

Urgent Question

20/10/2026

**Full Council
PART I**

**Urgent question
Councillor Debbie Morris**

At the Aquadrome Public Engagement meeting on 16 September, a member of the public asked: as there was no longer a park keeper or warden whether someone would be on site to patrol and keep an eye on things at the Aquadrome.

The response acknowledged that there hadn't been a park warden for a very long time but stated: "However, there is a member of council staff who lives on site and they are a member of our Grounds Maintenance Team. "They were said to be tied to the site which allowed for the gates to be opened and closed outside of normal officer working hours and ensure there is someone on site in case of emergency.

On the evening of 1 October, the first day of the 6pm Autumn closing time, a number of visitors, their dogs and cars were locked in at the Aquadrome. They could find no one on site to help them nor was there any signage directing them who to contact in this situation. At least one of them was very distressed.

By chance, a council worker appeared around 7.15pm and opened the gates. He told them that there had not been anyone living on site for a long time and that they were lucky he just happened to be dropping off his vehicle then, otherwise the gates would have remained shut all night.

- A) Is there a grounds maintenance team member living on site and if so, where and why wasn't he or she available on the evening of 1 October?

- B) What do the council propose to do to prevent situations like the one on 1 October recurring?

**Response from the Lead Member for Leisure, Councillor Chris Lloyd to
Councillor Debbie Morris' urgent question**

Is there a grounds maintenance team member living on site and if so, where and why wasn't he or she available on the evening of 1 October?

A). Yes, there is a member of the Grounds Maintenance team living on site. That member of staff is not contracted to be available beyond their working hours.

What do the council propose to do to prevent situations like the one on 1 October recurring?

B). There are no further actions for the council to take in relation to this. There are multiple signs of varying size displayed across the Aquadrome site, detailing the car park closing at 6pm from the 1 October. The adjustment to the 6pm closing time happens annually and is well advertised on site, along with advance warning on social media. The council does not provide an out-of-hour service and it is the responsibility of visitors to the site to be aware of the opening and closing times of the car park.

Urgent Question
Councillor Mike Sims

"Zionism is Racism" was a motion adopted by the Green Party of England and Wales on 4 October 2026 that designates Zionism as a form of racism.

Can the leader reiterate that this Council does not tolerate any form of antisemitism, discrimination or racism and that he will support in particular the Jewish community in Three Rivers during these challenging times.

