

City Council

Monday 15 March 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor Mavin, in the Chair.

Councillor Winter, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Carson, Coker, Cook, Corvid, Dann, Darcy, Sam Davey, Derrick, Downie, Drean, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, P Smith, R Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler and Wigans.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill and Deacon

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 9.39 pm.

Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at www.plymouth.gov.uk. At a future meeting, the Council will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

81. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

82. Declarations of Interest

Monitoring Officer Linda Torney had issued a dispensation on the first notice relating to the National Health Service due to part of the notice relating to 'Infection Control Grants' which the Council had made use of for some of its internal services. The dispensation allowed Councillors to discuss this.

The following declarations of interest were made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct in respect of items under consideration at the meeting -

Name	Minute Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Patrick Nicholson	9a	Relative works for the NHS	
Councillor Mrs Terri Beer	9a		Private
Councillor Jon Taylor	9a	Employee of the NHS	Pecuniary
Councillor John Riley	9a	Spouse employed by the NHS	
Councillor Maddi Bridgeman	9a		Private
Councillor Glenn Jordan	9a	Father and Aunt use carers. Daughter is employed by Councillor Jordan as their carer.	Private

83. Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies etc

There were no notified changes to appointments.

84. **Announcements**

Lord Mayor wished Councillors good luck in the forthcoming elections and thanked those Councillors retiring from service. Videos would be made available online prior to the City Council AGM in May to recognise those that would be retiring.

The Civic office had been awarded national awards for Civic Office National 2020 and had been commended with how the Civic Office responded to work during the national crises of 2020 and how the Civic Office had moved forward after the crisis in 2020.

Ruth Harrell, Director of Public Health provided an update in relation to COVID-19.

- Rates had continued to drop and were 26.3% and for reference at the last Council meeting on 22 February Plymouth had 48%. The south west average had continued to drop and was at 32%. Nationally the rate had been 58%.
- Vaccinations progress had been going well and the National Health Service had extended vaccinations ages to 56 and 59 ranges, uptake had been 95%.
- On the 11 March 90,000 residents had one dose of their vaccination in Plymouth and the National Health Service had been working with Plymouth City Council to increase the uptake as vaccinations reached the working population. There had been a Zoom meeting scheduled to take place on 13 April to address any questions.
- The Office for Plymouth's Public Health had been working with community champions to spread the word on vaccinations and had also looked at accessibility to recognise barriers people may face in receiving their vaccinations.
- Expansions had been made in people receiving rapid tests even though they did not have symptoms in order to pick up people who had been asymptomatic and going into workplaces.
- The government had provided a pathway out of lockdown, however it was noted that timings were not certain and the unlocking of lockdown depended on data and whether there continued to be success of the vaccination rollout in order to reduce the need of people requiring hospitalisations. New variants would be monitored which might change the risk.
- The asymptomatic testing had been a success in allowing children to return to school safely.
- There had been some concern across EU countries with people having blood clots, investigations had been underway to see if they were connected with having the vaccination. There had been millions of vaccinations, but there had been no evidence to suggest that having a vaccination and having a blood clot were correlated.
- Vaccinations to vulnerable groups such as the homeless had been successful and there had been monitoring of other vulnerable groups. It was noted that nationally BAME communities had been less likely to receive vaccinations; it was also noted that there had been statistically lower vaccination rates in deprived communities. Plans would be discussed with Devon CCG to bring the vaccine to people in order to increase the uptake.
- It was noted that a number of people would have side effects from any vaccination; 18 – 20% would have a sore arm, have a headache, feel tired, have mild chills and would last around a day. This was normal and indicated that the immune system was working; the vaccine would not give you COVID but it did stimulate the immune system which would lead to mild side effects. There had been and continued to be an established system to monitor the side effects of the vaccine as there was with other medicines.

