

# Questions from the Public

09/12/2025

Questions from the public

George Bleakley to the Lead Member for Resources, Regeneration and Economic Development, Councillor Louise Price	
1	<p>“Why has the council took it upon itself to potentially discriminate against people with disabilities who are transitioning over from old style benefits to Universal Credit? DWP promised these people when they transitioned over they won’t be worse off. The DWP has given what is called a “transitional element” to make up the shortfall and to comply with their PSED. However Three Rivers Council has decided to treat this transitional element as an extra income for council tax reduction purposes and removed all of those people’s council tax reduction and sending them bills of nearly £2k making them substantially worse off, despite the transitional element not even being mentioned in the CTR policy. Other councils have rightly not treated this transitional element of UC as income and kept council tax reduction in place. Three Rivers has not. This is potentially illegal and discriminatory, and most definitely immoral and not in the spirit of why the transitional element exists in the first place. When did Three Rivers become the “nasty” council when other councils are doing the right thing?”</p>
	<p>All Council’s had to create a Local Council Tax Reduction scheme under Section 13 (1) (a), of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Three Rivers District Council, changed to a banded income scheme from 1 April 2024 and Universal Credit Transitional Protection Payments were included as income in our scheme. This scheme was approved by Full Council and included a full Equality Impact Assessment. Our scheme disregards Carers Allowance in full and there is a further £60 disability disregard for those in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, PIP or Attendance Allowance. There is certainly no intention to discriminate against people with disabilities.</p> <p>The full list of disregards in assessing income for Council Tax Support purposes is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carers Allowance</li> <li>• Child Benefit</li> <li>• Disability Living Allowance</li> <li>• Employment and Support Allowance support components</li> <li>• Personal Independence Payments</li> <li>• Universal Credit Carer Element</li> <li>• Universal Credit Disabled Child Element</li> <li>• Universal Credit Housing Element</li> <li>• Universal Credit Limited Capacity to Work Element</li> <li>• Universal Credit Limited Capacity to Work Restricted Access Element</li> </ul>
David Parry to the Lead Member for General Public Services, Councillor Sarah Nelmes	

2	<p>I would be grateful if at the upcoming council meeting or post the meeting in writing reply to the following question / concern.</p> <p>The property on Moor Lane, known as Offa House (WD3 1LR), which may or may not be on agricultural land but is certainly near a flood plain appears to have changed use. It has changed from a residential property, with no agricultural activity, to an intensive chicken farm, potentially involving on-site animal slaughter, resulting in a persistent, widespread foul [no pun intended] smell and concern for environmental runoff into nearby water systems and land.</p> <p>1. What immediate steps will the Council take through its Environmental Health, planning or other departments to investigate and ensure all permits and permissions are in place to cover activities at the site and the statutory nuisance being caused by the odour and the risk of water pollution?</p> <p>I hope to attend the meeting but if unable to and I understand a written response will be provided.</p>
	<p>The Council is aware of the matter referenced by the questioner and is working closely with other public agencies including Trading Standards who are the lead agency for this investigation. As this is a live investigation, no further comment can be provided at this time.</p>
<b>Vishal Patel to the Lead Member for Leisure, Councillor Lloyd</b>	
3	<p>At the Policy and Resources Committee on 17th November 2025, the Lead Member for Leisure, Chris Lloyd, said the council is committed to encouraging physical activities such as tennis, bowls, or cricket across the district.</p> <p>South Oxhey Playing Fields is now a registered 'Village Green' and is home to several football pitches and other sport facilities.</p> <p>For over 70 years, local people from South Oxhey, Carpenders Park, and Oxhey Hall have played cricket there, from Oxhey Cricket Club's organised matches on the grass in the 1950s, to informal recreational games by residents of all ages. However, there is now just one community-accessible cricket pitch in Watford Rural Parish: far below estimated needs.</p> <p>Will Cllr Lloyd and the Council now ensure their action matches their words and designate a suitable grass area at South Oxhey Playing Fields (or an alternative site in Watford Rural Parish) so that this longstanding recreational cricket can continue?</p>
	<p>As has been previously advised on several occasions both publicly and privately the Council currently has no plans to create or designate a formal cricket pitch at this location. If a group would like to request a formal arrangement for cricket provision at this or indeed any other council owned site, then this can be done through the Council's hire of grounds application process.</p>
<b>Jo Colledge-Miller to the Lead Member for Sustainability and Climate Change, Councillor Tankard</b>	

	<p>As a member of the public, I submit the following question to the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 9 December 2025.</p> <p>On 31 October a tree situated in Three Rivers' Gade View Gardens Play Park fell onto Gallows Hill, writing off a resident's car and causing significant disruption.</p> <p>Luckily, there were no children in the park when the tree toppled over as they, or their carers, could have been seriously injured or worse.</p> <p>Considering that the council was operating the land as a public play park, why wasn't the council ensuring that the tree was being maintained and safe?</p>
	<p>Due to an historical error connected to the land transfer of the playground from the original developer to the council, this tree was not listed on the council's tree management database. This error has now been corrected, and as a precautionary measure all the council's other play areas have been rechecked for tree safety and to ensure records are accurate. The council has an ongoing project, working with the Land Registry, to update the accuracy of land ownership records, this is a national issue and not unique to TRDC. With regards to this specific tree the council has undertaken works to fell the remaining part of the tree to ensure the safety of its playground. It is fully acknowledged, without wishing to downplay the impact on the resident whose car was damaged, that this incident could have been much more severe.</p>

