

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 16 July 2020

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.

First Round

Question (1) by Councillor Barnby to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)	What is the Council doing to prevent further traveller encampments at Clennon Valley and what progress has been made to designate a site that the Police can legally direct travellers to?
Question (2) by Councillor Chris Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	Can the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture please provide an update on the proposed Zebra Crossing outside Pembroke Surgery, Torquay Road, Preston. It was agreed some months ago that the construction of the crossing would take place as a matter of urgency!
Question (3) by Councillor Sykes to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	Will the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture encourage the Police to do mobile speed checks on Preston Down Road, Preston. Over the past few months with less traffic on the road it has been noted that motorists are now travelling at great speed down the road.
Question (4) by Councillor David Thomas to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Steve Darling)	Why are the Lib Dem and Independent Councillors abusing this question time by asking the Lib Dem and Independent administration questions about central government policy which this council has no jurisdiction over, and thereby deliberately timing out the questions which can be asked by Conservative opposition councillors to hold this administration to proper account?

<p>Question (5) by Councillor Kennedy to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Steve Darling)</p>	<p>The published 5 year land supply contains a letter from the leader of our council to the Secretary of State which has been widely circulated throughout the Bay. Our area is properly represented by two MPs, one of whom is a Minister, from the same political party as the Secretary of State. Does the leader not consider it would have been preferable and perhaps correct protocol to ask our MPs to contact the Secretary of State? I believe the question was not asked sincerely but was an example of political grandstanding. Would the leader please reassure me by highlighting the positive benefits he secured for our area through asking his question?</p>
<p>Question (6) by Councillor John Thomas to Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>What is the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture doing to dramatically ease the time and effort that it takes for the Constituents that we represent to get rid of their recycling and non-recycling domestic waste under the new "Ticket" system.</p> <p>I would also ask what is being done to come down hard on Fly Tippers. I am receiving regular complaints about these two intrinsically linked matters.</p>
<p>Question (7) by Councillor Jackie Thomas to the Chairman of the Planning Committee (Councillor Pentney)</p>	<p>Planning Committees can take an extra-ordinary amount of time to fully understand the various issues involved with an individual application. Now the planning meetings have become virtual, the site visits have been discontinued. Any councillor who has sat on planning will appreciate that a scheme can look cramped on a piece of paper, however on the site visit and seeing the levels, it becomes obvious that the development fits neatly in the location. Site visits are an integral part of decision making and in my view the process is undermined without them. I fully understand they need to look different in this new 'normal', however I ask will an effort be made to re-introduce site visits now to help members make more informed decisions at the planning committee.</p>
<p>Question (8) by Councillor Foster to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>The Government has asked councils to bid for part of £250m Emergency Active Travel Funding. Can you tell me how much Torbay Council's bid was for, and a brief outline of what Torbay's plans are, and what measures are in place to implement these improvements for cyclist's and pedestrians safety in Torbay, within the eight week's timescale of receiving the money.</p>
<p>Question (9) by Councillor Bye to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)</p>	<p>Whilst welcoming recent action to clean up the mess at Hopes Nose Torquay and help prevent anti-social behaviour, could you please advise if the Public Space Protection Order is being enforced and what other steps will be taken to ensure residents can enjoy this delightful green space without feeling intimidated by what appears to be commercial fishing activity?</p>

