

Infrastructure and Development Select Committee
Wednesday 12 July 2023
Public & Local Member Questions

Agenda item 5	Public Question Time
5.1	<p>Question from Lesley Banks</p> <p>Has the Council installed car number plate recognition cameras in Norwich in the last three years?</p> <p>If they have been installed can the Council confirm that they will not be used for a ULEZ type scheme or to enforce a pay per mile scheme for car drivers?</p> <p>Response from the Chair</p> <p>The Council has not installed any new permanent ANPR locations in Norwich in the last three years, although several cameras have been in place for well over three years for the purposes of bus lane enforcement.</p> <p>Occasionally temporary ANPR cameras are installed for the purposes of helping highways teams understand traffic patterns and movements. These are removed once the surveys have been completed.</p>
5.2	<p>Question from Anna Patteson</p> <p>Wensum Lodge, King Street Norwich is an essential place for adult education, recreation and community. It should be supported as it is, rather than what seems to be planning on redeveloping this building for financial gain rather than for its original intended purpose. We need Wensum Lodge to continue being the amazing hub of creativity and learning it is. Anglia Square redevelopment is bad enough. You have no concerns for community or people on low income in my opinion. Please can I have detailed information on why you are redeveloping this building and what you are going to do to rehome Wensum Lodge's long standing community of education and activity.</p> <p>Is it all about profit and not communities?</p> <p>Response from the Chair</p> <p>I understand that the strength of feeling around the Wensum Lodge site and also the value of cultural and educational activities.</p> <p>We remain committed to providing cultural and educational activities, both in Norwich and elsewhere in Norfolk. The Adult Learning service already delivers classes in 137 locations across Norfolk, and this already includes a number of locations in central Norwich.</p> <p>Officers are carrying out work to secure new locations for classes and will confirm to learners where classes will be delivered in the future as soon as they can. We will remain at Wensum Lodge until the end of December and will give learners as much notice as we can about any changes.</p> <p>In terms of the future of the site, I think it is important highlight that the Music House building (a grade 1 listed building dating from the 12th century) is owned by Norwich City Council and it will be for the City Council to decide on its future use, although I am sure that they would wish to protect the important heritage and history of this</p>

	building.
5.3	<p>Question from Eloise O'Hare</p> <p>Weed killer effects hedgehogs and human life on the planet. Is it possible to stop spraying weed killer on pavements in the city like other towns have done?</p> <p>Response from the Chair</p> <p>The Council is committed to minimising the use of herbicides, including those containing glyphosate, to control weeds or other undesirable plant species on its managed land, whilst still maintaining safe and healthy spaces fit for purpose and appropriate use by its communities. For the forthcoming 2023/24 season, a reduction to the previous policy was approved by members, from two annual treatments to one. This is a significant reduction in the amount of weedkiller used by the Council.</p> <p>A new glyphosate policy and Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP) has been put in place for this year. The Council continues to use glyphosate for treating of kerb lines and footways, in order to keep the highway safe, for example to reduce the risk to the public of trips and falls. Glyphosate usage will be closely monitored over the course of the summer in line with the policy. Any new developments in alternative products this area will also be explored.</p>
5.4	<p>Question from Amanda Colman</p> <p>I have just completed a pottery course at WL , it's a perfect venue for adult education including the arts, BSL and sports, courses that cannot be delivered online. It's good for self esteem and mental health to have actual contact with others. It's totally short sighted to sell this asset which belongs to Norwich, please reconsider and could you be honest and say it's because you need the money for the Western Link and stop fabricating reasons for selling.</p> <p>I beg you to not sell, Wensum Lodge belongs to us all , it should not be just up to a few politicians to decide to what to do with it, you should be the custodians and few honoured that you have this position . Will you please reconsider ? Listen to the people who love WL?</p> <p>Response from the Chair</p> <p>I agree that cultural and creative courses provide a number of benefits for individuals, and that is why our Adult Learning service remains committed to continuing to deliver cultural and educational activities.</p> <p>The decision to withdraw the Adult Learning service from the site was not taken lightly, and we want to do what is best for the future of the whole service. There a number of reasons why the site no longer meets the future needs of the service, including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The site is significantly underused, with space utilised on site being

	<p>consistently below 30%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The way that people want to access our courses has changed and we deliver just 22% of our total courses from Wensum Lodge• The layout and nature of the buildings means that many rooms are not accessible for all learners, particularly disabled learners. There is very limited parking on site and despite being in the centre of Norwich, access to public transport is not good, particularly for those people who are not able to walk very far• We have been increasing the number of courses that we deliver outside Norwich so that people from across Norfolk can access these opportunities, and also helps people save the time and costs of travelling. This approach has been very much welcomed by those who live outside Norwich• We already deliver some of our Norwich courses in other venues in the centre of Norwich because Wensum Lodge doesn't have the facilities that some of our learners need• The site is inefficient and significant repair and maintenance costs are needed. Moving to more appropriate locations means the service can be more financially efficient
5.5	<p>Question from Lee Cozens</p> <p>Wensum Lodge is part of the fabric of our city. It has value beyond its physical structure. It is where ordinary people come to explore their creative life. Does this committee recognise the need for humans to express themselves creatively or are we merely worker drones?</p> <p>Why cant Wensum Lodge be saved from the hangman's noose?</p> <p>Response from the Chair</p> <p>Our Adult Learning service remains committed to continuing to deliver cultural and educational activities.</p> <p>The decision to withdraw the Adult Learning service from the site was not taken lightly, and we want to do what is best for the future of the whole service. There a number of reasons why the site no longer meets the future needs of the service, including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The site is significantly underused, with space utilised on site being consistently below 30%• The way that people want to access our courses has changed and we deliver just 22% of our total courses from Wensum Lodge• The layout and nature of the buildings means that many rooms are not accessible for all learners, particularly disabled learners• There is very limited parking on site and despite being in the centre of Norwich, access to public transport is not good, particularly for those people who are not able to walk very far• We have been increasing the number of courses that we deliver outside Norwich so that people from across Norfolk can access these opportunities,

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Agenda item 6	Local Member Issues/Questions
6.1	There were no member questions submitted in advance.