

COUNTY COUNCIL – 11TH FEBRUARY 2020

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
1.	Mr Alex Skinner Local Resident	Councillor Joshua Schumann, Chairman of Commercial and Investment Committee	<p>Many residents in West Chesterton, Arbury and Castle and indeed in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire are concerned to ensure free and open access in perpetuity to the Wessex Lane cut through [from McGrath Avenue to Huntingdon Road and Castle Street, running behind Shire Hall]. This cut through is a key thoroughfare for pedestrians and cyclists from Castle, Arbury and West Chesterton making their way to shop, worship, get to work and school, catch the bus and go to Castle Mound, Shire Hall and the green forecourt. It is a well used thoroughfare to and from the City Centre. A recent residents' survey recorded that the average number of journeys made on foot or by cycle on a weekday, and based on a sample of six hours at different times of the day, was two journeys per minute.</p> <p>The footpath is not a right of way. The Council advises there are 'permissive rights of public access' only. Residents are concerned that the leasing of Shire Hall and associated buildings for development by Brookgate (the railway station area developers) may jeopardise access or that, in any event, access is not necessarily protected.</p> <p>Can the County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) explain the current legal position on public access to the Wessex place cut through and</li><li>b) work with all those that have an interest in the Wessex Place footpath to ensure that public access to the Wessex Place footpath from McGrath Avenue is protected in perpetuity by agreeing to make it a right of way.</li></ul>

	<b>Response from:</b>	<b>Response to:</b>	<b>Response</b>
	Councillor Joshua Schumann, Chairman of Commercial and Investment Committee	Mr Alex Skinner Local Resident	<i>To be provided at the meeting.</i>