

Questions Under Standing Order A13

A member may only submit three questions for consideration at each Council Meeting. Each member will present their first question in turn, when all the first questions have been dealt with the second and third questions may be asked in turn. The time for member's questions will be limited to a total of 30 minutes.

Question (1) by Councillor Carter to the Chairman of the Town Centre Regeneration Programme Board (Councillor Haddock)	Can you please advise the council of what actions you have undertaken to facilitate the compulsory purchase of Crossways Paignton?
Councillor Haddock	<p>I am pleased to reassure Councillor Carter that the Council continues to look at a range of options for the Crossways site. At the most recent meeting of the Town Centre Regeneration Programme Board, held on the 4th of May, there was a full and thorough cross-party debate about Crossways, where a range of options were considered and discussed. I am sure that Councillor Steve Darling will be able to provide his Group with a briefing regarding this matter. The Town Centre Regeneration Programme Board will of course make appropriate recommendations to the Council if and when it is necessary, regarding any aspect of Paignton Town Centre.</p>
Question (2) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Chairman of the Town Centre Regeneration Programme Board (Councillor Haddock)	Can you update the Council on the progress of developing the Town Hall Car Park on Lymington Road in Torquay?
Councillor Haddock	<p>I am pleased to say that the Town Centre Regeneration Programme Board, made up of representatives of all political parties and business representatives, received a highlight report on this issue on the 4th of May and has had updates almost every month prior to that. It is inevitable that some of the work undertaken by the Town Centre Regeneration Programme Board involves the sharing of sensitive and confidential information in order to provide updates on progress. Board members can of course brief their Groups about these matters and the position in respect of any progress, in accordance with Member's Code of Conduct and the Council Constitution.</p> <p>The most recent highlight report to the Board states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local education provider has been asked whether it wishes to purchase and lease back (to the Council) the whole of the town hall site. This is on the basis of previous discussions with the Town Centre Regeneration Programme Board and the education provider, with a view to establishing a new campus on the site. • Further discussions are taking place with prospective investors / developers.

	<p>There is also demand from discount food retailers for good sized town centre sites. Consequently the TDA, acting on the Council's behalf, is working with three developers – who have discount food retailers as clients – to work up redevelopment proposals for the Town Hall Car Park. The developers have been asked to retain parking and promote a mixed use development.</p> <p>The Town Centre Regeneration Programme Board will of course make appropriate recommendations to the Council if and when it is necessary, regarding any options for developing the Town Hall Car Park in Torquay.</p>
<p>Question (3) by Pentney to the Chairman of the Town Centre Regeneration Programme Board (Councillor Haddock)</p>	<p>Do you agree with me that now is the time to include the Former B & Q building in Torre as one of the projects for Town Centre regeneration</p>
<p>Councillor Haddock</p>	<p>This is an interesting question, as it is the Liberal Democrat Member of the Town Centre Regeneration Programme Board who is concerned that the Council is seeking to deliver too many projects in its town centres regeneration programme and that we ought to be reducing the number of projects, not increasing them.</p> <p>However, I am aware of the delays to the delivery of this project, but equally I am also aware of the work by the Planning Team, assisted by the TDA, to encourage the owner to start the work on site. In March 2018 the developer advised that he was reworking the cost and work schedules and he hoped to be making more practical progress in the near future.</p> <p>I am also aware that the Council's Housing Company has been asked to consider acquiring properties in the development, to help accelerate delivery.</p> <p>We have also brought this site to the attention of Homes England, in case Homes England could acquire and deliver the site.</p> <p>In summary I am pleased to report that the Council, with support from the TDA, are already doing as much as they reasonably can to achieve delivery on this site. I therefore don't believe it needs to be added to the already substantial town centres regeneration programme.</p>