

Responses to questions from Greener Basingstoke

Question	Response
<p>What is the council doing in the plan on rewilding?</p>	<p>The council's rewilding efforts are focused on protecting and enhancing nature as part of its commitment to active nature conservation improvements in all wards across the borough.</p> <p>Collaboration is key to achieving this aim. Alongside directly managing a diverse range of habitats including over 80,000 trees and a pilot biodiversity improvement zone in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood, council teams also work closely alongside partners, groups and volunteers to improve and enhance the diversity of plants and animals on over 300 hectares of natural green space across the borough. This includes volunteers in conservation groups such as Natural Basingstoke, as well as partners including the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust through its Wilder Basingstoke and Deane scheme.</p> <p>Alongside its close work with partners and volunteers, the council also uses its role as the local planning authority to promote the creation and enhancement of natural habitats. Alongside working with developers to agree ecological enhancements, the council's local plan requires that all developments over 0.1ha in size demonstrate a minimum 10% net gain for biodiversity. The guidance includes the development and delivery of long-term ecological management plans for these development sites.</p> <p>For more information on how green spaces across the borough are being managed by communities and the council to encourage plants and wildlife, see www.basingstoke.gov.uk/ecology.</p>
<p>What is being done to ensure that green spaces across Basingstoke are being managed to improve biodiversity and tree cover? To ensure that spaces are expanded, new habitats created, and large-scale rewilding projects developed?</p>	<p>In line with the approach set out by its green infrastructure strategy, the council aims to maintain a strong network of well-linked green spaces across the borough that help to enhance the diversity of local plants and wildlife.</p> <p>This includes by establishing plans to carefully manage and improve biodiversity across a diverse range of habitats including 80,000 trees, parks and other spaces as it works alongside communities to protect and enhance more than 300 hectares of natural green environment across the borough.</p> <p>Alongside the management of its existing spaces, the council also continues to take a strategic role to promote the enhancement and creation of habitats to grow a network of connected green corridors across the borough. As local planning authority, the council has developed planning policies that</p>

	<p>protect important existing green links and wildlife corridors while ensuring developments over 0.1ha in size must increase the overall biodiversity of the area.</p> <p>Finally, the council is also directly undertaking its own larger scale projects that aim to expand existing green spaces and create new habitats in Basingstoke and Deane. This includes the East of Basingstoke Natural Environment Management Plan project that aims to create new habitats to connect six large parks and open spaces in the town with green corridors through to the open countryside. And, aiming to understand how areas could better enhance biodiversity while also capturing more carbon to help tackle the climate emergency, the council has also recently commissioned a study on how it could better manage its own land. Subject to the results of the study on what would be most beneficial for local plants and wildlife, this could see further tree planting or meadow creation across council-owned natural open spaces to help boost biodiversity.</p>
<p>The Nature Recovery Network is a major commitment in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan and enacted by the Environment Act 2021. What is being done to develop the Nature Recovery Network across Basingstoke to link the green spaces within the borough? Also, what is being done to ensure that, via the local plan, sites are not designated for development that will impede the planning and delivery of Nature Recovery Network in urban and rural areas for both green and blue habitats?</p>	<p>The details setting out how the requirements of the Environment Act 2021 should be delivered are still awaited from the Government. However, initial thoughts on how nature recovery networks can be delivered are being explored on a county-wide basis.</p> <p>The council undertakes a vigorous site selection assessment as part of its local plan process, which involves considering the suitability of sites for allocation against a broad range of criteria. This includes those relating to impact on green spaces and the rural environment. Teams from across the borough council and at Hampshire County Council work together to assess the implications of site allocation and reach a balanced conclusion to ensure that the most suitable sites are selected.</p>
<p>How does the Council ensure joined up thinking between, for example, its parks team, its development team and its environment team to consider environmental targets?</p>	<p>Council teams work together on relevant projects such as the local plan update, the biodiversity improvement zone pilot and green space management plans to ensure that environmental targets are considered.</p> <p>A cross-departmental green infrastructure working group meets regularly to ensure project updates and expertise are shared.</p>
<p>Is the council paying the real living wage to its employees?</p>	<p>The council pays above the hourly rate of the real living wage to all members of staff (excluding apprentices).</p>
<p>Will BDBC cease paying travel (car)expenses, say for Cllrs and staff for fossil fuel powered vehicles from 2030 latest?</p>	<p>The council follows the guidance and laws set by the UK Government with respect to paying travel expenses.</p>