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE announced the following:

- A decision with Homes England had been agreed which would help develop 2,000 homes in Woolwell. Plymouth City Council owned 29 acres in Woolwell and the Council would be looking to build a new school and community park which would unlock the delivery of Woolwell to George dualling and complete this project. Councillor Tudor Evans OBE reiterated that the road comes before the homes.
- Oceansgate phase two had opened through a virtual ceremony
- Completed the fourth industrial unit at Astor Court
- Handed over offices at VOA who had in turn brought 300 jobs to Plymouth and also secured 100 jobs already in Plymouth.
- Plymouth City Council had secured a Freeport with Devon County Council and South Hams District Council.
- Submitted £10m bid to the National Heritage to unlock the National Marine park through the Horizon project.
- Secured £12m from the Future High Streets Fund to enable refurbishment and redevelopment for the Civic Centre and Guildhall.
- Successfully launched the yacht race Sail GB which would be coming to Plymouth 17th July.
- Plymouth City Council had handed over £70m in business grants to 13,500 firms and businesses in Plymouth to keep them going during the pandemic.
- In response to Pledge 73, this had been completed. The pledge would light up monuments on the Hoe promenade extending the illumination of the City's landmarks, using low energy and bat friendly lighting systems. Discussions with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission about lighting the naval memorial had been taking place.
- Councillor Tudor Evans OBE shared a presentation in relation to the Tourism and Hospitality sector. The sector had employed 8,000 people across Plymouth and brought in 5.2 million visitors spending £337 million and had provided an extensive supply chain. It was recognised that in the past 12 months the sector has been hit hard and it had been estimated that 64% spending in the city had been lost equating to £203 million. Plymouth City Council had been supporting to get business grants out and had also been working closely with Destination Plymouth and two business improvement districts to support businesses on the ground as part of the Resurgam plan. The Council had continued marketing to shop locally and reminded visitors that Plymouth would be ready when they were ready to visit. Destination Plymouth had worked with international and cruise operators to remind them that Plymouth had been ready. 10 Cruise ships had been booked this year and 10 had already booked for early next year.
- The Council signed a 10 year visitor plan to 2030 which would be released next week in its final format with the aim to deliver Plymouth's long term ambitions

Councillor Sue Dann, Cabinet member for Environment and Street Scene announced that:

- Derriford Community Park continued to be developed as part of a key commitment in the Joint Local Plan situated in the north of the city. It would set a clear blueprint for future parks in management of parks, engagement with people, improvements to the environment, Cycling and walking uptake, planting trees, training volunteers, nurturing enterprise and enabling Plymouth City Council to reach its net zero ambitions.
- Total investments had been £3.6 million. The project mandate authorised a new business case to bring forward the next phase to bring further investment of £5.6 million and

would provide further improvements to the environment, improve health and wellbeing and allow residents to access nature. An education centre would be constructed to allow people to learn new skills, set up social enterprise initiatives, open the area up to local people and communities and to support communities in the north of the city.

Councillor Kate Taylor, Cabinet member for Health and Adult Social Care announced:

- A new long term partnership with Age UK Plymouth to create a short term care centre which would support people well enough to be discharged from hospital but not well enough to return home. This facility would be based at the William and Patricia Venton Centre; residents would be able to stay for a maximum of six weeks with support from therapists with the aim to return home. Refurbishments of the building had been taking place and recruitment of staff would take place with the aim to get the centre up and running in the autumn.

Councillor Pete Smith, Deputy Leader announced:

- Phase two of the outdoor play programme would be completed. The programme has improved 40 play sites across Plymouth and has worked with local communities to improve infrastructure, 65% would now meet good or excellent standards. The programme has invested £2.1 million to improve playgrounds. It had been agreed and signed to bring forward phase 3 of the programme and would target 30 playgrounds, investing £850,000 with work scheduled to begin in April 2021.
- The library service had fulfilled a reading void through e-learning and reached customers through social media and YouTube channels. The Library service had launched an online book group through Microsoft Teams and in the future would be opening up again alongside government regulations.
- The Mayflower journey would commence in July
- Sail GP would be hosted in July
- A large scale music event for the summer would be hosted on the Hoe, which would boost Plymouth post COVID and would bring visitors back to the City.
- The British Fireworks championship would take place
- The Blues and Jazz festival, Seafood festival, Half-marathon, hosting of Pride, mega ride, graduation events and Circus would also take place as part of the programme for the city this year.

Councillor Jon Taylor, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation announced:

- The Ofsted inspection of the adult skills service highlighted significant improvements in the areas identified outline in the 2019 report. The full report could be found on the Ofsted website.

Councillor Chris Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Housing and Cooperative Development:

- The Council Tax Support scheme which had provided a one off £125 to households would continue for the next year

85. **Questions by the Public**

There was two questions submitted by the public.

