

	Annexe A – Public Questions
<b>Name of person submitting</b>	<b>Question</b>
<b>Matt Harrison</b>	<p><b><u>At it's full council meeting of 2 May 2023, Shepton Mallet Town Council unanimously resolved to submit the following requests to Somerset Council.</u></b></p> <p><u>Shape Campus Commercial Options Appraisal</u> Somerset Council should engage with Shepton Mallet Town Council's resolution to undertake a commercial options appraisal so the two organisations can have a serious commercial and political conversation about it. Given the context of Shepton Mallet now being without a leisure centre and question marks looming large over the future of the Minor Injuries Unit, the Town Council should lead this conversation. The Integrated Care Board and local Primary Care Networks are undertaking significant research about potentially needing space at Shape so the organisations should make sure we are joined-up on this.</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Ros Wyke - Lead Member for Property, Assets and Development</i></p> <p><u>Shape Campus car park and Park Road utilisation</u> The new Collett Park play park and Strawberry Line link opening have shown Shepton Mallet Town Council means it when it says they are physically developing the town. However, Shepton Mallet Town Council needs cooperation from Somerset Council to best utilise the car park to make visiting Shepton and the park easy. This would encourage tourism and drive economic regeneration. See also Town wide car parking strategy.</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Mike Rigby - Lead Member for Transport and Digital</i></p>

Levelling Up Fund Round 2 bid project deployment

Shepton Mallet Town Council needs to ensure the thousands of pounds spent on this work is not wasted before time dilutes its relevance. Shepton Mallet Town Council needs to ensure the work is considered by highways and planned in. Specifically, we need highways to consider the High Street reversal project, as proposed both in the Levelling Up Fund round 2 bid and the Neighbourhood Plan. As our incumbent MP has made clear, the work identified in the bid should have been delivered by the previous County Council as business as usual. Shepton Mallet Town Council needs to make sure the new Council knows this will be expected of them. Specifically also, the Rectory Road safety improvements as resolved in Shepton Mallet Town Council 's TD&P committee need implementing by highways.

*Response from: Cllr Mike Rigby – Lead Member for Transport and Digital*

Leisure Centre / Sports provision

As Shepton Mallet Town Council develops a strategy for addressing the structural shortfalls - a legacy from previous administrations - we need both expertise and funding from Somerset Council so when Shepton Mallet Town Council is in a position to build, it is able to do so.

*Response from: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts – Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Culture*

West Shepton Playing Fields

Shepton Mallet Town Council needs to take ownership of this land to (i) protect from future housing development, other than the much-needed social provision already planned (ii) give the town quality open green space that can be used for sports in perpetuity. It's in such a great position now (Scouts, football club, skate park, BMX track, Strawberry Line), a development strategy would be easy to pull together. The Somerset FA has serious money on the table now to help develop physical assets such as 5G training pitches and pavilions.

*Response from: Cllr Ros Wyke – Lead Member for Prosperity, Assets and Development / Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts – Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Culture*

Commercial Road car park

There have been two serious offers from commercial developers in the last three years; Shepton Mallet Town Council needs to truly benefit from any development and play a much more upweighted role than the standard statutory consultee position it normally takes. Whoever/whatever buys the land would shape that part of Shepton for decades to come.

*Response from: Cllr Mike Rigby – Lead Member for Transport and Digital*

The former registry office

Shepton Mallet Town Council should take ownership of this strategically located modern, relatively well maintained building which is currently not in use.

*Response from: Cllr Ros Wyke – Lead Member for Property, Assets and Development*

Friday markets charter

The opportunity to drive economic regeneration could be much more easily realised if Shepton Mallet Town Council takes ownership of the weekly Friday market. Exploratory research into effective operational and marketing of other markets has already begun. It is vital that footfall is raised on the High Street and pedestrianised Town Street, not just to assist existing businesses but also to help make people feel safer on our streets; regular markets are a great way of facilitating this and Shepton Mallet Town Council believes it can vastly improve on the current offering.

*Response from: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts – Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Culture*

B3136 / A37 cycle bridges

Highways need to maintain the momentum of the Mendip legacy of the Strawberry Line by funding the installation of these bridges. Priority to the B3136 so a direct, traffic-free route to Wells is created. Shepton Mallet Town Council commissioned the engineering plans. Highways should provide the installation funds. Shepton Mallet Town Council can project manage it, like it did the Market Place resurfacing.