<p>The Basingstoke Gazette published a letter from Edward Mitchell a few months ago in which he asked whether any consideration was being given to specifying Passivhaus building design standards for the new housing at Manydown. Is it worth pursuing this further?</p>	<p>The borough council and Hampshire County Council are working closely with Urban&Civic through their joint partnership as the master developer leads on the creation of a new all-electric community at Manydown.</p> <p>Urban&Civic is currently considering all options as it works alongside the councils to draw up plans to realise their joint ambition for a sustainable community that responds to the climate emergency. As these plans are drawn up they will be guided by industry best practice and reflect rapidly changing technology to ensure homes are as sustainable as possible.</p>
<p>Can I ask a more "political" question regarding the absences from this meeting? The housing numbers keep increasing through each local plan update to yet emerge; what will the council spend the £18.5M windfall on from the 18,000 new homes to be created? Nature Recovery Rewilding maybe?</p>	<p>It is unclear what the £18.5 million figure identified in the original question relates to.</p> <p>The council is currently working to update its local plan, which will set out a blueprint for development in the borough until 2039 and the associated infrastructure required to mitigate its impacts.</p> <p>New developments will be required to deliver a biodiversity net gain. The council would also receive funds as a result of these developments to deliver infrastructure to mitigate their impacts. This could include new green infrastructure.</p>
<p>What is being done to stop us running out of water with all the new houses being built?</p>	<p>The council has undertaken a water cycle study to assess the potential impact of projected growth on water resources in the borough.</p> <p>Planned future development has been assessed with regards to water supply, wastewater capacity and the environmental capacity in the water environment, and has had regard to the relevant water companies' water resource management plans. Work to date has shown that adequate water supplies will be available up to 2040 to meet the tested levels of growth.</p> <p>The council will engage further with the water companies as the spatial strategy for the local plan is developed to ensure that the required infrastructure can be delivered. Water companies will comment on the suitability of any draft spatial strategies through the formal consultation processes.</p>
<p>What is being done to ensure any new houses are net-zero? e.g. fitted with solar and heat pumps.</p>	<p>Central government has recently introduced changes to building regulations to require new homes to be more efficient. Further changes are proposed to be introduced in 2025 which will result in new development being 'zero-carbon ready', which means that they will have the ability to become zero carbon as the grid decarbonises.</p> <p>As discussed at the council's Economic, Planning and Housing Committee in March 2022, the council's draft policies for the updated local plan seek to go further in response to the climate</p>

