

WRITTEN QUESTIONS – JULY 2008

No	Rec/9 wd target to respond	Question by	Response from	Sent to Cllr	Published
1	<p>Received 16th July 2008</p> <p>Target response by 29th July 2008</p>	<p>Councillor Dr Evans</p> <p>1. Could the Cabinet Member say whether any risk assessments were conducted during the period August 2003 to January 2008 and if so how do we know that and if there were risk assessments – but no records - why the serious fire risks were not “discovered” and acted on until early January this year?</p> <p>2. Would the Cabinet Member say why, notwithstanding these New Fire Regulations, a Fire Risk Assessment was not conducted at the Rickstones Pavilion until 15 months later?</p>	<p>Councillor Mrs Schmitt, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing.</p> <p>Rickstones Pavilion, Witham was due to close in 2003 as part of a renewal programme of the facilities and halls in the District. Up to 2003 bi-annual health and safety inspections were undertaken with the responsible manager. A health and safety inspection was scheduled for 2005 but with the impending closure this was not undertaken. From the period 2005 to January 2008 the responsible manager monitored the premises on a regular basis and any health and safety hazards raised by the Hirers, including fire, would have been addressed</p> <p>New Fire Regulations (The Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order) came into effect in October 2006 and replaced existing regulations. This placed a requirement to undertake Fire Safety Risk Assessments. This Council was very proactive in training and educating its managers and staff to ensure this requirement was fulfilled. In addition, a new programme of Fire Safety Risk Assessments was introduced in respect of all BDC owned premises to ensure compliance with the new legislation. It was agreed that the larger premises with the greater number of employees and users would be assessed first with the smaller halls and premises programmed at a later stage.</p>	28/07/08	28/07/08

		<p>3. Will the Cabinet Member give an undertaking that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the young people when using the Pavilion are safe and free from risks of fire?</p>	<p>After the initial Fire Risk Assessment was undertaken in January 2008 a further inspection was conducted on the changing rooms. Works identified have been carried out to allow footballers to continue to use the facilities.</p>		
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Last updated 28th July 2008