*Response from: Cllr Mike Rigby – Lead Member for Transport and Digital*

Free parking for existing Sunday market

Shepton Mallet Town Council needs to be able to actively promote the Shape Mendip car park as being free to park in over weekends to help the Sunday market thrive. According to the current market organiser, it is the only monthly market in Somerset not to benefit from advertised free parking. See also Town wide car parking strategy.

*Response from: Cllr Mike Rigby – Lead Member for Transport and Digital*

Flooding mitigation work

Shepton Mallet Town Council needs Somerset Council to commit to fund the proposed works pulled together by the Mendip-funded Calm Engineering and Carroll Environmental project. Especially as house building increases, the known bottlenecks in the foul and surface water waste works need to be addressed.

*Response from: Cllr Sarah Dyke – Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change*

Social housing commitment

Shepton Mallet Town Council needs Somerset Council to commit to deliver on the confirmed social housing plans for West Shepton.

*Response from: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts – Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Culture*

National Planning Policy Framework support

Shepton Mallet Town Council needs Somerset Council to help assist with the delivery of the 'CG Fry / former Mid-Somerset Showground' plans to alleviate the local housing shortage. This will (i) provide much needed S106 (or CIL if that replaces it) and reduce the potential of speculative developers wanting to build on inappropriate sites.

*Response from: Cllr Ros Wyke – Lead Member for Property, Assets and Development*

Citizens Advice Bureau funding

Shepton Mallet Town Council should not be funding this organisation. It should insist on requesting this is funded in a more strategic way and all CABs in the county funded holistically, by the county council.

*Response from: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts – Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Culture*

Bringing tourism to Shepton

Shepton is proud of The Prison which is now a major tourist attraction in the South West. The town needs to capitalise on this to make it a destination rather than a single visit location. There are several decaying buildings in need of restoration and development, including The Anglo Trading Estate, a Grade II\* building at risk, The Bell pub in the town centre, and the Amulet. Shepton Mallet Town Council has ideas for projects in such key buildings that would attract tourism if funds can be sourced.

*Response from: Cllr Ros Wyke – Lead Member for Prosperity, Assets and Development*

	<p><u>Town wide car parking strategy</u></p> <p>Somerset Council should fund a town-wide car parking strategy that identifies issues perceived by residents, availability of car parking and then implement mitigation plans to assist with the economic regeneration of the town.</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Mike Rigby – Lead Member for Transport and Digital</i></p> <p><u>Library</u></p> <p>Somerset Council to continue to fund library provision to enable the facility to remain in its current location and provide the same opening hours and service.</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts – Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Culture</i></p> <p><u>Citizens Advice</u></p> <p>Shepton Mallet Town Council should be considering its long-term funding of this organisation. It should insist on requesting this funding in a more strategic way and all Citizen’s Advice in the County funded holistically by Somerset Council and remains committed to supporting its residents.</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts – Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Culture</i></p>
<p><b>Amanda Millar</b></p>	<p><b><u>Problems on Dunstan Park Estate</u></b></p> <p>Welcome to Chaos Road!</p> <p>Problems on Dunstan Park Estate and the Need to Prevent Children From Harm.</p>

Residents who live on Dunstan Park Estate in Glastonbury are concerned about the lack of traffic calming measures and potential danger to children playing on or near any of the roads into the estate.

It is a relatively new estate just off the Wells Road and round the corner from West Mendip hospital.

Taylor Wimpey built it and have been responsible for it's maintenance.

Residents have written to them a number of times asking what are they are doing about transferring the responsibility to Somerset County Council highways department and when will it ever happen. They always reply that it takes a long time to do all the checks properly before the transfer is done.

But the first section of the busy main road into estate was originally built 14 years ago!

Furthermore, this part of the thoroughfare has now become the responsibility of the highways department.

Their latest email states that section 28 applies to part of our estate, Sharpham Road, the main thoroughfare into the estate and therefore the highways department is responsible for it.

Then it is the transport department's responsibility, according to them.

I rang the transport department and they were very helpful.

They advised us to:-

Look up the Somerset County council's site online to find out about speed limits.