<p>Question (10) by Councillor Hill to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>The Government has recently awarded Torbay Council in excess of £120,000 to support the re-opening of our town centres & encourage footfall. Could the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture please advise how and where the money has been spent, furthermore will some of this money be used to power wash the filthy pavements in Torquay Town Centre and around the Harbour.</p> <p>Can any surplus monies be used for enforcement action against the owners of dilapidated properties such as the Old Town Hall & other prominent/empty premises?</p>
<p>Question (11) by Councillor Mills to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)</p>	<p>Central government provided councils with a list of local residents who are being shielded in order that they can be helped and protected locally but no list was provided to councillors informing them as to who was being shielded in their wards apparently for GDPR reasons. As councillors ARE the council I am finding it difficult to understand this position, particularly as the lists were shared with other groups such as supermarkets without the specific consent of those shielded, and that government's response to GDPR and this issue was, 'It is far more important to help those who are having difficulties during these dark days than to get 'bogged down' with GDPR issues'. Has this administration deliberately withheld information from councilors to the detriment of our shielded residents?</p>
<p>Question (12) by Councillor Kavanagh to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>I have been having difficulties for the past 5 weeks trying to get an assisted collection resolved in Kings Ash, despite my various requests and telephone calls – the resident is still having missed collections – although they are registered for an assisted service. When I try to call the TOR2 line, I am just left with an answerphone and nobody responds to me or resolves the issue. What assurances and systems will the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture be putting in place at the end of the month when Swisco take over the service? How can we be guaranteed a better service and system than we are currently having to deal with?</p>
<p>Question (13) by Councillor Barbara Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Law)</p>	<p>How many children are now in care or deemed vulnerable by the authority in Torbay?</p>
<p>Question (14) by Councillor Barrant to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Why is there a different purchasing system for the different parking permits ie on street/off street weekly monthly and annual? What consideration has been undertaken to allow for the delays Residents are having to wait – this leads to potential additional fines and charging?</p>

<p>Question (15) by Councillor Brooks to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Steve Darling)</p>	<p>There have been reports from residents that a business in the St.Marychurch Ward is selling alcoholic drinks to the public, in plastic pint containers, who are then gathering in groups and drinking on the Downs, nearby, with associated anti-social behaviour. I drove past, myself, several times and witnessed gatherings of people, on average, between two and six, but in total 20-30 persons. The larger groupings, in all likelihood, comprising of people from more than two households and in contravention of the recommended 2m social distancing guidelines. This was on a dry, but dull day, when the sun is out I'm assured that the situation is more problematic.</p> <p>I, obviously, want to support local businesses, coming out of lockdown and understand that people want to meet friends after a long period of separation. However, I am concerned about the 'over spill' on to public spaces; especially, in areas that many young families and elderly residents frequent.</p> <p>The relaxation of guidelines requires some management strategies to be in place. What is the Leader of the Council doing to promote the aims of social distancing and trying to discourage groups of more than six to congregate, particularly on Council owned and managed public open spaces?</p>
<p>Question (16) by Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>Please could the relevant Cabinet Member provide details of any reduced rental agreement with the Debenhams Store in Torquay. Can the Cabinet Member also advise to the numbers of staff subsequently made redundant from this site with the closure of the catering area.</p>
<p>Question (17) by Councillor Dart to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Law)</p>	<p>Torbay Council has been running a campaign to recruit more Foster Carers. Has this campaign borne fruit? How does this latest recruitment campaign compare to the last 5 years of recruitment in Torbay?</p>
<p>Question (18) by Councillor Loxton to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Has Torbay been successful in the revalidation of its UNESCO Geopark status? If successful, what are the benefits to Torbay of this status?</p>

Question (19) by Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)	Can you please compare and contrast the number of agency workers that we have in Torbay now compared to 12 months ago?
Question (20) by Councillor Doggett to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)	Before the Pandemic, the ICO administered grants to grassroots organisations across Torbay to improve health outcomes? Now we are past the first stage of the virus how are these organisations being helped to achieve the improved health outcomes of the grant?

Second Round

Question (21) by Councillor Kennedy to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	At the time of the referendum, under the previous administration, we had an adequate land supply which gave full weight to the Neighbourhood Plans. Under this administration the land supply has been allowed to falter thus undermining the Neighbourhood Plans. In part, this situation has been caused by this administration failing to bring forward its own sites, which are not included in the land supply despite having government funding. What specific measures are being done today, at this very moment in time, by this administration, to rectify this situation?
Question (22) by Councillor O'Dwyer to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Cowell)	Please could the relevant Cabinet member please provide details as to the projected cost this financial year for the temporary morgue facilities put in place for Covid-19 against the expected cost of £1.4m? Can they advise how we have ensured value for money in this contract and whether we are providing the facilities for across Devon?

Third Round

Question (23) by Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	<p>In respect of Meadfoot, can the relevant Cabinet Member please advise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="480 1675 1485 1821">i) How much has been spent on the Meadfoot Sea Road sea wall so far in repairing the recent storm damage and what are the current expected costs for additional wall repair works this year, assuming no further cavities or collapses are discovered. <li data-bbox="480 1854 1485 1890">ii) What percentage of Beach Chalets are currently rented out too.
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