This question was submitted by Mr Mark Peters and was responded by Councillor Mark Lowry.	
Sir John Hawkins Square appeal continues to the High Court. The road sign has been missing since June 2020. The missing sign contravenes the Public Health Act 1925 Sec 8(3) Will the Council be reinstating the road sign, as the matter awaits determination in the High Court?	It would be inappropriate for the council to respond to this question in light of the further appeal in connection with the court proceedings relating to Sir John Hawkins Square. The council will respond following the conclusion of the court proceedings.

This question was asked by Nicholas Demeranville and answered by Councillor Sue Dann	
When determining planning application 19/02038/FUL, Installation of sustainable drainage system, wildflower meadow and associated public realm improvements, Central Park, Council Officers commented that the “masterplan approach was not the most appropriate”. What is the Council’s vision for the park’s future development and how will it be realised?	<p>Councillor Sue Dann provided the following response which would be provided in writing:</p> <p>A masterplan for Central Park was created after extensive consultation in 2013. Over the past 3 years, the Council has carried out a huge amount of investment in the park to meet the aspirations in that plan to deliver a premier destination for the people of Plymouth.</p> <p>We have completed £4.4m worth of improvements - including a new play area, extended skate park, new sports plateau, new café, refurbished and extended Sports Hub, new events field, 4 new tennis courts, and park-wide upgrades to paths, signage, seating, and heritage and nature-based interventions such as tree planting and repairing dry stone walls.</p> <p>We have also supported over 300 hours of free nature based activities and volunteering for adults, families and school children; sent out regular park newsletters to keep people informed; engaged with sports clubs and businesses in the park and facilitated free public events.</p> <p>We remain committed to the park - we know it has been a critical place for our residents’ health and wellbeing over the past year and we want it to remain that way. The recently approved plans to improve the drainage in the Barn Park area are in line with the 2013 masterplan to create a larger body of water there, but what they also do is create new spaces for people and wildlife to enjoy.</p> <p>We are going to be opening our new Community Sports Hub this Spring, with a range of activities and events planned over the summer to help people get out and active into nature safely.</p> <p>As we come out of COVID, with our Green Minds and Future Parks projects we are going to be working on site with communities, schools and students to develop a tree-planting scheme, which helps the park be climate resilient, alongside trialling new digital tools to help people learn about nature and contribute to national citizen science efforts. This is a park for now and for the future.</p>

86. **Lord Mayoralty 2021/22**

At the Lord Mayor's Selection Committee on 26 February 2021 Councillor Terri Beer had been nominated for Lord Mayor.

Votes for: Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Corvid, Carson, Coker, Cook, Dann, Darcy, Derrick, Sam Davey, Downie, Drean, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, James, Jordan, Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Mike Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wigens, Winter, Mavin.

Did not vote/Absent: Councillors Ian Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill, Deacon, Sam Leaves

87. **Organisational Design - Senior Management Arrangements**

Tracey Lee, Chief Executive proposed two changes to the Senior Management structure in Customer Services; to replace the post of Service Director for Customer Services and the Service Centre with a Service Director for Digital and Customer experience.

Customer experience remained a top priority for the Council following a peer review in 2018. That focus would remain under the proposed changes in order to drive forward a digital city.

The proposals would see the Service Centre move to the Service Director for Finance to align the Revenue and Benefits areas closely with the financial services.

Chief Officer Appointment Panel had been consulted and consultations with staff had taken place, further consultations would take place again. The proposed changes did not increase the establishment.

Votes for: Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Corvid, Carson, Coker, Cook, Dann, Darcy, Derrick, Sam Davey, Downie, Drean, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, James, Jordan, Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Mike Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wigens and Winter.

Did not vote/Absent: Councillors Ian Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill, Deacon, Sam Leaves and Mavin.

Votes for: 51
Votes against: 0
Abstentions: 0
No vote/Absent: 6

The motion had been carried.

88. **Motions on notice**

89. **Budget for NHS and Carers**

Councillor Kate Taylor introduced the motion on the Budget for NHS and Carers. This was seconded by Councillor Darren Winter.

Following a debate the motion was carried.

Votes for (31):

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Buchan, Corvid, Coker, Dann, Derrick, Sam Davey, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, Laing, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, Singh, Pete Smith, Stevens, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler, Winter and Mavin

Votes Against (0):

Abstentions (18): Councillors Ball, Beer, Bridgeman, Carson, Cook, Darcy, Downie, Drean, James, Jordan, Johnson, Kelly, Mike Leaves, Loveridge, Mrs Pengelly, Rebecca Smith, Ms Watkin & Wigens

No vote/Absent (8):

Councillors Ian Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill, Deacon, Sam Leaves, Patrick Nicholson, Riley & Jon Taylor

Votes for: 31

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 18

No Vote/Absent: 8

90. **Weston Mill Recycling Centre**

Councillor Maddi Bridgeman proposed the motion on Weston Mill Recycling Centre. This was seconded by Councillor Riley.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Dann and seconded by Councillor Coker.