Look into additional information about traffic calming measures.

Contact our local councillor Phillip Ham about this.

Contact our local town council.

Contact our local parish council.

Make an application to the appropriate department in Somerset County Council.

We will do this but we fear that it will take a long time.

We want to avoid a child being injured or fatally wounded as soon as possible.

Some residents have decided to take matters into their own hands regarding speed limits and other measures.

A resident called round to my house just now.

He described how when new people, (including drivers of emergency vehicles), come into the estate via Sharpham Road they don't know the layout of the estate.

They will then drive into the narrowest road of all.

This is the only road where vehicles are able to go into and out of the estate. They won't be able to see around the sharp corner until it is too late.

No matter how slowly they drive, they will meet oncoming traffic within a very limited space, with cars parked either side of this narrow road.

Emergency vehicles, paramedics, have been delayed due to the preponderance of parked cars everywhere blocking the corner and not able to reach critically ill patients quickly enough.

Residents call the above,



CHAOS ROAD.

We residents will do our best but feel that this is far too urgent.

We would like somebody in Somerset County Council, if at all possible, to take on some of the responsibility and help us with our enquiries.

Workers in the transport department have been very helpful so far, unlike Taylor Wimpey, who we will write to yet again.

We would like traffic calming measures put in place as soon as possible.

And we want it done now in order to protect children on our estate from harm.

QUESTION ONE

What help can any department, person or officer give to us in order to prevent a child being injured or fatally wounded?

QUESTION TWO

What timescale can be given regarding the above?

QUESTION THREE

What S.M.A.R.T. goals can be put in place to achieve the above?

	<p>(S. Specific M. Measurable A Achievable R. Realistic T. Timed)</p> <p>ie how long will this take, a day, a week or months away?</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Mike Rigby – Lead Member for Transport and Digital</i></p>
<p><b>Loretta Whetlor</b></p>	<p><b><u>B3191 Watchet</u></b></p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to come and address you today. I am here as a very concerned resident of Watchet. Back on 12<sup>th</sup> January this year Somerset County Council closed the B3191 following the results of a geotechnical survey. More detailed inspections revealed further movement of the road as reported in the news on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023. Since that date no further information has been passed to the people of Watchet. They are very unhappy about this they feel that they have been forgotten and wonder if it's a case of "if we don't mention it perhaps it will go away". Well, it won't go away and nor will the people of Watchet. It is affecting businesses and residents alike. Tourism will be drastically affected this summer.</p> <p>My questions are :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has there been any more movement of the road/cliff documented since the last date on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023? If so please can we in Watchet be told. If not, why has no more been done. It is now 2 months since this last report and 5 months since the road was closed initially. Please advise the people of Watchet that you have not abandoned them.</li> </ol>

	<p>2. Can you please advise whether all the Councillors on the Somerset Council are aware of the 7 Nolan Principles of Public Life. If not, can you assure me that they will be.</p> <p>3. A resident recently told me that she has written to the Leader of the Council, The Chair of the Council, several MPs in London including the Prime Minister and the Portfolio Holder of the Council responsible for Highways regarding my first question. These letters/emails were sent over the past two months. She has to date not received ONE response to her letters/emails. I find this appalling. I am happy to provide her name to you privately.</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Mike Rigby – Lead Member for Transport and Digital / Cllr Bill Revans – Leader of the Council</i></p>
<p><b>David Redgewell</b></p>	<p><b><u>Public Transport in Somerset</u></b></p> <p>Question 1.</p> <p>What progress is being made on the Wells bus and coach station to Westbury Sub Mendip Draycott Cheddar Axbridge bus routes and connections with Winscombe Banwell Locking Weston bus and coach station, service 51.</p> <p>Especially with the summer tourist season in Somerset and the need for access to Cheddar and Axbridge by public transport network.</p> <p>Local residents also need access to education, colleges and university in Weston Super Mare and Weston Super Mare hospital.</p> <p>This is an urgent matter for Somerset Catch the Bus Campaign, Somerset Bus Partnership, Railfuture Severnside with the main line First Group, Great Western Railway Station at Weston Super Mare. Councillors Tessa Munts and Theo Butt Phillips, Wells Bus Users Group.</p> <p>Visit Somerset and Visit West South West Transport Network, Severnside Railway Partnership.</p>

In view of the fact North Somerset Council has provided a new bus service from Cribbs Causeway bus and coach station to Portishead and Clevedon.

