

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 18 October 2018

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.

<p>Question (1) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Executive Lead for Adults (Councillor Parrott)</p>	<p>What is Torbay Council doing to support Purple Angel's day centre for people with dementia?</p>
<p>Question (2) by Councillor Long to the Executive Lead for Community Services (Councillor Excell)</p>	<p>Residents on Great Hill Road, Torquay, and the surrounding area have described that they are living in fear due to the speeding traffic issues outside their properties.</p> <p>At the Full Council Meeting on 19th July 2018, a motion was tabled regarding those traffic issues by Councillor Darling (S) and myself. I understand that this motion was delegated to the Executive Head for Business Services to respond to. When might a decision be made in relation to this motion?</p>
<p>Question (3) by Councillor Tyerman to the Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Assets, Finance, Governance and Corporate Services, Economic Regeneration and Transformation (Elected Mayor Oliver)</p>	<p>Why is it that the Toilet provision in the central area of Goodrington Beach has been closed and is being removed when the Mayor gave assurances to the local community that such provision was a condition of granting the lease to Whitbread which led to the demolition of the previous toilet block and made it clear in a published decision which has not been rescinded that toilet provision in the central area of Goodrington Beach would remain in place.</p>
<p>Question (4) by Councillor Carter to the Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Assets, Finance, Governance and Corporate Services, Economic Regeneration and Transformation</p>	<p>On the 19 April 2018 Full Council meeting the following decision was made about Crossways Paignton</p> <p>This Council notes that the Crossways arcade and car park continues to be a blot on Paignton town centre and was identified as the number one issue by residents taking part in a recent survey conducted by Paignton Liberal Democrats.</p> <p>It is noted that Council has already, in October 2016, passed a motion which was proposed by Councillor Haddock and seconded by Councillor Robson authorising the Director of Corporate and Business Services to consider the acquisition or compulsory purchase of this site. Furthermore, Council reinforced this decision in April 2017 when, as part of the Transformation Project for Town Centres, it adopted into the Council's Policy Framework</p>

	<p>the Transformation Strategy for Torbay Town Centres as an appendix to the Torbay Economic Strategy. The responsibility clearly lies with the Town Centre Regeneration Board. Therefore, Council now instructs the Town Centre Regeneration Board to undertake, as a high priority, investigation of the acquisition by the Council of the Crossways site and to determine the best use of the site considering both financial and strategic aspects. The Town Centre Regeneration Board to make recommendations to the Council as soon as possible with the preferred options of the redevelopment of the Crossways site.</p> <p>I understand that this has now been transferred to the Investment and Regeneration Committee following the disbanding of the Town Centre Regeneration Board and an update is due to go to Committee on 16 October 2018, just prior to this meeting. Can you please explain why such a report has taken six months to prepare, when this blot on the landscape should be seen as the highest priority to resolve in Paignton?</p>
<p>Question (5) by Councillor Pentney to the Executive Lead for Community Safety (Councillor Excell)</p>	<p>The following motion about vehicles blocking the highway on the road down to Oddicombe beach was referred to the Mayor at Council on 19 July 2018:</p> <p>This Council notes the following freedom of information request in respect of Oddicombe Cliff Road.</p> <p>“This bank holiday Monday afternoon there was a lot of irresponsible parking on this stretch of road from Babbacombe Downs to the Beach. Pedestrian footways were blocked by cars and vehicles had to drive on the pavement to gain access to the beach. As you know there is signage stating no parking beyond this point March to September.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are these restrictions enforceable? <p style="margin-left: 40px;">No. I believe these signs relate to the area which is not highway.</p> 2. If yes, how many tickets have been issued at this location in the last 12 months? <p style="margin-left: 40px;">N/A</p> 3. What is the planned parking enforcement regime over this summer? <p style="margin-left: 40px;">As advised above, parking restrictions are not in place to enable parking enforcement. If enforcement was to occur there will need to be a restriction. Also consideration as to how the beach land can be enforced. Colleagues in the Highways Team will be able to advise on the process to ensure this area of highway down to the beach can be enforced. I am aware this will require the writing of a traffic regulation order and consideration as to the signage and/or lines. The area which is classed as beach land can only be managed by locking the area to restrict access to vehicles.”</p>