The amendment proposed was as follows:

We resolve to ask the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Street Scene, Councillor Sue Dann, to mobilise resources and plan to enable Weston Mill Recycling Centre to fully reopen from the 12th April when it is safe to do so – in line with the with the Government Roadmap and be driven by data not dates and be considered in conjunction with the overall provision of all waste collection and waste disposal services

This facility is valued by those residents living in the North and West of our city and provides an alternative Household Waste Recycling Centre for those who need to make essential journeys to dispose of waste.

We recognise the impact queuing may have on the network and have a series of contingency plans to prevent the level of traffic experienced following the reopening of Chelson Meadow last May, this is a demand led service and very weather dependant

~~We have seen the impact on Chelson Meadow Recycling Centre this past week, with long traffic queues. Such queues cause a detrimental effect to the road network, inconvenience to those living in this part of the city and is not aligned with our Climate Emergency as more and longer vehicular movements are being made necessary. The continued suspension of the Bulky Waste service, the advent of Spring and the removal of certain Covid restrictions will only increase the demand for the provision of PCC's waste facilities. This reduced service is also with the back drop of increased Council tax.~~

After a debate the amendment was approved:

Votes for (30):

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Buchan, Corvid, Coker, Dann, Derrick, Davey, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, Laing, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, Pete Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler and Winter

Votes Against (22):

Councillors Ball, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Carson, Cook, Darcy, Downie, Drean, James, Jordan, Johnson, Kelly, Mike Leaves, Sam Leaves, Loveridge, Patrick Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Singh, Rebecca Smith, Ms Watkin and Wigens

Did not Vote/Absent (5):

Councillors Ian Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill, Deacon and Mavin (Lord Mayor).

Votes for: 30
Votes Against: 22
Abstentions: 0
No Vote/Absent: 5

Councillor Rennie proposed to move to the vote. This was seconded by Councillor Pete Smith.

Votes for (30):
Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Buchan, Corvid, Coker, Dann, Derrick, Sam Davey, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, Laing, Sam Leaves, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, Pete Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler and Winter.

Votes Against (22):

Councillor Ball, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Carson, Cook, Darcy, Downie, Drean, Jordan, James, Johnson, Kelly, Mike Leaves, Loveridge, Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Singh, Rebecca Smith, Ms Watkin and Wigens,

Did not vote/Absent (5):

Councillors Ian Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill, Deacon and Mavin (Lord Mayor).

Votes for: 30
Votes Against: 22
Abstentions: 0
No Vote/Absent: 5

The vote on the substantive motion was carried as follows:

Votes for (51):

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Corvid, Carson, Coker, Cook, Dann, Darcy, Derrick, Sam Davey, Downie, Drean, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, James, Jordan, Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Mike Leaves, Sam Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wigens, and Winter.

Votes Against (1):

Councillor Ball

Did not vote/Absent (5):

Councillors Ian Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill, Deacon and Mavin (Lord Mayor).

Votes for: 51
Votes Against: 1
Abstentions: 0
No Vote/Absent: 5

The substantive motion was carried.

91. **Take Away Litter**

Councillor Mrs Bridgeman introduced the motion on Take Away Litter. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Beer.

Following a debate Councillor Rennie proposed to move to the vote. This was seconded by Councillor Pete Smith.

Votes on moving to the vote:

Votes for (51)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Corvid, Carson, Coker, Cook, Dann, Darcy, Derrick, Sam Davey, Downie, Drean, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, James, Jordan, Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Sam Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter.

Votes Against (1)

Councillor Mike Leaves

Did not vote/Absent (5):

Councillors Ian Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill, Deacon and Mavin (Lord Mayor).

Vote on the motion:

Votes for (52):

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Corvid, Carson, Coker, Cook, Dann, Darcy, Derrick, Sam Davey, Downie, Drean, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, James, Jordan, Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Mike Leaves, Sam Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter.

Votes Against (0):

Did not vote/Absent (5):

Councillors Ian Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill, Deacon and Mavin (Lord Mayor).

Votes for: 52

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

No Vote/Absent: 5

Motion carried.

