

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 02 FEBRUARY 2022

a) Question from Ann Sheehy, Acclimatise Whaley to Councillor C Renwick, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Environment

“On behalf of our members I wish to raise our concerns about the continuing use of glyphosates by Derbyshire County Council.

The regulatory regime in place in the UK recognises that there are risks to the use of herbicides such as glyphosate and has set in place, for nearly a decade, measures which should limit use of such products. In March 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic to humans”. There is a live debate about glyphosate’s environmental impacts and use in gardens. Some countries and many cities across the world have banned or strongly regulated the use of glyphosate.

What is DCC’s policy on the use of glyphosate in particular and herbicides in general and is there any plan to reduce levels of herbicide used by the Council and its contractors?”

b) Question from David Ingham to Councillor S Spencer Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Budget

“I have recently attended council meetings. It is beneficial for the public to see directly positive work done by members, their discussions and time committed. The other reason public should ideally attend is because minutes are not verbatim.

At the Audit Committee in September 2021, 2 particularly pertinent points regarding the Whistleblowing procedure were raised by members but not recorded. At the Governance Committee in 2021 an individual raised matters about the chairs report – neither the matters raised or the individuals attendance were recorded.

Most meetings I have been the only member of the public present and whilst I don't feel lonely consider more can be done. The Council website detailing meetings open to the public is not correct and has been raised. On individual webpages for each committee meeting it is not clear that the public can attend - and indeed at Scrutiny Committees even submit questions.

I ask if this key information can be added as it can only help to support open government and may possibly serve to reduce the number of questions raised directly to Ward Members and in turn the number of questions at Full Council unless there is still a compelling need.”