What progress is being made with North Somerset Council and Somerset Council on this important transport link, urgently for the summer season as a 16 seater westlink demand responsive bus service is not big enough for the transport link.

Questions 2.

What progress is being made with First Group Plc Bus Division South on the recruitment of drivers at the following bus depots: Minehead, Bridgwater, Taunton and Yeovil and First Group Plc Wales and West Bus Division on bus drivers for Wells Bus Depot in Somerset, which is subject to an electrification plan.

Is any monitoring being carried out by Somerset Council officers on the streets in Taunton and District or Minehead on the effect on passengers or discussion with the western traffic commissioner Kevin Rooney.

Questions 3.

What progress is being made on the plans to improve bus railway integration at Taunton railway station for buses and coaches with waiting shelters and passengers facilities and Taunton transport hub.

With Network Rail, Western Route, First Group Plc, Great Western Railway, Arriva Cross Country Trains, German State Railway, Department for Transport, Severn Railway Partnership, Heart of the West, Local Enterprises Partnership and Peninsula Transport Board.

To make bus rail integration work for the West Somerset by First Group Plc Bus 28 and the West Somerset Railway via Bishop Lydeard station. And bus 25 to Dulverton and progress on Taunton transport hub.

In the town centre for buses and coaches service on First Group Plc South Division, Buses of Somerset, National Express coaches, Megabus, Flixbus, Berrys Coaches, Hatch Green and Dartline Go Ahead Group South West.

On waiting rooms changing places toilets, cafe or snack bar, CCTV cameras and modern waiting facilities bus and rail realtime information systems.

	<p>When is a public consultation and planning application due. David Redgewell South West Transport Network, Railfuture Severnside.</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Mike Rigby – Lead Member for Transport and Digital</i></p>
<p><b>Tess Gill</b></p>	<p><b><u>Petition - Cross to Axbridge Safe Path - Get the Job Done</u></b></p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to present and speak in support of our online petition, (Cross to Axbridge Safe Path - Get the Job Done <a href="https://chnng.it/YDM92NzJWk">https://chnng.it/YDM92NzJWk</a>) asking the Council to take action to ensure the right of way between Cross and Axbridge is safe and accessible to all users. This has been an objective of the Parish Council and local community for many years due to the danger to pedestrians of walking on narrow Cross Lane which is the only alternative route between Cross and Axbridge and is increasingly congested with HGV vehicles. Axbridge has the shops, school, chemist, Doctor making it an essential destination for Cross and Compton Bishop which have none.</p> <p>Our campaign was established in 2013 by the Parish Council and our first action was a procession of local people from Axbridge to Cross where we were addressed by Tessa Munt then our MP.</p> <p>In 2016 we presented our first petition to SCC and with the support of David Fothergill and local Councillor Bob Filmer work was carried out in 2020 installing a pedestrian refuge on the A38 and a pavement along Cross Lane up to the entrance to the right of way across the fields. This was a big step forward but we have had numerous reports since then of pedestrians using the right of way including children being worried by cattle. An Axbridge resident was seriously injured. One field along the way still has no fencing separating the cattle from pedestrians, the other a flimsy electric fence easily breached. The grassy surface is unsuitable for buggies and mobility scooters or for those less mobile and the gates are inaccessible for such users.</p> <p>Therefore the steps set out in the petition are also urgently needed, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The footpath has a firm stable surface</li> <li>2. Stock proof fencing is installed along the whole length to ensure the safety of pedestrians, prams, children and dogs on leads;</li> </ol>