	<p>emergency. The draft policies include set an energy use intensity standard to drive improved fabric efficiency, and a requirement that all new homes should generate as much energy as they use in order to reach a 'net zero energy balance'. Even on the most efficient of dwellings, this would require the use of measures to generate renewable energy.</p> <p>These draft policies would come into effect subject to their approval as part of the ongoing process to update the local plan.</p>
<p>What are the council going to do about stopping the building of so many houses?</p>	<p>The current Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan plans for 850 homes to be built each year up to 2029.</p> <p>The council is currently in the process of updating the local plan. This will cover the period up to 2039 and set out the required number of homes that will need to be built each year during that time.</p> <p>National policy requires councils to determine their housing need using the 'Standard Method' and this currently results in a requirement for 880 homes per year. If implemented, this would require sites to be found for approximately 7,000 additional homes up to 2039.</p> <p>However, in line with the Cabinet decision on Tuesday 27 September, officers are now undertaking further work to identify a suitable lower housing figure for the updated local plan. For more information see the news release Housing number concerns prompt more local plan work.</p>
<p>What plans are there to retrofit existing dwellings to net zero standards, which should surely be a priority given both the climate crisis and fuel poverty?</p>	<p>Retrofitting existing homes helps to reduce emissions from heating while also offering co-benefits including around fuel poverty and well-being. Partnership working is key to tackling this issue.</p> <p>The council is already working with partners as part of the Warmer Homes consortium to offer grants to private rental tenants and homeowners with a household income of less than £30,000 living in cold homes to make energy efficiency home improvements. This includes loft and cavity wall insulation, air source heat pumps and solar panels.</p> <p>The council is also now in discussion with Hampshire County Council as it seeks to establish a Hampshire-wide retrofit scheme for those who are not eligible for grants to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, usually because they are on too high an income. This would seek to reach a greater number of households that can't benefit from grant funding.</p> <p>Alongside this, we are also working with housing associations as we explore opportunities to work together where possible and encourage them to decarbonise their housing stock. This includes</p>

	<p>encouraging them to apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, which provides grants for energy efficiency home improvements to those in housing association properties.</p> <p>Finally the council is also in discussions with businesses and training providers locally, as well as with Hampshire County Council, to grow the local supply chain and ensure sufficient workforce exists to deliver the work required.</p>
<p>Is the council planning on investing in generating local renewable energy from solar or wind power and supporting renewable energy projects across the borough, and will the local plan be updated to allow and encourage on-shore wind generation within the borough?</p>	<p>The council's draft policies for the updated local plan were discussed at Economic, Planning and Housing Committee in March 2022 and included the proposed policy 'NP10 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation', which sets out support for renewable energy development and suggests that suitable sites for wind energy can most suitably be identified at a community level. The consultation on the draft local plan (known as 'Regulation 18') has been postponed until autumn 2023. However, the consultation will represent an opportunity for further public comment on the proposed wording and content of policies.</p> <p>The council does not have currently have specific plans to develop or invest into local renewable energy schemes. However, audits have recently been undertaken on council properties in order to plan how to reduce emissions from these. The outcomes and recommendations from these are awaited, but it is expected that onsite renewable energy generation may be part of the solution for some buildings, subject to viability.</p> <p>In line with its Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy and associated action plan, the council is promoting local and community energy schemes where applicable. This includes the recent promotion of Hampshire County Council's Solar Together, a group-buying scheme to enable residents to install solar panels on their homes at a comparatively lower cost than if they purchased them directly.</p>
<p>What is the Council doing to work with strategic infrastructure providers to deliver a SMART electric grid capable of supporting Basingstoke and to ensure that all the energy used is generated by local renewable energy sources by 2030?</p>	<p>The council will engage with utility providers as the updated local plan is prepared to ensure they have a good understanding of the scale of local growth and the proposed sites to accommodate this. Such dialogue will ensure that they can invest as required so that new development is served in the most effective manner.</p> <p>Proposals for renewable energy-related schemes will be considered against relevant planning policies.</p>
<p>Will Basingstoke Council be ensuring that any new buildings are built to net zero Passivhaus standards?</p>	<p>As set out above, the draft policies being considered as part of updating the local plan set an ambitious framework for the delivery of net zero homes. This was informed by an evidence-base study undertaken by WSP.</p>

