

## **COUNCIL 25 February 2025**

### **Item 20– Questions: Written Responses**

#### **3 Cllr A Kolker**

##### Written Response

##### Overview

In response to cases of Avian Influenza (sometimes referred to as Bird Flu) the UK Chief Veterinary Officer ordered a new Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) to cover the whole of England to be established from noon on Saturday 25 January following the escalating number of cases of avian influenza and continued heightened risk levels in wild birds.

The AIPZ will require all keepers of birds to conduct enhanced biosecurity to mitigate the risk of further outbreaks of the disease. The AIPZ will be in place until further notice and will be kept under regular review as part of the government's work to monitor and manage the risks of avian influenza.

The current risk to human health remains low and as standard, properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat. The UK Health Security Agency remains vigilant for any evidence of changing levels of risk and are keeping this under guidance under constant review.

##### The situation in Cheshire East

At present only one incident of Avian Influenza has been identified in the borough in a small cluster of wild birds found near a canal in Middlewich. This incident occurred in mid-February and was dealt with by the health protection agencies.

On our border near Malpas, an incident of Avian Influenza occurred at the end of February at a commercial property. This incident was addressed by the health protection agencies, supported by staff from Cheshire West and Chester Council. Staff from Cheshire East Council were kept briefed on the measures to contain the incident. As required by the national guidance the birds at this property were culled. Following a review that occurred on 3<sup>rd</sup> March the incident was stood down, though surveillance in the area continues.

Since the announcement of the national Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ), Cheshire East's communications team have published information for the public on the Council's website and through other media routes. These messages have been updated on a regular basis. To assist the public following the incident in Malpas the posters were disseminated. [Poster-2-GB-Bird-Flu-Detected-in-Area-No-Feeding-Wild-Birds.pdf](#) These provide simple advice should a member of the public find a dead or sick bird and the actions that they should take.

Should further incidents be reported within the borough or on our borders, messages to the public will be updated.

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/business/environmental\\_health/animal\\_welfare\\_and\\_licences/avian-influenza-bird-flu.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/business/environmental_health/animal_welfare_and_licences/avian-influenza-bird-flu.aspx)

**6 Cllr R Fletcher**

Written Response

Parking revenue at Well Lane car park in Alsager for the period 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 is £1394.60

**8 Cllr D Jeffery**

Written Response

Regarding the Iranian Festival of Nature itself, our website clearly states that gatherings of this size must apply to hold the event at least 90 days before the event is due to start. This allows the Council to assess the suitability of the site and liaise with relevant officers, including those responsible for litter clearance, parking, parks team, and officers from different council departments, as well as the Police, Fire, and Ambulance services. Attempts by the Council to encourage attendees to formalise this event which previously gathered at Tatton Park have not been successful, and without the appropriate pre-warning, this remains an unauthorised event in the park.

Therefore, we have set up a multidisciplinary group, learning from Tatton Park's experiences, and propose to take the following approach this year.

While an unauthorised event we recognise with no contact or overall organiser the event may still go ahead this year.

Our approach is therefore to try to reduce impacts this year and to persuade organisers this is not a suitable site or an authorised event for the future.

To mitigate the impact the gathering has on the park and Wilmslow, the following mitigations are suggested or have been implemented:

Arrangements will be made to have staff presence on call to visit the site over the two weekends following the Iranian New Year (21<sup>st</sup> of March) to deal with litter and other issues such as parking, and community wardens will liaise with the police as required.

It is important to note that staff do not have any powers to enforce but the increased presence on site should allow information to be handed out to attendees explaining the rules on events and park with a contact to customer services. The police have been alerted and can only assist with certain parking issues or anti-social behaviour.

Conversations took place with Tatton Park, who advised the event organisers are not willing to formally register the gathering as an event through the Cheshire East events team. Therefore, no other location within CEC is proposed as a venue for the gathering as the proper event organisation process is unlikely to be followed.

We will liaise with Police and Fire and Town Council and give prior notice of the Councils approach.

**16 Cllr K Hague**

Written Response

The Tabley Brook Bridge carrying the B5391 has suffered arch failure and collapse. The road closed with a traffic diversion route of circa 8 miles in place. Investigations are underway to inform a design solution and a programme of works is being developed.

It is unlikely that the construction works will be completed before the Cheshire Show in June therefore, we will engage with the event organisers to minimise any disruption from traffic management arrangements.

The 89 bus service is using the A556 and Linnards Lane to get back on its route. Flexilink is a demand-responsive service so residents can book a journey if they are eligible and beyond the reach of other public transport services.

The age restriction for FlexiLink is likely to be removed later in the year, so it can be used by all residents who do not have access to a regular bus service.