	<p>3. Any gates if necessary are accessible to all users including mobility scooters and buggies.</p> <p>We have been told there is a new programme of SIS projects that will focus on the Government’s transport priorities of carbon reduction, promoting active travel, safety and rural mobility. We believe that upgrading the right of way has excellent policy alignment with these objectives. It will stop car use for a distance of less than a mile and encourage the pleasant walk along the path with views of our beautiful countryside. Our petition which is supported by the Parish Council, Axbridge Action Group, and our County Councillors is the latest of many expressions of strong community support. The comments made by signatories to the petition attest to the dangers of Cross Lane and problems with access to and safety from cattle of walking along the right of way. As Cross Lane is the only alternative to using the right of way there is no current safe route and we would ask the Council to give it its support.</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Ros Wyke – Lead Members Prosperity, Assets and Development</i></p>
<b>Sigurd Reimer</b>	<p><b><u>Climate Emergency – Carbon Neutrality</u></b></p> <p>Four years ago Somerset County Council and the four District Councils declared a climate emergency. A number of positive initiatives followed in their wake, and during this period Taunton Extinction Rebellion had a number of meetings with its local Council, based on our worries about the risks from climate breakdown. In particular, we expressed, and are still expressing, concern around the evidence from United Nations scientists of an imminent and irretrievable tipping point being reached in extreme weather patterns, caused by climate change.</p> <p>With today being the first meeting of the new Council, how realistic does it now regard achieving its aim of carbon neutrality by 2030?</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Sarah Dyke – Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change</i></p>

**Nigel Behan**

**Global Warming**

As the BBC have reported: [Global warming set to break key 1.5C limit for first time](#)

- a) What steps and measures can the New Unitary Council apply to actively minimise the forecasted rise in global warming?

“The LGA have produced a series of (Adapting to climate change) case studies:

“Highlighting best-practice communications of councils who are communicating climate change action to residents, businesses and staff.” As they assert.

- b) Does Somerset Council plan to participate in similar activities and propose meaningful, significant and practical projects – with measurable outputs etc?
- c) The NALC noted that: “Recommendations for NALC policies and services: a) As part of its range of ‘good-practice’ publications, NALC is recommended to produce one or a number of Climate Change related material, which includes ‘legal advice’ on the creative use of the powers already available to local councils, as summarised in this document b) Local councils should be given a direct power to undertake tree planting and other eco-friendly activities on a much wider range of land, beyond just their own recreational spaces and highway verges. c) The ‘section 137’ expenditure limit on community energy facilities and activities should be removed d) Local councils should be given the power to promote and operate facilities and services to recycle waste and re-use resources. e) The role and effectiveness of neighbourhood plans in relation to Climate Change should be protected and given more weight in decision-making. f) Local councils should be given a power to promote and run facilities for their local community which make effective use of ICT (Information and Communications Technology), such as community broadband systems.” How can Somerset expand (develop further existing powers) on these proposals in a meaningful and significant way?

	<p><i>Response from: Cllr Sarah Dyke – Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change</i></p>
<p><b>Elizabeth Browne</b></p>	<p><b><u>Social Care Provision and Housing Development</u></b></p> <p>Taking future health and social care provision into account, how can it be acceptable to consider permission for major developments in Bridgwater using statements based on building space capacity rather than list sizes for primary care and available bedspace in secondary care? Also why are some developers not being asked to contribute towards local healthcare provision whilst their proposals will have significant impacts on the above services?</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Heather Shearer – Lead Member for Adult Services / Cllr Ros Wyke – Lead Member for Prosperity, Assets and Development</i></p>
<p><b>Sarah Baker</b></p>	<p><b><u>Social Care Provision and Housing Development</u></b></p> <p>Recently Sedgemoor District Council approved outline planning consent for Land at East Bridgwater, as approved by the planning inspectorate in the local plan for 1200 homes. This land is being developed in 3 parts, Strawberry Grange 260 homes are being built, Folletts farm 530 homes outline planning approved and, the ex Somerset County Council farm 750 homes will be coming to planning soon.</p> <p>The planning inspectorates comments in their report on the local plan, says the council could not change the number to 1300 homes, as a consultation had only been conducted for 1200. Why has Sedgemoor district changed this to a now proposal of over near 1600 homes?</p> <p>Sedgemoor District Council failed to successfully implement an actual traffic strategy to create new roads for this major application, despite all the monies from central government. Westonzoyland and Bawdrip are crumbling with traffic, along with their surface drainage systems, including Bower and Westonzoyland road who</p>



are suffering due to the construction traffic for the strawberry grange. The roads have become an unlawful night construction lorry stop. The westonzoyland bridge is crumbling with national rail evidently being a fragmented strategic partner in bridge and traffic management, especially with the previous weight restriction being removed. Somerset County Council did comment on the local plan that The now Squibbers Way was to connect to Dunwear lane, but it did not seem that East Bridgwater land would really be used, due to the high cost of developing the land

The follets farm outline was deferred for a pollution assessment, but instead the officers allowed the applicant to use SDC's reports that only had the nearest monitors approximately 0.5 miles away from this development, and the average mean figure accepted by the government included several months of the monitors not working. This town as a crisis of people suffering with COPD. And was still allowed to build a school with a tiny amount of land for our most vulnerable children, along side the motorway, where officers have noted they mis calculated the bund, and submitted plans for a second school to be built near.

