

QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning:

1. The portfolio holder will be aware that a date of 8th September was set, by Court Order, for the removal of the baled waste from land at Doddlespool Hall Farm, in the Betley area of my ward.

Last Sunday evening (17 November), at about 17.00, I was contacted by concerned residents about a fire on the land at Doddlespool Hall Farm. They informed me the fire brigade had been called.

Can the portfolio holder assure me that the Environment Agency has checked the court order has been complied with and the baled, or indeed other waste, was not the source of the fire?

Can the portfolio holder also assure me that the relevant Borough Council Officers have confirmed that, since the fire on Sunday evening, there is no ongoing risk to residents?

Cllr. Mandy Berrisford

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To the Leader of the Council:

2. A key part of the Kidsgrove Town Deal funding is £3.65m to deliver an improved, modern Kidsgrove station building, a new transport interchange, and a 200-space car park. There has been concern for some time about the risk to the Kidsgrove Station project because of abnormal ground conditions that has led to a significant funding gap.

It was announced by the previous government in February 2024 that Kidsgrove would benefit from Network North funding as part of an uplift in the Local Transport Fund (LTF) as the result of the cancellation of the Birmingham to Crewe section of the HS2 project. There has been uncertainty about if the new government would honour that commitment.

Can the Leader provide an update on the funding situation?

Cllr. Paul Waring

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To the Leader of the Council:

3. In regard to the Knutton war memorial what maintenance does the Council carry out and with what frequency does it occur?

Cllr. Robert Moss

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To the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth:

4. Can the portfolio holder confirm if an impact assessment or viability report has been undertaken following the decision by Lucideon to withdraw from the Chatterley Valley Business park, and cancel their planned bespoke HQ, citing a substantial increase in costs for the site?

Cllr. Andrew Fox-Hewitt

To the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing:

5. Following the news that nine fire stations/teams have withdrawn from the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service 'three person crewing trial', whereby staff assert that the service is violating the management Health and Safety Regulations 1999, can the portfolio holder provide an assurance that the administration still have full confidence in the trial, and an assurance that both fire fighter and public safety here in Newcastle is not at risk as a result of this trial continuing.

Cllr. Andrew Fox-Hewitt
