

COUNCIL

17 NOVEMBER 2015

ITEM 6 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR R ADAMS TO COUNCILLOR A V SMITH MBE

Collections currently stored at the Snibston Discovery Centre hold great heritage value and help tell the story of the area's history. Some artefacts are already earmarked for return to the area's from where they originate.

It's essential that we now secure those collections and artefacts that have a significant heritage value to North West Leicestershire: The Palitoy collection, the Whitwick Hearse, the Belmont Butty boat and the Fish and Chip collection to mention a few from the extensive list of collections.

Given the significant heritage importance to local people, what support will the council provide to ensure the local collections are retained within the district for the benefit of future generations of residents and visitors?

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR A V SMITH MBE

Thank you for your timely question, with the legal challenges concluded, now is the time to look to the future of the collection and the site.

In reply to your question the County Council were asked to outline their approach to the relocation of the collections and their response is as follows:

“The items mentioned in the question are all accessioned as part of the Leicestershire County Council Museum Service Collections. This means that as an accredited museum service, the County Council has responsibility for the long term care and preservation of those collections, which it holds in trust for the people of Leicestershire.

Following the closure of Snibston Museum, the County Council has been clear that it intends to uphold its responsibilities in relation to the collections formerly displayed there. The County Council has said that it will continue to respond positively to approaches from accredited museums and other appropriate organisations who wish to loan items from the Leicestershire collections, in order to make them accessible to the public through display or exhibition.”

From this council's point of view we will reaffirm our interest in supporting the County's approach to Snibston including its collection and wherever possible we will encourage local organisations and accredited museums to engage with the County regarding items of local interest. I will be writing to the County Council to reaffirm our position on this matter and I hope I have cross party support to do so.