

## COUNCIL – 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2017

### QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. **Question submitted by Councillor Barton to the Cabinet Member for Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)**

"Would it be possible for Sefton Council to undertake an inquiry into its tree care strategy across the Borough which considers some of the following points observed in Southport alone:

- An end to the harsh pruning of trees which leaves large sections of bare central trunk exposed
- The correct removal of trees that damage walls and pavements through dense branch and root growth, which is a problem in several locations including Lord Street West.
- Planting of new trees that are not prone to aphids which secrete sap which has been a nuisance in certain locations such as Lord Street
- A greater utilisation of locally sourced knowledge to retain and maintain the surround Sefton landscape in its best form possible for past, present and future generations to come."

**Response:**

Would it be possible for Sefton Council to undertake an inquiry into its tree care strategy across the Borough which considers some of the following points observed in Southport alone:

- An end to the harsh pruning of trees which leaves large sections of bare central trunk exposed.
  - “All pruning is undertaken to British Standards and as such is not detrimental to the trees health. Is there any location in particular which Cllr Barton is referring to, we would be happy to investigate this?”
- The correct removal of trees that damage walls and pavements through dense branch and root growth, which is a problem in several locations including Lord Street West.
  - “The decision to remove a tree is one which is taken after careful consideration and trees on the highway are only removed in the interests of public safety. This not only includes those trees which have been identified as dead, diseased or structurally unsound but also those which have outgrown their location with regards to the effect of their root system on the highway.

The trees which are removed for their negative impact on the surface of the highway are only considered once all engineering solutions have been explored and in conjunction with advice from our colleagues in the highways team.”

- Planting of new trees that are not prone to aphids which secrete sap which has been a nuisance in certain locations such as Lord Street
  - “All new tree planting is picked with careful consideration. Only species suitable for the highway are chosen and this includes their attractiveness to aphids. We also consider size and shape of crown in maturity, impact on hard surfaces and also whether the tree will need allot of maintenance in the future.”
- A greater utilisation of locally sourced knowledge to retain and maintain the surround Sefton landscape in its best form possible for past, present and future generations to come.
  - “Our aim is to create a well-balanced tree population for generations now and in the future.
  - The tree team is a very front facing service talking to, and receiving correspondence from, many residents a month. This allows us to form good local knowledge along with all members of the tree team living within Sefton and all have worked for the council for over 10 years.
  - If there is any specific incidents where we could have improved with regards to this it would be great to know so this can be fed back to the team.”

**2. Question submitted by Councillor Preece to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Atkinson)**

“What projected positive economic gain short/medium/longer term has Sefton Council budgeted for directly and indirectly from the impact of world famous Open Golf Tournament this July?”

**Response:**

“The 2017 Open Golf Championship presents Sefton with many strategic opportunities to stimulate the visitor economy, facilitate trade and investment and achieve an economic and community legacy for the Borough, far beyond the duration of the event.

The Economic impact for Liverpool City region is anticipated to be in the region of £80m - £100m with over 200,000 visitors estimated by the R&A. A full economic impact assessment will be completed, post event. It is worth noting figures from the economic impact assessment for the previous Open at Troon quantified more than £110 million worth of benefit to Scotland and £76.3m for the Liverpool City region when the Open was held in Hoylake.”

3. **Question submitted by Councillor Bradshaw to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)**

"Can the Leader inform me if the Council has put in a response to Highways England's consultation regarding A5036 road options?"

**Response:**

"Yes, see the response from the Council attached."