversight Groups (AOGs) were set up as consultative, non-decision-making entities, and they are a forum in which to discuss local issues and opportunities and identify possible actions to address these through the development of an Area Priority Plan. Membership includes Cherwell District, Oxfordshire County and Banbury Town Councillors, officers and local stakeholders.

As Deddington ward members, Cllrs Rogers, McLernon and I appear to have been invited to attend meetings of the Banbury AOG. However, there appears to be no mention of the possibility of any rural expenditure at all in the Council's invitation to participate or its attendant funding criteria.

Is this an unfortunate case of miscommunication on the Council's part or has a political decision been taken by the administration to expressly exclude rural wards from receiving a fair share of these important funds?"

QUESTION FOUR

Question From: Councillor Paul Jeffreys

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

Topic: Bins

Question

"The Council's policy is that when an existing 240-litre Green Waste Bin becomes damaged or reaches the end of its serviceable life, it is replaced with a smaller 180-litre bin, representing a 25% reduction in capacity.

Whilst residents are encouraged to recycle as much as possible, many common household waste items cannot be placed in the blue recycling bin, including kitchen roll, tissues, bedding, textiles, carrier bags, cling film, sweet wrappers,

crisp packets, wet wipes and nappies. These items must therefore be disposed of in the Green Waste Bin.

For larger households, particularly those with young children generating nappy waste, a reduction of 25% in bin capacity can create significant difficulties.

At the same time, the annual charge for the Brown Bin garden waste service has increased from £49 to £59 over the last three years. Many residents may be concerned that increasing charges could discourage the proper disposal of garden waste and lead to more waste being placed in Green Waste Bins.

Can the Leader explain what assessment the Council has undertaken of the impact of replacing 240-litre Green Waste Bins with 180-litre bins on larger households and families with young children, whether there are any plans to reduce the size of the Brown Bin from 240 litres to 180 litres, and whether the Council will consider reducing or removing the Brown Bin charge in order to encourage greater use of the service?"