

Council Meeting

29 02 24 - 7.30 pm

Supplementary Summons

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5. Speaking or Questions from Members of the Public under Standing Order 12

a) Question from Aileen Owen Davies to the Leader of the Council

“The whole landscape of Runnymede is considerably less “green” than it was a few years ago. In my part of Runnymede very few trees seem to have been planted. There are so many spaces which could become little mini forests such as suggested by the RHS, I have seen no evidence of this. There are many other places where trees would enhance the look, air and carbon absorption of the area.

Increasing green cover will be a benefit to the beauty of the area and with the looming Climate Catastrophe, it is hugely important. They offer shade, habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife, as well as benefiting the quality of the air.

Trees in Conservation Area gardens cannot be either pruned or felled without council permission. Trees in other gardens can be felled whenever the owners wish. There should be similar controls for all properties. Presumably those on public ground do have to have council permission.

So I ask now, how many trees have been felled in Runnymede and how many have been planted during the past year and what is your “greening” plan for the future?”

b) Question from Deborah Long to the Leader of the Council

“A lot of Runnymede residents are concerned with the power the wealthy landowners seem to have over the council and planning department.

I hope the billionaires aren't intimidating the council into passing the planning applications and that they are dealing with them as they would any other individual's planning application and they follow planning due process.

Is the planning department urged not to refuse planning applications because they can't afford to fight the constant appeals?”