<p>The Basingstoke Horizon 2050 specifically identified the protection of the countryside that surrounds the urban areas as being a key priority. What is being done to protect greenfield sites, both council and non-council owned green spaces?</p>	<p>The current local plan and the draft local plan update both seek to protect green spaces and direct as much development as possible to brownfield (that is, previously developed) land.</p> <p>The local plan update will set out a spatial strategy to meet the borough's housing need in a way that will maximise opportunities for development within built up areas and on previously developed land.</p> <p>Outside the allocated areas and settlement policy boundaries, a range of robust development management policies will help to prevent urban coalescence between Basingstoke and rural settlements. This includes the identification of strategic gaps between settlements, as set out in the papers for the Economic, Planning and Housing Committee in June 2022.</p> <p>A motion at Council in February 2022 raised concerns about the impact of growth around Basingstoke on nearby villages. In response to this, the draft policies for the updated local plan that were put to the Economic, Planning and Housing Committee in June 2022 proposed that no specific additional housing requirement should be set for Old Basing, Oakley, Sherborne St John and Sherfield on Loddon.</p>
<p>Is the Council ensuring that new houses are not being built on flood plains?</p>	<p>National planning policy seeks to direct new development away from land that floods. This includes fluvial flooding, surface water flooding or ground water flooding. This has been a key consideration in the council's site assessment process for the local plan update, which involved assessing sites promoted to the council as suitable for future development.</p> <p>In addition, the draft local plan update as discussed at Economic, Planning and Housing Committee in March 2022 includes a policy on managing flood risk. This requires that development will be safe from flooding and will not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.</p>
<p>Is the Council ensuring that new houses are on brownfield sites?</p>	<p>The current local plan and the draft local plan update both seek to direct as much development as possible to brownfield (that is, previously developed) land. The site selection process for future allocations also seeks to maximise opportunities for development within built up areas and on previously developed land.</p> <p>The draft policies for the local plan update direct development that is not formally allocated in the local plan to within settlements and set out strong protection for the countryside. The Economic, Planning and Housing Committee report in June 2022 on the draft local plan update set out a number of key elements of the spatial strategy including the following statement:</p>

	<p>“The strategy will maximise opportunities for development within built up areas and on previously developed land to minimise greenfield development and create sustainable communities.”</p>
<p>Why are the bus services not more reliable/run long enough? e.g. no bus to Silchester after 2pm.</p>	<p>Stagecoach is the operator of local bus services in the borough and not the borough council. Stagecoach is responsible for the management of its services.</p>
<p>Please can we have better maps of the lovely walkways around Basingstoke?</p>	<p>The website for Love Basingstoke includes maps for a number of walks around different areas of the borough. These can be found at www.lovebasingstoke.co.uk/visit/see-do/walks.</p> <p>Hampshire County Council, as the local highway authority responsible for footpaths in the borough, also provides maps for local walks. These can be found on the county council's website at www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryside/walking.</p>
<p>Will BDBC be supporting other local authorities in Hampshire who wish to see much wider introduction of 20mph Zones?</p>	<p>Hampshire County Council is the local highway authority responsible for roads in the borough, excluding national highways, and therefore responsible for setting speed limits.</p>
<p>Will BDBC undertake to improve the experience for pedestrians in the borough by managing accessibility on footpaths and pavements by ensuring better control of intrusive vegetation and parked cars?</p>	<p>While the county council is the local highway authority and therefore responsible for managing footpaths across the borough, the borough council does take an active role in helping to manage intrusive vegetation on footpaths. Residents can report issues with intrusive vegetation on footpaths to the borough council at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report.</p> <p>The police are responsible for enforcing against parked cars on pavements.</p>
<p>What are the plans for on-street car charging in Tadley? (particularly for those residents who do not have off street parking).</p>	<p>We've been working with the county council as the local highway authority responsible for on-street electric vehicle charging points as it prepares a bid for government funding to install around 40 new on-street chargers in the borough. This is currently set to include a charger in Burnham Road, Tadley.</p> <p>The county council continues to consider areas for new on-street electric vehicle charging points. Residents can help the county council understand where there is demand for on-street charging points by completing its survey.</p>
<p>Could we also ask about finance? Mitigation is virtually cost free, adaptation isn't</p>	<p>Without clarity on what the finance is in relation to, the council is not currently able to provide a response to this question.</p>
<p>Could we please look at National risk register, and Community risk register, which clearly</p>	<p>The council maintains a risk register for all its activities, which includes climate change as a key risk. In addition, climate change is now a consideration in all council decisions through its reporting</p>

