

QUESTION NO. 1

Councillor Whitham to ask the Chair:

Napier Road Underpass

I notice work has started clearing the path on the north side of the Napier Road underpass. Could the lead councillor please update me with progress and the likely opening date for the underpass ?

REPLY by Councillor Page:

I thank Cllr Whitham for the opportunity to up-date colleagues on what has been a challenging project, carried out under a busy and live railway with very constrained and limited working space.

The Napier Road Subway works are currently underway and should be completed by the end of November 2015. Details of the formal opening will be provided in due course.

It should be noted that the main north/south access link between Napier Road and Kenavon Drive will be open to the public very shortly. However the east/west link to the new development at 42 Kenavon Drive, on the southern side of the railway line, will not be available and open to the public until the residential development works are completed and ready to accommodate safe public access. This is anticipated to be in summer 2016.

QUESTION NO. 2

Councillor Whitham to ask the Chair:

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Some time ago, the Council announced electric vehicle charging points would be installed at various sites across Reading including one in Palmer Park. Please could I have an update on this ?

REPLY by Councillor Page:

I thank Cllr Whitham for his question.

Proposals to install electric vehicle charging points at Palmer Park, Rivermead Leisure Complex and Green Park were developed in response to a grant funding opportunity from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV).

The grant funding provided by central Government included a requirement for 25% match funding to enable delivery of the chargepoints, which had been secured by the Council from a supplier of the chargepoints through a competitive procurement process.

Unfortunately the contractor appointed to deliver the chargepoints subsequently withdrew their offer at the last minute, thereby meaning we were unable to meet the timescales for the OLEV funding.

As a result we are looking to secure alternative funding to deliver electric vehicle chargepoints in Reading. To this end, we have recently submitted a bid to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for the provision of four chargepoints in the basement car park of the Civic Offices and we will continue to seek further funding as opportunities arise.