

# Questions for prospective Unitary Councillors

## **Q1: Climate change**

David Levy (wins a Stagecoach West's token):

**What would you do to encourage Wiltshire Council to reduce the CO2 produced by traffic to deliver national CO2 reduction targets?**

CAT:

**What do you think the new Wiltshire Council should do to counter the threat of Climate change?**

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## **Q2a: Heavy traffic**

Ashley Ponting (wins a Stagecoach West's token):

**With current levels of heavy traffic using Oxford Road, as opposed to using Beversbrook Road bypass, what alternatives do you think should be considered? What do you propose to do to re-route unnecessary traffic and the congestion it causes?**

Mick Davenport (runner up):

**Despite a weight restriction on lorries, the problem in the town centre still persists. What action would prospective candidates take to deal with this problem?**

**The Pilot Area Boards revealed that there was no funding for a Curzon Street project and that any scheme is on hold until June when new Wiltshire takes over. What timescale do you intend to impose on Wiltshire Council so that trials can begin and get a resolution put in place?**

Mr B W Nicholson (runner up):

**At the moment we have a queue of traffic as far back as CMA. I would like to suggest that Curzon Street is made one way. We could use the High Street or The Pippin coming back onto the A4**

## **Q2b: A sustainable transport plan for Calne area**

CAT:

**It seems to CAT that planning and transport decisions are made in a rather haphazard fashion. We have lashings of free parking and few messages to suggest that there is anything wrong with this.**

**Developers on the edge of town give little thought to traffic consequences and when services move little thought is given to how people will access these services. Could we take a leaf out of Corsham's book and have our own Sustainable Transport Plan for Calne?**

**What could you do to bring about a meaningful transport for Calne with teeth? Would you introduce parking charges?**

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## **Q3: Walking and cycling**

Geoff Cook as a statement

**I seem to spend most of my time being hounded by motorists and only just avoiding getting run over whilst cycling. It's likely I shall soon have to give up my lifetime hobby if I am not killed first! Are people even more impatient and careless of others' lives in this modern age?**

CAT:

**There is a lot of frustration. We are being encouraged to get fit, cycle, walk and enjoy the countryside and yet Route 4, Calne's show case cycle way, is poorly maintained and even restricted at certain times. The footpath on the A4 from Calne to Yatesbury are not bad in parts but in a sorry state in others. What would you do to encourage people in and around Calne to get on their bikes?**

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#### **Q4: Rural public transport**

Bob Husband (wins a Stagecoach West's token)

**Our Cherhill Parish Plan survey found that people are dissatisfied with public transport because it is unreliable; infrequent particularly at evenings and weekends; travel times take too long and excessively expensive in relation to service efficiency.**

**Since these problems might apply to other rural communities how do candidates propose resolving them if elected?**

CAT/CAYPIG:

**We have worked with young people as well as the elderly. Each have different needs but the message loud and clear is that the service does not permit people without private transport, or who are unable to drive, get to where they need to go. Young people want later services (they finish far too early), fares are too high, and the routes do not reach the outskirts of the town nor help them get to the Leisure Centre.**

**Older people want to be able to get to surgeries but some have had their Taxibus was cut off last March after barely 12 months and no review with service users. Without a market for a mass transit system taxi sharing has to be the way forward.**

**“Maintaining and improving” is this Council’s commitment. If elected what would you do to support a taxi bus service? Will you restore the service in some way?**

CAT/Disabled:

**People in wheel chairs are entitled to concessionary fares. But unlike able bodied people they have to rely on low floor buses. These are not reliably available for return trips. Being stranded for hours in a wheel chair in an unfriendly bus station is not a way that disabled people expect to be treated in this day and age. What action would you take to ensure that buses are fully accessible?**

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#### **Q5: Transport hub for Calne**

Jack Iason (wins a Stagecoach West's token)

**When 4 buses queue due to delays or a clash of frequencies there is congestion outside the Town Hall at The Strand bus stops. But there is only room for one bus at a time. The public toilets are the other side of the retail area across the A4.**

**Could we use the market area or car park in the Pippin for a small bus station served by a small kiosk with travel and visitor information as well as a screen displaying up to the minute departure and arrival information? This could be monitored by the CCTV camera.**

James Harpham (runner up)

**I am wiggly bussing a lot less now having acquired a car. Our village (Calstone) would like help with organising shared transport. We are looking to arrange bussing theatre trips for about a dozen villagers to Bath, Devizes, Bristol or Swindon.**

**Similarly we need people to be picked up at 7pm ish and dropped off 10.30pm to attend our Jazz Club nights at the Town Hall. It would make a difference for some, especially the ancient ones!**

CAT

**These two suggestions chime very closely with the results of our research for the Go-between project. The first question reinforces our conclusion that there is a clear need for a focus for all transport activity: taxi sharing, car and bike hire, travel information, ticketing, planning rail trips etc. Part of the vision is for CAT to act as a third party to organise shared transport and really promote modern viable alternatives.**

**These are ideas whose time has come. They have been well received by the community but need strong councillor support.**

**What steps would you take to establish a transport hub or travel station for Calne?**

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**Spare questions if time allows:**

**Do you think elected councillors should give up their cars? What consultation will you have with your constituents now that council business is more remote and there is less representation?**