	<p>This Council understands that last summer on at least two occasions' emergency medical staff had to use the cliff rail way to gain access to a patient at Oddicombe Beach due to the road being blocked by inappropriately parked vehicles.</p> <p>In light of the above this Council instructs the Executive Head of Assets and Business Services to review the parking regulations on the public highway leading to Oddicombe Beach and consult with Oddicombe Beach users/stakeholders regarding the introduction of enforceable parking regulations in the interests of public safety.</p> <p>Mayor's response:</p> <p>The Mayor referred the matter to the Executive Head of Business Services to review and respond.</p> <p>Can you please advise the Council of the progress to date in respect of resolving this community safety issue?</p>
<p>Question (6) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Executive Lead for Community Services (Councillor Excell)</p>	<p>Shoppers in Torbay are outraged at the lack of public toilets in Torquay Town Centre. Whilst I welcome the imminent provision of new facilities at the junction of Market Street and Union Street, why did Torbay council not engage with local café owners and offer them a payment of a few hundred pounds so that they could advertise that the public can use their toilet facilities until the new ones became available?</p>

Second Round

<p>Question (7) by Councillor Long to the Executive Lead for Community Safety (Councillor Excell)</p>	<p>At the Full Council Meeting on 19th July 2018, a motion was tabled by Councillor Darling (S) and myself in relation to a request for a Grit Bin to be returned to Southern Close in Torquay. I understand that the Mayor delegated this decision to the Chief Executive. When might a decision be made on this matter?</p>
<p>Question (8) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Elected Mayor and Executive Lead for Assets, Finance, Governance and Corporate Services, Economic Regeneration and Transformation</p>	<p>At the Council meeting on 20 September 2018 I asked the following question and received the below reply:</p> <p>On the 1st of August 2018, due to the severe financial pressure that the Council faces, Torbay Council introduced a moratorium on non-essential spending for all parts of the Local Authority. Since then what meetings have you held with the two MPs who represent Torbay to put pressure on the Government to adequately fund the Council?</p> <p>I contacted both MPs to request a meeting to discuss Torbay's finances as a matter of urgency. I met with Sarah Wollaston MP on 30 August 2018, however, Kevin Foster MP has declined to meet with me.</p> <p>So, since the 20 September has Kevin Foster MP made himself available to discuss the financial challenges that Torbay Council faces in light of his Governments cuts?</p>

<p>Question (9) by Councillor Carter to the Deputy Mayor and Executive Lead for Planning and Waste (Councillor Mills)</p>	<p>Part of the decision to take TOR2 back in house on the 21 June 2018 Full Council was that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and Group Leaders be given delegated authority to negotiate the complete acquisition of TOR2, with a target completion date of 1st October 2018 and a longstop date of 21st December 2018. Can you please advise me what risks the officers have identified should there be slippage on the dates above?</p>
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Third Round

<p>Question (10) by Councillor Long to the Executive Lead for Community Safety (Councillor Excell)</p>	<p>Are there any reasons that the Council are aware of why residents should not be able to walk down Hatchcombe Lane in Torquay to access the woods at the end of the Lane?</p>
<p>Question (11) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Executive Lead for Children and Housing (Councillor Stocks)</p>	<p>On 2 October 2018 a Culture and Events Members Update was circulated on behalf of Councillor Amil, Executive Lead for Tourism, Culture and Harbours. Does the Mayor's Executive have their priorities confused, for years I have been asking for updates in a similar vain to the Culture and events members update to be circulated about Children's Services. Why does the Mayors Executive prioritise culture and events over our children?</p>