92. **Future of Pounds House**

Councillor Kelly introduced the motion on the Future of Pounds House. This was seconded by Councillor Patrick Nicholson.

Councillor Lowry proposed an amendment. This was seconded by Councillor Goslin. The amendment proposed was as follows:

The results of the COVID Pandemic have seen a massive increase in the use of Central Park and recreational spaces throughout Plymouth. ~~Despite previous public comments from Labour Councillors urging the re-use of Pounds House, the Labour Council continues to allow the neglect and deterioration of an important local asset.~~

~~Conservative Councillors urge the City Council to end this deliberate neglect and to consult and work with the local community in agreeing future complementary uses for Pounds House.~~

The Council welcomes the investment proposed for Pounds House and looks forward to consulting and working with the local community in agreeing future complementary uses for this asset.

Resolved that:

The Cabinet Member for Finance, with responsibility for corporate property, be requested to bring a report to Scrutiny, to the relevant panel's first meeting of the 2021/22 Municipal Year with the agreement of its members, on the future options for re-using Pounds House with complementary activities, to support the wider recreational activities in the Pounds House grounds and more widely in Central Park.

The meeting was briefly adjourned to consider the amendment. The amendment was accepted.

Following a debate, Councillor Darcy proposed to move to the vote. This was seconded by Councillor Rennie.

Council agreed to move to the vote and voted on the motion:

Votes for (51):

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Corvid, Carson, Coker, Dann, Darcy, Derrick, Sam Davey, Downie, Dreaan, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, James, Jordan, Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Mike Leaves, Sam Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter.

Votes Against (0):

Did not vote/Absent (6): Councillors Cook, Ian Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill, Deacon and Mavin.

Votes for: 51

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

No Vote/Absent: 6

This motion was carried.

93. **Demise of the 'Friends of Central Park'**

Councillor Nicholson introduced the motion on the Demise of the 'Friends of Central Park'. This was seconded by Councillor Kelly.

Following a debate the motion was lost:

Votes for (21):

Councillors Ball, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Carson, Darcy, Downie, Dreaan, James, Jordan, Johnson, Kelly, Mike Leaves, Sam Leaves, Loveridge, Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Singh, Rebecca Smith, Ms Watkin and Wiggins.

Votes Against (29):

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Buchan, Corvid, Coker, Dann, Derrick, Sam Davey, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, Laing, Lowry, McDonald, Murphy, Neil, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, Pete Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler and Vincent

No vote/Absent (7):

Councillors Ian Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill, Cook, Deacon, Morris and Mavin (Lord Mayor)

Votes for: 21

Votes Against: 29

Abstentions: 0

No Vote/Absent: 7

The motion was lost.

94. Urgent Key Decision to be Reported

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader) gave a brief update on an urgent key decisions taken since the last meeting. The update was seconded by Councillor Kate Taylor (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care).

- Covid 19 – Test and Trace Discretionary Support Payments

Council noted the urgent key decisions taken by Councillor Chris Penberthy in line with due process and published on 13 October 2020.

95. Questions by Councillors

	From	To	Subject
1	Councillor Darren Winter	Councillor Mark Lowry	Last year residents within the St Budeaux Ward were consulted and as a result of this consultation they advised that they would like something to be done in relation to the public toilets located in St Budeaux square, can you update us on the future of the site.
	Response: St Budeaux Ward Councillors have contributed financially and agreement has been given to remove the current toilet facilities and to replace them with new ones, this is important to residents and to the transport hub within the square.		
2	Councillor Brian Vincent	Councillor Pete Smith	In relation to Item 5 on today's agenda and specifically the announcement in relation to improving the city's parks, can you clarify whether or not Efford and Lipson ward will be subject to this?
	Response: The two playgrounds on Douglass Road and Severn Place will be upgraded and both Councillor Vincent and the residents of the ward will be consulted.		
3	Councillor Jonathon Drean	Councillor Sue Dann	There is a build up of litter along the A38, who is responsible for the verges, Plymouth City Council or Highways England?
	Response: Highways England are responsible for the main trunk road and as a Local Authority we are responsible for cleaning on their behalf. Plymouth City Council had planned to do this however due to the unforeseen large volume in traffic during lockdown Plymouth City Council had to change plans and undertake the work at night. The team have been out on consecutive nights and have so far removed three tonnes of material along the roadside. This has consisted of normal littering but also fly tipping, this puts staff at risk as they have to work at night and Plymouth City Council are required to put in regulation orders to close the lanes. Councillor Sue Dann reiterated that it is a crime to dump waste and asked for more camera's along the A38 to help catch those individuals.		
	Supplementary: What are the frequencies of the planned tidy up's during the year?		
	Response: There is no set frequency, however Plymouth City Council are attempting to undertake the clearing of waste twice a year. This is dependant on Highways England and when they are undertaking their cutbacks. When they close the roads, it is the aim to align our schedule of works with theirs in order to prevent closing the roads twice and also to save money especially in traffic management costs		
4	Councillor Chaz Singh	Councillor Mark Lowry	It is reported that the cost of the statue on the waterfront was £425,000 with the installation costing £339,000. Within the planning application it mentioned CCTV. How much is