During the planning process, the SDC housing officers response was to not approve a reduction of 10% of social housing from 30%, yet we have residents who have been on waiting lists with medical conditions for over 7 years. The social housing will be three storey flats, with triple glazing for noise, acting as sound barriers for the privately owned homes. It is stupid to believe that our most vulnerable in society are to be locked into flats, hounded by noise and poisoned with car fumes if they open their windows. How can this council resolve its social care and equalities public duty with this liability?

The follets planning application received a consultee response from the NHS that NO ONE is taking any credit for submitting, stating that the Town's GP practices have capacity to provide for all these new residents to the town! Sedgemoor District Council used to use a formula calculating a square meter formula to calculate how many patients a surgery can handle. Who is going to be held for this catastrophe, we all know how over capacity our GP surgeries are?

	<p><i>Response from: Cllr Heather Shearer – Lead Member for Adult Services / Cllr Ros Wyke – Lead Member for Prosperity, Assets and Development</i></p>
<p><b>Simon Peter M<sup>c</sup>Kie</b></p>	<p><b><u>Library Service and OUP Reference Databases</u></b></p> <p>For many years, the Library Service has subscribed to the OUP’s suite of reference databases and made it available to library members without charge. This suite is an incomparable source of authoritative information and includes, amongst much else, the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and the Oxford English Dictionary. The OED, in particular, is a uniquely authoritative account of current and historic English usage.</p> <p>The Council, however, has not renewed its subscription and has ceased to provide the suite to the inhabitants of our County. I have been given three reasons for this decision:</p> <p><i>(1) First, I have been told that the OUP suite of programmes is little used.</i></p> <p>In fact, the suite was accessed 6,552 times last year. Greater publicity of the availability of this suite would further increase that usage. The annual subscription is, I understand, £9,600 or about £1.47p per reference. For such a valuable resource that is not expensive. What is more, simple numerical measures cannot take account of the importance of each reference. Somebody studying a Victorian novel for A Level or a degree may only consult the OED once but that may be crucial to his understanding of the work.</p> <p><i>(2) Secondly, I have been told that hard copies of the 20 volume OED are held at Frome, Taunton and Yeovil Libraries.</i></p> <p>English usage, and our understanding of its history, is changing constantly. No hard copy dictionary can be updated as quickly as an online version. Relying on a hard copy version, even if were practical, risks using outdated information. It is, in any event, not practical. To suggest that the Council’s constituents, scattered over the whole area of Somersetshire, might travel to Frome, Taunton or Yeovil every time they need to look up a word in the OED is absurd.</p>

	<p><i>(3) Thirdly, I have been told that other, perfectly adequate, dictionaries are available.</i></p> <p>This assertion displays a shocking ignorance. There is no other dictionary of the English language which is authoritative as to English usage.</p> <p>Our Libraries are an essential public service. The loss of the OUP suite of programmes will be harmful to the older children and young adults of the County as they progress through their GCSE's, A-Levels and degrees and to other adults in the County who are regular readers or writers or who are seriously interested in English language, literature, history or law.</p> <p>With my Councillor's, Dawn Denton's, full support, I ask that the Council reverses this decision and again gives access to this unique suite of programmes for the benefit of the inhabitants of the County.</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts – Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Culture</i></p>
<p><b>Eva Bryczkowski</b></p>	<p><b><u>Save Yeovil's Acute Stroke Care Services</u></b></p> <p>A group of residents got together to raise a petition against the above closure. Although the Trust ran a consultation, it was presented as if they had already decided to close it completely. The preference for closure was clearly pointed out.</p> <p>The treatment of strokes is very time sensitive. As the Trust's Dr Whiting acknowledges, 'With a stroke, what matters is the total time taken from calling 999 to having a scan and starting the right treatment.'</p> <p>Residents are worried that the large increase in drive time to Musgrove Park hospital will adversely affect how a patient will recover.</p>

My late younger brother Zygmunt had a stroke last year in Portsmouth.

