

Cabinet – 30 November 2023

Questions from Councillors

1 Councillor Chris Vince to Councillor Stacy Seales (Portfolio Holder for Community):

Can you give me a full list of warm banks that will be provided, both by Harlow Council and other organisations, to Harlow residents struggling with heating bills during this cost-of-living crisis?

Reply from Councillor Stacy Seales (Portfolio Holder for Community):

Harlow Playhouse will be providing a warm and inviting space, in the theatres Bar and Café areas, to everyone who needs it throughout winter during its current opening hours of 10.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday. 10.30am till 10.30pm Friday and Saturday - although it will be closed Christmas Day and New Years Day.

In addition, Sumners Farm Close, will have space available from 8.30am until 4.00pm all week whilst Harlow Central Library will be providing a warm space Monday to Friday (9am to 5.30pm) and Saturday (9am to 5pm).

Both of these venues are on top of the common rooms at all 22 Supported Housing schemes around the town.

The council has a page on its website dedicated to warm spaces, and has issued a press release on Monday that included a callout to groups who are providing them. We have also worked with external organisations who are providing warm spaces, details of which can be found on the webpage <https://www.harlow.gov.uk/warm-spaces>.

Supplementary question from Councillor Chris Vince:

Can we be more on the front foot in the future so residents are aware earlier?

Reply from Councillor Stacy Seales (Portfolio Holder for Community):

There are a lot of organisations involved, and there was work taking place before the actual announcement.

2 Councillor Tony Edwards to Councillor Stacy Seales (Portfolio Holder for Community):

Could you please say when the work compiling a list of this years “warm spaces” commenced and which organisations have been approached?

Reply from Councillor Stacy Seales (Portfolio Holder for Community):

Work compiling this list commenced in October 2023. Organisations approached in compiling the list of warm banks includes Rainbow Services, St Paul’s Church, St Mary’s Church, Heart4Harlow, the libraries, Maybury Centre and Street2Homes.

Supplementary question from Councillor Tony Edwards:

Can we make sure that when information is on our website that it is up to date?

Reply from Councillor Stacy Seales (Portfolio Holder for Community):

I will take that on board, however there was a lot of work going on.