<p>state the risks which climate will have locally and nationally.</p>	<p>process. The council's project management approach also factors in risk assessments and climate change.</p>
<p>Direct engagement with local communities around what they are doing?</p>	<p>The council is actively supporting and engaging with local communities, including on what they are doing already and could do in the future to address the climate and ecological emergencies.</p> <p>This support and encouragement from the council includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regularly attending meetings of the Basingstoke and Deane Association of Parish and Town Councils to provide updates on key projects related to tackling climate change • taking part in the informal Basingstoke Area Sustainability Group, which involves parish and town councils and community groups meeting every two months to share updates and learning on initiatives to tackle climate change • an ongoing research exercise including a survey that has been sent to parish and town councils and community groups to consider how they should be supported to help them play their part in tackling climate change – this includes gathering information on priorities, current activity, barriers to changes and further activity and available communications channels • coordinating and attending community events, including already organised events in summer and autumn 2022 to promote grants for fully funded energy efficiency home improvements for low-income families living in cold homes as well as playing a key role in coordinating Basingstoke Green Week • working alongside partners including the Citizens' Advice Bureau and The Environment Centre to signpost and provide advice to residents to reduce their carbon footprint. <p>The council is committed to working alongside and support residents and community groups to tackle these vital issues.</p>
<p>How the pledging system worked and how a partnership could be made between other parishes?</p>	<p>We assume this question refers to the pledge system employed during Basingstoke Green Week 2022 (Saturday 24 September to Sunday 2 October). This was the first time this concept was used as part of this event.</p> <p>During the week, residents were encouraged to 'make a pledge for the planet' either on a physical pledge tree created entirely from recycled materials by local artist Junk Jodie or on an e-pledge 'wall' on community-run website Amazingstoke and North Hampshire Saves the World.</p> <p>The pledge tree was put up and residents were first invited to make pledges at the market in The Malls on the first Saturday (24 September) of Basingstoke Green Week 2022. Following this, the tree was placed in the council offices until Friday 14 October 2022 and residents, staff and councillors were invited to make a pledge.</p>

	<p>The e-pledge 'wall' was promoted during and following Basingstoke Green Week 2022 including through social media posts and the council's e-newsletter.</p> <p>Over 160 people had made pledges by the end of Basingstoke Green Week on Sunday 2 October 2022. The council, as one part of the steering committee that plans Basingstoke Green Week each year, believes this pledging system worked well and so we are keen to work with the rest of the committee to look at a similar approach in the future. As part of this, the council is open to suggestions regarding how community groups and parish and town councils could get involved to help expand this concept in the future.</p>
<p>Some other councils produce e-newsletters or have a presence in their shopping centre to disseminate information about grants etc. and to encourage people to reduce their carbon footprint. Can Basingstoke do the same?</p>	<p>To mark the third anniversary of the council's climate emergency declaration, on the eve of the 10th Basingstoke Green Week (Friday 23 September 2022) the Leader of the Council Cllr Simon Bound announced new measures for addressing climate change in Basingstoke and Deane.</p> <p>As part of this, Cllr Bound announced the proposed creation of a new green team that would take to the streets of the borough to provide practical advice for businesses and residents to reduce their carbon footprints. While the proposals are still being worked up, this could include a temporary or permanent presence in the town centre.</p> <p>To read the full announcement, see the news release at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/rte.aspx?id=298&task=View&itemid=10262</p>
<p>Are the council looking at their office footprint? Do you for example promote walk/cycle/car share to work, avoid single use plastic and encourage recycling?</p>	<p>The council is considering the carbon footprint of its offices as a key part of meeting its commitment to become carbon neutral in its operations by December 2025.</p> <p>The council's climate change action plan sets out a number of actions related to this. This includes reviewing how staff travel to, from and for work, which involves promoting walking and cycling as active ways of getting around as well as public transport use and lift sharing.</p> <p>Internally, the council also has an Environment Champions group, where staff representing departments across the organisation work to promote sustainable initiatives to colleagues. Current office-based initiatives include looking into food waste and composting, waste reduction and promoting recycling, energy reduction, and developing internal training.</p>
<p>When will we see food waste recycling?</p>	<p>Food waste from households in Basingstoke and Deane is currently collected along with general waste and incinerated and turned into energy to power local homes.</p>

