

Date	Question to	Question	Accepted / Rejected	Reason
22/01/2020	Mayor	At the Full Council Meeting of 16th July 2019, following the departure of Jacqueline Collins (Assistant Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer), it was proposed by you, the Elected Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Mayor, that the Council's then current Head of Law and Governance, Sarah Hall, be designated to the position of Monitoring Officer. On what basis did you make that proposal, had you fully explored this candidates suitability for the position of Monitoring Officer, what documentation was circulated to the Councillors of this District, all of whom voted unanimously in favour of this appointment, to allow them to make an informed decision regarding this appointment and were applications from external candidates accepted and circulated?	Accepted	
	Mayor	The Constitution of this Council states 'The Mayor acts as a focal point for the community.' With this responsibility in mind, on Sunday 24th November 2019 you attended a meeting at Vision West Notts, organised by hard left group Momentum and it's activist Owen Jones, prior to door knocking on behalf of Labours prospective parliamentary candidate backed by Momentum, Sonya Ward. You are First Citizen of this District. As such, and given the responsibilities the role of Mansfield's First Citizen carries, could you outline to what extent you are involved with the Momentum organisation and what does it mean to the people of Mansfield that it is represented by a Mayor prepared to attend a political rally organised by such a group and how this is relevant to your role as our First Citizen and Mayor.	Accepted	
	Mayor	On 17th November last year there was a massive mud slide in Bank End Close. Luckily nobody was seriously injured or killed. There followed multiple complaints from residents, alongside statements from residents, suggesting that this Council had been made aware of safety concerns long before this collapse. In news broadcasts Chief Executive Hayley Barsby stated, and I quote, 'This was very much something that was not foreseeable or something that we didn't foresee to happen'. There followed another mudslide at Rockhill on Thursday 21st November. The council response to this included Mike Robinson, Strategic Director at Mansfield District Council, saying: 'The land slip was an unforeseen event that was caused by extreme climatic conditions.' Given that two senior officers of this council have between them excused these collapses as due to things that weren't foreseeable and couldn't be foreseen and that they were due to the weather, can you outline what exactly this council has done and intends to do following these two incidents to reassure residents in Quarry estates, and those walking past any sheer face in our District, that they are safe.	Accepted	
	Cllr Barton	As Leader of the Mansfield Independent Group (formerly the Mansfield Independent Forum), what can you do to reassure the people of the Kings Walk Ward that they have recourse to a capable and active Councillor given his poor attendance record at council meetings since being elected as Councillor for the aforementioned ward?	Accepted	
	Cllr Fretwell	The Constitution states that the Governance and Ethics Committee, of which you are the current Chair, will also include two people (non-elected independent members), who are not Councillors or employees of the council. Does this committee currently have two non-elected independent members who are not Councillors or employees of the council, if not why not, and when was the last time this Council had two non-elected members who are not Councillors or employees of the Council on the Governance and Ethics Committee?	Accepted	
	Cllr Ward	Under the Council Constitution the Members Code of Conduct clearly states holders of public office should give reasons for their decisions. In answer to my question, put to you in my absence at the meeting of Full Council in November last year, you stated in your response that 'as many in this chamber will attest, in opposition I vociferously and consistently argued that the Chairs of Scrutiny should be held by the opposition group'. I can find no evidence of you either arguing vociferously or consistently that scrutiny Chairs should be held by the opposition group in any Council minutes or statements. In accordance with Mansfield District Council Values (Constitution Section 1.03 Integrity : Be honest, open and transparent) , could you please cite where this is minuted and explain why opposition members chairing Scrutiny Committees makes any difference whatsoever to the successful operation of this council	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	Cllr L Anderson	Following your election as the Member of Parliament for Ashfield, will you be resigning your position on Mansfield District Council or do you intend to continue to receive the allowance?	Accepted	
08/09/2020	Cllr Wetton	Business in the UK is in trouble. We face a recession. The Government is pleading with people to return to the office and support local businesses. Civil Servants largely remain at home. With our Towns businesses on the brink of collapse, why is this meeting that you Chair not taking place at the Civic Centre?	Accepted	
	Cllr Birchall	More than six months ago I asked a question of Mayor Abrahams relating to letters of concern from residents that were received by this council long before the landslip in the Kings Walk Ward. I got no answer. I have since spoken to a number of residents who have letters and emails to support the many times they contacted Officers and members of this Council to share their concerns and put on the Council agenda the requirement to look at safety in the Quarry prior to the landslip. In accordance with holding a member to account, what can you do as their Ward Councillor to ensure the voices of those affected are heard in this Council and that the people responsible for not acting on telegraphed concerns from residents regarding the risk to life and property in the ward you represent are at the very least held publicly to account?	Accepted	
