

COUNCIL 21 OCTOBER 2021
AGENDA ITEM 9 – QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Question from Councillor Mark Goldsack to the Leader of the Council:

I am constantly asked about the legitimate position of Neighbourhood Plans and the current Local Plan in regard to possible new development applications. Could the Leader of the Council please state the current position held by East Cambs and what this means for speculative development on non-agreed sites in both the Local Plan and local Neighbourhood Plans?

Question from Councillor Lis Every to the Leader of the Council:

Following the delivery of the BP roundabout upgrade, I am pleased to see that new hi-tech and prestigious companies are coming to Lancaster Way Business Park which will lead to many jobs. It's great that the Lancaster Way roundabout itself includes a cycle/pedestrian crossing to encourage active travel to and from the business park and further afield. However, we do need to see a safe cycle/pedestrian crossing of the A10 in the area of the BP roundabout in order to really encourage people out of their cars. Can the Leader please tell Council what she has been doing to encourage delivery of this vital piece of infrastructure?

Question from Councillor Mark Inskip to Chairman of Operational Services Committee on Recent Email Outages:

At the full Council meeting on 23 February, I asked a question to the Chair of Operational Services Committee about the recent email outage, raising my concerns that further actions were needed to guarantee that the council's email system was sufficiently resilient to future outages. In his response he dismissed my concerns in a politicised answer.

At the full Council meeting on 15 July, I again asked a question to the Chair of Operational Services Committee about email outages following a further incident earlier in July which left email services unavailable for the best part of a day and a half along with several more days to recover emails. I repeated my call for a much more thorough review to learn lessons and avoid further incidents. He again dismissed my call, stating that he was satisfied with the explanation provided to him and the action taken.

Less than a fortnight later, another major email outage occurred, this time taking several weeks for all Outlook data to be restored, and with some emails sent to Council email addresses never arriving.

Does he now acknowledge that a prompt and thorough review much earlier in the year could have avoided the major disruption caused to staff and members of the public by subsequent email outages?

Is the subsequent review detailed in the email sent on his behalf on 24 August 2021 now complete?

When will the findings be shared with all Members of the Council?

Question from Councillor Simon Harries to Leader of the Council on Fens Biosphere:

At the full Council meeting held on 23 February 2021, the Council resolved to request further investigation of the implications and benefits of the Fens Biosphere designation for East Cambridgeshire, and instructs the Chief Executive to write to Cambridgeshire ACRE to seek further information.

Can the Leader of the Council update the Members on the progress of those investigations over the last 8 months, including a summary of each of the meetings the Chief Executive has held to progress the investigation and when he plans to report back to Members?