			the CCTV costing the citizens of Plymouth for both the statue and West Hoe Pier.
	Response: The specific figure is not attainable during this meeting and it depends on the nature of the camera and whether the camera was placed on a structure or alternatively installed. Generally the cost for a new camera would range from £40,000 to a couple of hundred pounds. If Councillor Singh writes to Councillor Lowry he will respond with the exact costings.		
5	Councillor Sarah Allen	Councillor Due Dann	Councillor Allen would like to pass on her thanks to the team cleaning team that undertook work at the top of the Peverell Ladder road, they undertook the work during the pouring rain but completed a thorough job and swept it up afterwards.
	Response: Councillor Dann will pass on Councillor Allen's thanks. At the back end of summer 2020 the back lanes across Plymouth were causing problems due to not being cleaned for decades and as a result were overgrown. There are 435 service lanes across the city and as a result of the 'back lane project' 55% of them have been cleaned and are maintained, residents are pleased with the result. Moving forward the Council will try to keep this going for longer and will seek to tie this in with even more enforcement to prosecute environmental criminals as it will be easier to find them as a result of the project. It is hoped that the rest of the project will be completed by the end of May 2021. The winter sweep teams aligned at the same time as this project, Councillor Dann will also pass thanks to this team for their work.		
6	Councillor Gareth Derrick	Councillor Sue Dann	All residents across Plymouth are looking forward to the Garden Waste Collection scheme, however some residents are advising they have not been in receipt of their bin, please can you update as to when this will be completed.
	Response: The scheme is currently going to plan and 46,000 bins have been delivered with further bins to be delivered shortly. If residents applied during phase 1 of the scheme they would likely have received their bin. Second phase bin deliveries are hoped to be completed by the end of March 2021. Registration has opened for phase three, however it cannot be guaranteed those bins will be delivered prior to April 2021. The scheme has sought to provide residents that are unable to have a bin to be provided with garden waste bags instead. Plymouth City Council have made contact with those that have assisted collection to ensure they have registered with the scheme.		
7	Councillor Nick Kelly	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE	Confirm whether the figure of £764,038 for the Mayflower monument statue and its installation as stated in the Full Council Budget figures which were released on 22 February 2021 are correct and if they are not, state what the cost did cover.
	Response: The money reported to the budget was the total budget line, this included a number of other interventions associated with that budget and was not solely for the sculpture and its installation.		
	Supplementary: Why did the expenditure of £425,000 on the pier works not go through the competitive tendering process?		
	Response from Councillor Mark Lowry: There is a legal requirement to undertake the tendering process and in this instance the project went through a framework contract process which the Council has been undertaking for many years.		
8	Councillor Rebecca	Councillor Mark Lowry	In light of the murder of Sarah Everard, it is proposed to highlight how much CCTV is Plymouth City Centre and how