	Cllr Hopewell	With reference to the virtual meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Place) on 28th July 2020 and in accordance with holding a member to account for their actions, I attended this meeting virtually and was alarmed that you were slouched on your sofa and to all intents and purposes asleep for the duration of the meeting (please see attached screenshot and or review the footage of the meeting on the Council website). Why are you not actively engaged at vital Scrutiny meetings and giving the agenda and speakers the attention they deserve?	Refused	Frivolous
	Cllr Bartow	With reference to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Place) on 28th July 2020 and in accordance with holding a member to account for their actions, I attended this meeting virtually and was alarmed that you from minute 36 and 42 seconds appeared to nod off for a minute and a half whilst Mike Robinson was sharing report details with the committee. This followed you not being visibly engaged or attentive during the meeting from start to finish (please see attached screenshot and or review the footage of the meeting on the Council website). I have seen multiple remarks relating to the demeanour and behaviour of this nature on social media from residents within the District. Why are you not respecting the meeting, the speakers and the voting public by behaving in this manner at this meeting?	Refused	Frivolous
	Cllr Anderson	Since being elected as MP for Ashfield you have between that election date and May 18th of this year attended only one meeting for and on behalf of the District of Mansfield. The meeting to which I refer took place virtually on May 18th, a mere 24 hours before you would have fallen foul of the Constitution rule that all members must attend at least one meeting of this Council every six months. Many of the meetings including Committee responsibilities you so vocally fought to be on last year upon election to this Council you didn't even have the courtesy to submit an apology for absence. You have received a full Councillors allowance and special responsibility for the entire six month period since being elected as MP for Ashfield and only attended a single meeting resulting in a remuneration of over three thousand pounds for a catalogue of non attendance. In accordance with holding a member to account for their actions, will you continue to only be in attendance once every six months or will you resign and allow a more engaged individual to take up a position within this Council?	Refused	Similar to a question put in the last six months

	Cllr Shields	With reference to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Place) on 28 July 2020, you announced at the start of the meeting that no questions would be accepted from members of the public at the meeting. As you are aware, as Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, you can take questions from members of the public, before and during any meeting at your discretion as opposed to them having to be submitted a week and a half in advance of the meeting or even the day before. In accordance with holding a member to account for their actions, why did you take the decision to refuse any public input at that meeting and will you allow public questions at future meetings of this Committee from members of the public in attendance?	Accepted	
	Cllr Anderson	There are clear guidelines laid out in this Councils constitution regarding the expected behaviour of the Councillors representing the District. You have recently been involved in behaviour that is clearly in breach of those guidelines that drew national media attention. In accordance with holding a member to account for their actions, is it acceptable for you or any other Councillor here or anywhere to take the law into their own hands and what example does this set for our local residents?	Refused	Not a matter for the Council as matter relates to action in another district/constituency
13/10/2020	Cllr Burgin	You are Portfolio Holder for the Environment and as such in receipt of a special responsibility allowance of in excess of £15,000 for assuming this responsibility. In accordance with holding a member to account, what qualifications and skills do you have that are relevant to environmental issues resulting in your appointment to this position?	Accepted	
	Cllr L Anderson	In your declaration as MP for Ashfield on the Register of Financial Interests you cite your work as a District Councillor in Mansfield, the associated allowance and state this job requires ten hours per week approximately. Your social media pages are filled daily with reports from Westminster, footage of Commons debates and visits to residents and businesses throughout the District of Ashfield. When and where are you completing ten hours work on behalf of this District, particularly given that in the first six months following your election to Parliament you attended one meeting of this Council on May 18 th of this year, 24 hours before you would have fallen foul of the Constitution rule stating every Councillor must attend at least one meeting every six months.	Accepted	