Paramedics did not get to him in time to begin quick treatment and get him to the hospital. This adversely affected him in a massive way.

Whilst Somerset County Council does not have total control over the decisions of the Trust, both are partners in the Integrated Care Board, (ICB), which takes an overview of healthcare in the Somerset area. If SCC accepts their decision that in itself will carry some weight.

The ICB generally tends to mark its own homework, and unfortunately the SCC often acts as their mouthpiece, in my and other members of the public when we have asked questions about the proposed closure of other hospital wards.

Reading the Health and Wellbeing reports when I attended their Scrutiny Committees some time ago, the SCC often brag about how committed they are about achieving excellent physical and mental health for Somerset residents.

They monitor such stakeholders such as the ICB.

They claim to ensure that everybody in Somerset gets a very good service that meets their varied needs.

#### QUESTION ONE

What do County councillors think about the long term effects of delayed time sensitive treatment of strokes and how this will impact on the greater need for social care afterwards regarding extra costs for us council tax payers and the local authority?

The council is trying to save money isn't it?

#### QUESTION TWO

	<p>How do you feel councillors, if a loved one of yours has to travel much further after experiencing a severe stroke, when it would have been possible to keep open BOTH the unit in Yeovil and Musgrove Park?</p> <p>QUESTION THREE</p> <p>What can be done NOW in terms of SMART GOALS to give the best care to somerset residents?</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Bill Revans – Lead of the Council / Heather Shearer – Lead Member for Adults Services / Adam Dance – Lead Member for Public Health and Equalities</i></p>
<p><b>Ray Tostevin</b></p>	<p><b><u>Petition – Save Yeovil’s Acute Stroke Care Services</u></b></p> <p><a href="https://www.change.org/p/save-yeovil-s-acute-stroke-care-services">https://www.change.org/p/save-yeovil-s-acute-stroke-care-services</a></p> <p>At the time of submission of this notice to Somerset Council, close to 5,000 signatures have been added to our petition, from across the local community in south Somerset. We call on Somerset Council to add it's opposition on the proposed changes; we believe the changes would be highly detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the 180,000+ people who currently rely on Yeovil Hospital to provide healthcare.</p> <p>As stated in our petition:</p> <p><i>"It is widely recognised that the first 45 minutes after onset are crucial to recovery for a stroke patient. The additional time taken for patients, currently served by YDH, in transporting them to the Hyper-Acute Stroke unit at Musgrove in Taunton is likely to have significant detrimental consequences to their subsequent recovery."</i></p> <p>We urge councillors to join us in lobbying NHS Somerset (aka Integrated Care Board) to reject the planned closure of Hyper-Acute Stroke care at YDH, as a matter of urgency. We understand the consultation period has</p>

	<p>officially closed. NHS Somerset have engaged an outside consultancy to study the results of that consultation and to provide NHS Somerset, with its findings, over coming months.</p> <p>We understand there is a full council meeting on Wednesday 24th May and hope that this petition and proposal can be discussed at that meeting as a question from the public. If it is possible for our representatives to attend the meeting, we should be very grateful if you could indicate where and when the meeting will take place.</p> <p><i>Response from: Cllr Bill Revans – Lead of the Council / Heather Shearer – Lead Member for Adults Services / Adam Dance – Lead Member for Public Health and Equalities</i></p>
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	<b>Member Questions</b>
<b>Name of person submitting</b>	<b>Question</b>
<b>Cllr Andy Dingwall</b>	<p><b><u>Coronation Celebrations Cost</u></b></p> <p>I am sure like myself, others in the council were delighted to see Somerset Council engage in a broad range of celebrations for the Kings Coronation and to see our new branding on various promotional items.</p> <p>I would like to understand how much – in terms of both money and resources – the council allocated to marking this historic event in each of our major towns, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taunton</li> <li>• Yeovil</li> <li>• Bridgwater</li> <li>• Frome</li> </ul>

	<p><i>Response from: Cllr Mike Best – Chair of Council / Cllr Bill Revans – Lead of the Council</i></p>
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