	<p>While separate food collections have been considered before, the decision was taken in 2018 when the current waste contract was awarded to not collect food waste from households. This is because food waste collections often have a low participation rate where weekly waste collections take place and, when last estimated in 2016, a food waste collection service was predicted to cost around £1 million each year to run. This was considered to not provide value for money for residents considering the potential low participation in the service and low return of food waste.</p> <p>We are currently awaiting the outcome of a number of consultations from the government's Resources and Waste Strategy for England, which was published in December 2018, to plan our services. The result of the 'Consistency in Recycling' consultation will tell us if food waste collections will be made mandatory across England.</p> <p>As we have an active contract until 2026 for our waste collections, it would be difficult to make changes to what is currently collected in the borough. But once the government has finished its review and announced the outcomes from its consultation, we can review how we move forward to accommodate these collections.</p> <p>In the meantime we are still seeing residents dispose of some of their recyclables via the black bin. It is our priority to increase the amount of recycling we collect via the services already in place before investing in additional services. We aim to achieve better quality of recyclables and increased volume by communicating with residents regularly and improving recycling facilities for residents who use communal bins, of which there are 12,000 in Basingstoke and Deane.</p> <p>While the borough council organises waste collections, Hampshire County Council is the waste disposal authority responsible for providing disposal facilities for waste and the sorting of recyclables to forward to end markets. The county council is working with other local authorities in Hampshire authorities to determine the feasibility of sites available to accommodate food waste from across Hampshire and the possibility of developing infrastructure for food waste. While there is a facility in Basingstoke, it is not of a size that could accommodate a contract of the size needed to serve the borough.</p> <p>Further information about the Resources and Waste Strategy for England can be found on the government webpage at Resources and waste strategy for England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).</p>
<p>Can we do better labelling and information about recycling?</p>	<p>Many companies have adopted the 'Recycle Now' branding for recycling information on their labels and products.</p>

	<p>The council provides residents with information about what can be recycled on a dedicated webpage which explains this labelling at Recycling symbols (basingstoke.gov.uk).</p> <p>Alongside this residents can order free bin stickers from the council with information about what can be recycled. And the council is also taking an active role in helping to reduce how much waste is generated for recycling in the first place, which includes providing advice and guidance through its social media channels and website as well as supporting public awareness and behaviour change campaigns by organisations such as Love Food Hate Waste and others.</p>
<p>Given that many local waste collection authorities are now operating alternate weekly collections, and knowing that these radically improve recycling (as well as saving a considerable amount of operating costs), when will BDBC review their stance against this arrangement?</p>	<p>As a council we will be researching and reviewing collection options which consider the possible outcomes of the consultations from the UK Government's Resources and Waste Strategy for England.</p> <p>Collection frequency will be considered as a part of this. Our current collection contract is in place until October 2026.</p>
<p>Can we replace the ice skating rink with a roller skating rink?</p>	<p>The ice rink is a key and well-supported part of the leisure park but is not a council facility and is privately owned and operated.</p>