	Cllr Sissons	At the meeting of the Governance and Ethics Committee on 4 th September Monitoring Officer Sarah Hall put forward a proposal to limit members of the public to one question at any meeting of Full Council suggesting that this was a matter of 'aligning with other Councils in the area'. The Monitoring Officer has also proposed a ban on members of the public being able to submit a supplementary question. You immediately agreed that supplementary questions should be withdrawn. You then immediately agreed that questions from members of the public should be restricted. How does restricting the questions the people of this district you purport to represent can ask at Council meetings align with integrity, transparency and accountability?	Accepted	
	Cllr Sissons	At the Meeting of the Governance and Ethics Committee on 4 th September following the Monitoring Officer proposing restrictions on questions from members of the public you suggested that questions for Councillors should be limited and only accepted at meetings of Full Council and that any public questions to Council Committees should relate specifically to the Agenda items of said meeting. How can members of the public ask questions at Committee meetings that, as you have suggested, should be restricted to the agenda items when the said agenda is never published in time for members of the public to fulfil the Monitoring Officers requirement that any questions be submitted no later than seven working days of a scheduled meeting? Plus, the Monitoring Officer has outlined to me by email that there is, and I quote, 'no provision for public questions on reports contained within the agenda.'	Accepted	
	Cllr Barlow	At the Meeting of the Governance and Ethics Committee on 4 th September you stated the importance of this Council encouraging members of the public to come forward and ask questions of this Council. With this in mind how can restricting public questions and withdrawing the right to ask a supplementary question be seen as encouraging public participation and what do you suggest is the best way to encourage public participation given that quite clearly you wish to see more interaction between this Councils members and members of the public?	Accepted	
	Cllr Birchall	Could you please explain why you fail to respond to local residents, numerous residents have tried to contact you regarding issues on your ward?	Accepted	
	No member identified	Why in the last meeting was it raised that compensation was being discussed with residents when no discussions have taken place about this?	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	No member identified	What was the point in an independent report, that residents waited a year for, for it not to be shared fully with residents?	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	No member identified	The current situation for the cliff is only a temporary fix, how long will this last for?	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	No member identified	What happens when the temporary fix expires and all residents have not signed over land? Surely this risks yet another landslide?	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	No member identified	What is the Councils plan moving forward as its clear at this stage that not all residents will sign over their land for free?	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	No member identified	When was MDC aware of the problems with berry hill quarry?	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	No member identified	How did MDC and the rate payers end up with the liability of the cliff face when the builder would have originally owned the land when building?	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	No member identified	Why did Mansfield District Council fail to act upon the information from the Halcrow report back in 2012 (residents have copies) , which in fact highlighted the recent landslide area as high risk in red and nothing was done, why?	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	No member identified	Was council aware of the amount of sand falls that residents raised concerns about over the years including on the actual day of the landslide occurred ? And why wasn't anything done sooner ?	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	No member identified	Now that houses on Bank end and stone Bank will be tarnished forever even after the work is done , people have been unable to sell their houses, some houses will gain access points, some houses lose land and lose privacy due to negligence, what compensation will be provided by the council as residents are now stuck with homes that are worthless or have to be sold at a lower value or will possibly have problems selling in the near future?	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	No member identified	Why does MDC feel the need not to share the full independent report that was promised to residents after the landslide	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	Cllr Burgin	On Tuesday 15 th September I submitted an email to this Council (to Democratic Services, The Chief Executive, The Monitoring Officer and Mark Pemberton), outlining serious concerns over the safety of a thoroughfare at Berry Hill Park following a huge tree collapse. As of October 2 nd I have still not received any reply from the Council. I have since read in local press that Council Officers 'visited the site on September 2 nd and assessed that it posed no immediate health and safety risk to the public'. Sarah Troman went on to say the mountain of tree and branch would be 'cleared as soon as possible' and that 'the rest of the tree which remains standing has been assessed as low risk and will remain untouched'. To date the collapsed tree remains in situ. As Portfolio holder for the Environment could you please detail exactly which Officers attended the site of the collapse, why they didn't visit the site until September when the collapse happened in August and most importantly what qualifications they hold to declare the remaining tree carcass and other trees that now tilt at angles up to 45 degrees as 'safe'.	Refused	Not holding a member to account