

## **Heanor and Loscoe Town Council**

### **Public Information**

#### **1. Attendance at Meetings:**

You are welcome to attend Council meetings:

These are held in the Council Chamber on the second floor of the Town Hall, Heanor starting at 7pm. Access is through the main entrance off the Market Place. Facilities include: -

- Car parking on the Market Place
- Accessible lift
- Accessible toilets on the first floor of the Town Hall
- Public seating at the rear of the Council Chamber
- An induction loop

If you have any special requirements, please contact us so we can help.

We may deal with confidential business towards the end of the meeting, and the Mayor or Chairman will ask you and the press to leave at this point.

A calendar of Council meetings is available on the Council's website or by contacting us.

#### **2. Emergency Evacuation Procedure:**

If the alarm sounds, please vacate the building using the main staircase. Assistance will be provided if required. **The lift must NOT be used.**

#### **3. Taking part in Council Decisions**

Members of the public who are on the Heanor and Loscoe Town Council register of electors or are Heanor and Loscoe Town Council Taxpayers or Non-domestic Taxpayers may ask questions of the Council at ordinary meetings of the Council. The total period for questions by the public at a Council meeting shall be 15 minutes. A member of the public may speak for no more than 3 minutes.

A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing or electronic mail to the Town Clerk no later than 5.00pm three working days before the Council meeting (i.e., on Monday when Council meets on the Thursday). The notice must give the name and address of the questioner. Any question submitted after this day will be received at the discretion of the Mayor.

At any meeting no person may submit more than one question, and no more than one such question may be asked on behalf of one organisation.

The Town Council may reject a question if it:

- i) is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility, or which affects Heanor and Loscoe
- ii) is defamatory, frivolous, or offensive
- iii) is substantially the same question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months
- iv) requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information

The Mayor will invite the questioner to put the question to the Council. If the questioner who has submitted a written question is unable to be present, he/she may ask the Mayor to put the question on his/her behalf. In the absence of the questioner, the Mayor may ask the question on the questioner's behalf, indicate that a written reply will be given, or decide that the question will not be dealt with.

The Clerk shall afford to the press reasonable facilities for taking their report of any proceedings at which they are entitled to be present.

If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings at any meeting, the Mayor may, after warning, order that he/she be removed from the Council Chamber or that the part of the Chamber open to the public be cleared.