	Smith		much it covers and to use the Communications channels to highlight this in a sensitive way to provide reassurance to women and girls.
	Response: The Council's website which shows a map which locates every camera in the city. There are 473 cameras in the city and a control centre which operates 24/7. Councillor Mark Lowry is very happy to work with Councillor Rebecca Smith to highlight the coverage of the camera's and work a way to communicate to residents.		
9	Councillor Eddie Rennie	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE	A Conservative Plymouth City Councillor mocked the safety of women following the murder of Sarah Everard. Can you give a reassurance that this is not the view of the Council and we do not support the views of that Councillor.
	Response: Everyone has been shocked at the news of the murder and if you look at the current state of the Country there are 233 rapes a day committed in the UK and women's safety has never been more under the spotlight. I found the ill-judged statement to be in poor taste, I was shocked by it, but glad he has withdrawn it and that Councillor Nick Kelly has suspended him. However we need to make it clear today that it is unacceptable and is not fitting of a Councillor. Women's safety is not humorous and we need to be seen as a Council that we take this with the upmost seriousness. It is right the Councillor Deacon has been condemned and I hope in time that he understands what he has done. I hope that the strongest possible action will be taken in order to send a clear message women's safety is not a joke.		
	Supplementary: National press has put Plymouth in a bad light and a lot of people have found that the picture of Councillor Mark Deacon to be offensive and insulting. Can you give assurances to the trans community that no other councillor has these views.		
	Response: I cannot give that assurance, however it is very important that the Council sends out a strong message to the trans community and to women that the Council takes the issue of safety very seriously. It is the hope that Councillor Kelly's investigation is done fairly and swiftly and that the appropriate action is taken.		
10	Councillor Andrea Loveridge	Councillor Mark Lowry	The disabled toilet located in the café at Central park is closed, what toilet facilities have been put in place to accommodate disabled children.
	Response: Since the pandemic hit, it was the instruction of the government to close all public toilets. Since this time temporary solutions have been opened because residents have not been able to go out elsewhere. New facilities are located on the Hoe in support of disabled access, there is an additional toilet facility at West Hoe. With respect to Central Park they have remained closed as they form part of the café and we have not been able to provide additional disabled facilities that the Councillor is referring to as they are not available due to the complexity of need as a temporary solution. The facilities at Central Park will be reopened on 12 April as well as the facilities in the Life Centre.		
11	Councillor Chaz Singh	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE	Has Tudor Evans OBE read the comprehensive research into Freeports and associated Free Zones have little impact on the local economy and require high levels of investment in local education and training alongside providing significant financial incentives which are open to criminality and money laundering. This is from reports on Freeport's that existed in 2012.
	Response: We are pleased to have secured the Plymouth and South Devon Free zone after a quick bidding process. This is not a Freeport in the sense that your research paper pictures from 2012 -14. These will be different and in the case of Plymouth this will be partnered by Babcock and Princess Yachts which are two or the largest employers in the City. This is not a container port proposition, ours will be focused on skills, Marine and Marine development		

	<p>which will build on the work being completed Oceansgate. In a years time the tax advantages in the enterprise zone will disappear and replaced with the free zone. We are not proposing to turn Plymouth into a Rotterdam of smugglers paradise, however we are keen that the border post for Plymouth will be ahead of schedule and Plymouth is trying to be the first border completed post Brexit and put us ahead of everyone else.</p>		
	<p>Supplementary: If I provide the links to the reports and research would you read them.</p>		
	<p>Response: I have already spent time reading them and I have had a long conversation with the TUC for South West general secretary who had been working on the Bristol project. I was able to reassure him that the projects that we would be working on would not be the same and our project would be focusing on a pipeline of apprenticeships and qualified workers. Please provide the links but I think we have the same source.</p>		
12	Councillor Kevin Neil	Councillor Mark Lowry	<p>Thank you for the visit to Stoke village and some exciting plans to revitalise stoke village and to improve the local environment, are you able to provide an outline on works undertaken and still to come.</p>
	<p>Response: Made an agreement to undertake significant tree planting. The Council is engaging with residents with where they would like the additional trees, benches and planters to go. Work is on-going to bring forward an initiative for a 'Welcome to Stoke Village' sign which I am happy to support. Business and the residential community have asked for the existing toilets to be removed from their current location due to Anti-Social behaviour which it has been attracting and also because the facilities are not being well used. Café's and restaurants have been allowing residents to use their facilities and in the coming months those toilet facilities will be removed.</p>		
13	Councillor Terri Beer	Councillor Pete Smith	<p>There are no facilities within Children's play parks for disabled children. Is it your intention to include improving parks for disabled children.</p>
	<p>Response: Response: Yes, we are talking to disability groups to find a way forward.</p>		
	<p>Supplementary: I am happy to engage in the plans and have a family that are interested in the disabled facilities for children.</p>		
14	Councillor Nick Kelly	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE	<p>The Dome is a prominent financial assess for the City of Plymouth, can we have an update on prospective tenants.</p>
	<p>Response: We are currently in negotiations with successful new tenants and we ought to have the paperwork signed in the next four weeks and we will make an announcement thereafter.</p>		

Please note that questions, answers, supplementary questions and supplementary answers have been summarised.