

Council

Monday 19 October 2026

Written Questions

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QUESTION ONE

Question From: Councillor Mark Cherry

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

Topic: Fly Tipping

Question

“Over the past few months, as a Labour district councillor I have seen an increase in fly tipping across Banbury Ruscote. This has been reported and cleared up by the waste management team. However, my question is related to long term strategy by the council including enforcement .

Years ago, Cherwell District Council used to do Cherwell blitzes of estates like Bretch Hill, this included a targeted clear up of waste that's been dumped.

Would the Leader of the Council look into this type of activity in the future as well as targeted information on household waste collections as some bins have not been collected due to have the wrong kind waste in them resulting in a community environmental health hazard.”

QUESTION TWO

Question From: Councillor Mark Cherry

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

Topic: Post 6pm Car Park Charges in Cherwell Operated Car Parks in Banbury

Question

“Would the Leader of Cherwell District Council, Councillor Lesley McLean, assure me as local member for Banbury Ruscote that Cherwell District Council will be looking at any improvements of dispensation or free of charge timeslots for parking at Cherwell District Council car parks during the festive season.

This is vital for businesses in Banbury that rely on people visiting the town in light of recent announcements of parking charges after 6pm in town centre for people using Cherwell District Council car parks.

This is something that been raised to me during conversations with local Banbury residents.”

QUESTION THREE

Question From: Councillor Kieron Mallon

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

Topic: Council Debate

Question

“Can the leader tell me how many motions have been submitted to council since May 2024.

Can the leader tell me how many of those motions have been debated at full council and how many have been delegated to the Executive without debate”

QUESTION FOUR

Question From: Councillor Rebecca Biegel

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

Topic: High Street Rental Auctions (HSRA)

Question

“Cherwell District Council is undertaking a substantial amount of work and developing strategies focused on the regeneration of our town centres and the future of our high streets.

The Government has introduced High Street Rental Auctions (HSRA) providing councils with additional powers to bring long-term vacant commercial premises back into productive use and has also provided some New Burdens funding for each High Street Rental Auction undertaken.

These new powers could potentially give Cherwell District Council an additional tool to deploy as part of its regeneration strategy. Some other councils have explored the use of HSRAs and some find that just having the ability to exercise these powers has helped bring persistent vacant premises back into use where previous attempts have failed.

Given the above, please could the Leader confirm:

- Whether Cherwell is actively considering the use of High Street Rental Auctions, alongside voluntary engagement with property owners as part of its response bring long-term vacant commercial premises back into productive use?
- Whether Cherwell has conducted any analysis of
 - i. the benefits of exercising High Street Rental Auctions powers
 - ii. the resource and financial costs of undertaking the necessary preparatory work to identify qualifying vacant premises and then exercise these powers
 - iii. what funding or existing resources could be used to support this work?
- Whether the Council’s existing Vacant Premises Feasibility Study and subsequent work has identified vacant properties which may potentially meet the statutory criteria for a High Street Rental Auction, and, if not whether the information already gathered could assist the Council in identifying these?
- Finally, if the use of High Street Rental Auctions has not yet been fully considered, may I ask whether the Leader would support the suggestion that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertakes an options review of the potential use of HSRA powers in Banbury, Bicester and other appropriate town-centre locations.”

QUESTION FIVE

Question From: Councillor Mark Cherry

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

Topic: Former General Food Site, Banbury

Question

"Would the Leader of Cherwell District Council Councillor Lesley McLean update members on the future plans for the general food's former coffee factory since its closure this brownfield site has the potential for major redevelopment in Banbury it's important that the council liaises with the current owners and the County Council on future regeneration plans over the next few years this includes Infrastructure as part of the Banbury Master plan."

QUESTION SIX

Question From: Councillor Eddie Reeves

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

Topic: Oxfordshire County Council Quiet Lanes Policy

Question

"Given that Cherwell District Council is responsible for local economic development, has the Leader - or, indeed, any of her Executive colleagues - been consulted on Oxfordshire County Council's controversial Quiet Lanes policy?"

What impact assessment, if any, has been undertaken by either authority on the effects of closing off traffic in the manner proposed on agricultural and other rural businesses?"

QUESTION SEVEN

Question From: Councillor Eddie Reeves

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

Topic: Green Party Anti-Zionist Policy

Question

"Does the Leader agree with her Green Party coalition partners that "Zionism is racism" and, if not, why not?"

QUESTION EIGHT

Question From: Councillor Rebecca Biegel

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

Topic: Pavement Blocking Motion, July Council

Question

“In July I proposed a motion on pavement blocking (seconded by Cllr Reeves) which was passed and referred to the Executive for a response and decision. While responsibility for introducing measures lies with OCC I suggested CDC had a useful role to start logging and compile information about problem areas in this district to present to the County council to inform any plans or measures introduced.

Given that pavement blocking is a live issue and a big concern for many residents I speak to and the executive currently plans to respond to my motion in December Please can the leader explain the reasons and justification for the five months delay?”