

MEMBER QUESTIONS COUNCIL 16 JULY 2026

Question from Councillor Adam Fefjer

Collaborative Approach to Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog: Clive Road

Residents across the county continue to feel the impact of the long-standing infrastructure backlog, particularly in areas where roads have deteriorated beyond the point where temporary repairs are effective.

One such example in my ward is Clive Road. As both a ward member and a resident, I have raised concerns about the worsening condition of the road surface for many years. Unfortunately, repeated patching has failed to resolve the issue, and the growing number of potholes is now becoming a significant safety concern for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

I appreciate that the department is having to balance a large number of competing priorities across the county. With that in mind, could the Portfolio Holder provide an update on any current or plans for Clive Road?

Question from Councillor Andy Boddington

At least eight litter bins in Ludlow have been removed in the last few months, including in St Lawrences churchyard, Hucklemarsh Road a footpath to Stanton Road. Why?

Question from Councillor Greg Ebbs

Can the Portfolio Holder provide an update on the rollout and operational status of ANPR cameras across the council area, including any outcomes achieved to date and the anticipated next steps for the programme?

Question from Councillor Dawn Husemann

It has been brought to my attention that it is normally the case with contracts with the big consulting houses such as PwC that certain provisions are built into the contract to protect the consulting body should the contract be cancelled. Apparently these are referred to as “tails in contracts” or “earn out clauses” but may be known by other terms and could be something like the “ex client has to pay the consultant say 5% of any future savings arising from the consultants work/intellectual property”. So will the council please confirm that the £13m paid to PwC is the full extent of our commitment to them or are there any other financial commitments due now or that may become due in the future or are contingent in any way?

Question from Councillor Brendan Mallon

It has come to my attention that extraordinary extensions to consultation periods are being made available by the planning department, sometimes with multiple extensions being granted to stretch the process out well beyond a year.

This is an inordinate amount of time. The government's planning guarantee policy is "that no application should spend more than a year with decision-makers, including any appeal. In practice this means that major planning applications should be decided in no more than 26 weeks and non-major applications within 16 weeks."

It is implausible that individuals or small developers would have such extraordinary latitude. No one should be permitted to game the system, tying up our already overstretched Planning resources and extending uncertainty for residents.

Will the Council take decisive action to end this ongoing mockery of the Planning System and furthermore, provide clear and robust policy for Members, Officers and the public on how far deadlines can legitimately and reasonably be extended and well-defined parameters for extensions, including the maximum number of extensions and a maximum duration, in order to prevent further subversion of our processes?

Question from Councillor Donna Edmunds

On Monday 22nd June I submitted a set of written questions to officers on the Dutton Close, Stoke Heath asylum placements — on what officers knew and when, our statutory duties, the likely cost, and what risk assessments have been done — and I have received a substantive answer to none of them. Nor have I had an answer to subsequent questions along similar lines. Meanwhile, the council has written to both the Home Secretary and the Parish Council in regard to the scheme. Can the leader explain why those letters were not shared with myself as the ward member, despite me asking directly about this issue, and say whether she will commit today to full written answers to my questions without further unnecessary delay?