<p>Has the council divested from all funds or products that include fossil fuels? What is the council doing to ensure investments are ethical, sustainable and meet environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria?</p>	<p>The council's primary objectives when investing are determined by statutory guidance and the CIPFA Code of Practice with a requirement to focus on security, liquidity and yield in that order.</p> <p>Further to this, the council has determined its own approach to environmental, social and governance investing. Under its treasury management strategy, the council will give priority to fund managers that are committed to reaching net zero emissions on investments by 2050 or sooner. The council does not hold any direct investments in fossil fuels and is not aware of any significant level of indirect holdings.</p> <p>The council holds a mix of direct and indirect investments with the aim of generating good returns to help support the delivery of its services. Climate change is a consideration for both types of investments.</p> <p><u>Direct investments:</u> Where the council invests directly (that is, by buying assets), the council looks to ensure the other party involved in the transaction (such as banks, investment managers, insurance companies and brokers, but excluding central government and other local authorities) have responsible investment policies or environmental, social and governance policies in place prior to investing.</p> <p><u>Indirect investments:</u> Where the council invests indirectly (for example, by buying shares in funds or trusts), it seeks to ensure any fund managers involved have responsible investment policies or have signed up to widely recognised policies such as the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment.</p> <p>When investing in funds, the council gives preference to those managed by investment managers that are members of the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative or the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change while remaining considerate of potential financial returns.</p>
<p>Are you aware that 22nd September was the internationally recognised Car Free Day. Did BDBC participate in any way?</p>	<p>The council is committed to encouraging residents and its staff to get around in more sustainable ways with low or no associated emissions. Although not specifically undertaken to mark this event last month, recent steps towards this wider aim include launching a survey to determine how staff could travel to, from and for work more sustainably – for example walking or cycling using a pool bike, rather than driving a private vehicle powered by fossil fuels. And, recognising that some journeys cannot be easily made by walking, cycling or public transport, the council also arranged a 'showroom' event for residents in Basingstoke town centre last month solely for zero emission electric vehicles.</p>

<p>How successful has BDBC's idle engine fining initiative been? Cllr Eachus said it would be council officials who would be policing – how many fines have they issued, what revenue has been raised and what has it been spent on?</p>	<p>In January 2019 the council adopted powers to enforce against stationary idling in accordance with The Road Traffic (Vehicles Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002.</p> <p>Under these powers, drivers who leave their engines running while stationary may be asked by an enforcement officer to switch off their engine. If a driver does not comply with a request, they may be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £20.</p> <p>To date, no fines have been issued by council officers as drivers have switched off their engines when they have been asked to do so.</p> <p>Alongside this, council teams are working proactively with partners where complaints are received about idling in particular locations. This includes asking the facilities team at Queen Mary College to remind students and visitors to not leave their engines idling following complaints from residents, and putting up anti-idling signs in areas and near facilities such as Down Grange Sports Ground.</p>
<p>The last time air pollution in Tadley (A340 – 2 locations) was monitored was between June 2016 and May 2017. Are there any plans to repeat the exercise and include other pollutants other than Nitrogen oxides?</p>	<p>There are no current plans to monitor pollution at Tadley. Previous monitoring showed that the levels of nitrogen dioxide were well within the National Air Quality Objective.</p>
<p>Will Greener Basingstoke respond to the Leader of the Council along the lines described by Martin Biermann.</p>	<p>The Leader of the Council has confirmed that he received an email from Greener Basingstoke.</p>
<p>Suggest we share that Cllr policy with Cllrs Bound & Eachus ?</p>	<p>The Leader of the Council has confirmed that he received an email, copied to Cllr Eachus, with Greener Basingstoke's apolitical policy attached.</p>
<p>When will solar panels become more readily available?</p>	<p>The council is working with partners as part of the Warmer Homes Consortium to promote grants for fully funded energy efficiency home improvements for eligible residents. This includes solar panels, along with measures such as solid wall and loft insulation and air source heat pumps. For more information about this scheme as well as other loans and grants that could help pay for solar panels and other improvements, see www.basingstoke.gov.uk/energy-efficiency-loans-and-grants.</p> <p>The council has also been helping to promote Solar Together Hampshire. This is a group buying scheme led by Hampshire County Council to help reduce the cost for residents to install solar panels. For more information, see https://solartogether.co.uk/hampshire.</p>