

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 11 FEBRUARY 2025**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3 the following question was submitted to the Council from Councillor Roger Jackson:

Due to the fact that only electric cars are to be built after 2030, more and more people will be converting to electric vehicles. Does this Council have any planning policies in place for houses with no off-road parking for their cars, to allow them to create a parking space in front of their house by removing a fence or a wall, especially in conservation areas, so that they can charge their cars?

Reply from Councillor Claire Penny – Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development

I thought it would firstly be helpful to firstly clarify the position of the Government. Since the election, and building upon the Manifesto pledge, there remains a commitment to phasing out by 2030 new purely petrol and diesel cars as part of the transition to zero emission vehicles. As part of this ambition a consultation with industry was launched in December 2024 across the Department for Transport, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Department for Business and Trade, and Office for Zero Emission Vehicles.

The consultation covers a range of topics, including which hybrid cars can be sold alongside zero emission models between 2030 and 2035 and the removal of barriers to EV ownership, including charging infrastructure, improving grid connection processes, changes to planning permitted development rights, and available solutions for on-street parking such as cross-pavement street works. This Council will play a role in some of this moving forward, particularly as a Local Planning Authority.

At a local level the Council will incorporate future policies to support EV provision through its new Development Plan, something this Council has committed to progressing under the Council's Local Development Scheme. National guidance on the new Development Plan process is expected this summer. The Development Plan will, of course, consider a range of sustainability and climate change ambitions beyond EV charging infrastructure. In the interim the Council continues to be pragmatic when dealing with EV charging requests, whether it be from a conservation/Listed Building perspective or in considering on-street EV charging solutions. On the latter this Council is working with Nottinghamshire County Council as part of the LEVI project - Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, a nation-wide initiative funded by the Department for Transport which is looking to install new infrastructure in order to give access to on-street EV charge points to residents without the ability to have home charging facilities. Alongside this public and workplace charging facilities continue to come forward which offer charging capabilities.

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3 the following question was submitted to the Council from Councillor Sue Saddington:

Could the Portfolio Holder update the Council on what work she has done regarding local hospital provision?

Reply from Councillor Susan Crosby – Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Leisure

Thank you, Councillor Saddington, for your request that I update the Council on what work I have done regarding local hospital provision.

This question is timely as a meeting was held on the 4th of February 2025 attended by the Chief Executive of the Integrated Care Board and two other senior leaders, myself, Cllrs Peacock and Cllr Ross and the Director of Housing, Health and Wellbeing.

This meeting was to discuss how we ensure that Newark receives the access to health services that it needs, at the time they are needed. The discussion was positive with the ICB taking away they need to do more to help residents understand the full range of services including overnight healthcare that is available, so residents are reassured that the services they need ARE available.

Health Service delivery has changed, and we will work together to make sure members can talk to residents about what services there are including access to out of hours/ overnight home visits, out of hours GP services and how these are accessed through 111.

We agreed a number of actions including a written response from the ICB to confirm services in place and new services coming soon. There will also be training for members to follow.

The Council have already supported Newark Hospital with enabling access to land for additional on-site parking for the hospital.

Supplemental Question from Councillor Sue Saddington

Can I ask what you have done? Are you aware that the minor treatment centre hours have changed permanently and why aren't you looking at alternative providers. Have you spoken to appropriate stakeholders?

Reply from Councillor Susan Crosby – Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Leisure

There is nothing to add to what I referred to in my presentation to the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee last evening. We are working with the Integrated Care Board to ensure there is overnight care.