

## COUNCIL MEETING – 25 July 2023

### CABINET QUESTION TIME

#### **1. Question from Councillor V Pappa to the Cabinet Member for Greener and Safer Chelmsford**

Background:

During the recent election campaign, many residents expressed their concerns on parking charges, but one of my resident expressed her real concerns regarding the parking charges situation at HYLANDS house . She mentioned that her child has ADHD and when parking was free at HYLANDS, she used to take her child there almost every day. However, now that parking has become unaffordable for everyday visiting , she and her child are forced to spend their time indoors.

Question :

The City Council currently allows those with a Blue Badge to park at Hylands Park without payment. Given that the children's play area was specifically designed for use by handicapped children, who by definition, will not be Blue Badge holders, will the Cabinet Member look at introducing a scheme for those with special needs to be allowed a similar concession for FREE PARKING ?

I strongly request the council to consider giving free access to HYLANDS house car parking to those who have special needs, including parents with children who have ADHD AND any such needs . It would make a great difference in the lives.

#### **2. Question from Councillor A Thorpe Apps to the Cabinet Member for Greener and Safer Chelmsford**

Over recent years, we have seen a concerning increase in the number of incidents involving dogs across Chelmsford. I understand the Council's desire to take action, which has led to the consultation on a possible 'Public Spaces Protection Order' (PSPO) at Hylands Park. At Cabinet, a paper was presented and agreed on this proposal which commented on the 33 dog-related incidents that took place between July 2020 and July 2021, and stated that such incidents are on the rise.

But having delved into the figures, of the 33 dog incidents mentioned in that paper, only 3 actually related to Hylands Park. Moreover, whilst the data does show the number of recorded incidents has increased across Chelmsford over the last few years (78 this year), the number of reported incidents at Hylands Park was the same in 2022 as it was in 2020 (3 incidents).

One dog-related incident is of course one too many, but would the Cabinet member concede that, based on the raw data, there isn't a clear case for a PSPO at Hylands, and does she agree with me that the Council should instead be focusing on locations where data shows such incidents have increased? Why is Hylands being singled out for this PSPO pilot?

### **3. Question from Councillor B Knight to the Leader of the Council**

Your last administration was characterised by costs greatly exceeding revenue and the shortfall being made up by borrowing. The latest MTFS indicates that the same path is being followed and in the expectation that you find this to be unacceptable what do you plan to do differently?