

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 30 September 2021

Questions Under Standing Order A12

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

<p>Question (1) by Councillor Kennedy to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Steve Darling)</p>	<p>There are a number of issues at Broadsands beach area which I have been trying to have addressed over periods of time which range from weeks to years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The footpaths all around the Broadsands beach and Elberry Cove area and the pavements leading to the beach are all so overgrown with brambles and nettles that a pedestrian is unable to walk without being stung or scratched. One particular area is so badly overgrown that, unless you are local, you would not know a path actually existed. There is no ability in many places to pass another person.2. The bin offer is exceptionally poor. We have gone from not one single permanent bin on a promenade that sees high footfall 365 days a year to one permanent bin which is open to the elements and gulls and is too small to cope for more than 2 hours in the summer without overflowing. This bin has been acknowledged as inappropriate but no action has followed that acknowledgement.3. Broadsands beach is busier at 7pm than at 3pm throughout the summer yet the emptying of the bins does not reflect the use resulting in a large amount of rubbish being left strewn across the area much of which enters our sea thus polluting the marine environment.4. The railings and posts all along the promenade providing support to those using the steps leading to and from the beach are mostly rusted and pitted which could lead to injury.5. The opening and closing times of the toilets do not match the opening and closing times of the car park. <p>Would the Leader of the Council provide the users of Broadsands beach and the local community with a comprehensive understanding of how the current offer fits with our Corporate Plan statement "we want Torbay to be the premier resort in the UK, with a vibrant arts and cultural offer for our residents and</p>
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	visitors to enjoy; where our built and natural environment is celebrated and where we play our part in addressing the climate emergency.”?
Question (2) by Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet for Children’s Services (Councillor Law) Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	What plans do the Council have to take advantage of the Queens Green Canopy and the Urban Tree challenge fund to add value to the tree warden scheme and tree planting that the partnership have already identified?
Question (3) by Councillor Atiya-Alla to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)	I understand that the government plans to cut discretionary housing payment by 22%. How could this money have been used to support people in Torbay?
Question (4) by Councillor Johns to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)	I understand that the date for the hearing for the compulsory purchase order for Crossways has been delayed from the 12 July to mid-September. What opportunities do the council have to attempt to accelerate this frustratingly slow process?
Question (5) by Councillor Dart to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	I understand that the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee recently recommended that builders who do not start work on houses within 18 months of being given the green light would lose planning permission. How helpful would this be to deliver homes to local people in Torbay?

<p>Question (6) by Councillor Dudley to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>The MP for Torbay has been demanding that the Council consult with neighbours regarding the location of Government's Next Steps Accommodation Programme to help those in housing crisis within Torbay. What legal ramifications could the Council find itself in if it followed the MP's request?</p>
<p>Question (7) by Councillor Loxton to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>I understand that the local authority have newly employed recycling support coordinators in recent months. Can you please advise what impact they may have had in increasing the rates of recycling in Torbay and improving our built environment?</p>
<p>Question (8) by Councillor Pentney to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>Torquay Pavilion is the most iconic building for Torquay harbourside. What progress is being made in bringing this much loved grand old lady of Torquay back into active use?</p>
<p>Question (9) by Councillor Barnby to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Many of us have witnessed or at least heard of the huge queues to access the toilets on various beaches across the Bay including Goodrington South. The administration's answer is to spend £33k on 2 x more cleaners and extending the opening times to 10pm. Although the extra cleaners may be helpful, could you please advise me what my response should be to an elderly gentleman waiting in the queue, clearly desperate to use the toilet in the middle of the afternoon. Clearly the toilets being open to 10pm is not going to be helpful to him, capacity is the issue, not what time they close. So my question would be, what practical advice should I offer as a helpful Councillor caught in this very real situation?</p>
<p>Question (10) by Councillor B Lewis to The Leader of the Council</p>	<p>I understand Torbay Council is set to invest £221,293 into Torbay's Seafronts and Town Centres this summer. As quoted in the Council's Press Release dated 18 June, areas to benefit include Meadfoot, Broadsands, Babbacombe, Brixham, Torquay Harbour and Princess Pier. Can the Leader of the Council please</p>

(Councillor S Darling)	tell the good people of Paignton why Preston, Paignton and Goodrington have not been included?
Question (11) by Councillor Hill to the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Cowell)	How much has/is being spent on replacing and renewing the Safety Warning Signs along the beaches, many have been lost and damaged due to the rough weather over the last year?
Question (12) by Councillor Foster to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	Two years ago at the July Council meeting I called for more recycling from waste & rubbish in parks, beaches and public spaces. At the last Council meeting I asked for an update on the Dual Bin trial in Cary Green which was not available. Can we please have an update on any progress in Cary Green and any proposals for recycling or Dual bins at other sites including Babbacombe Downs.
Question (13) by Councillor Chris Lewis to the Cabinet for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	Can the Cabinet for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture Deputy Leader of the Council please give an update when a Project Manager for Oldway Mansion will be appointed. This follows an assurance some months ago that a Manager would be appointed as soon as possible.
Question (14) by Councillor David Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)	Cllr Steve Darling recently provided comments to the press that we, the Council, are housing people outside of the area including Weston-Super-Mare. How many families are currently being housed outside of the Bay, for how long and what other costs are we incurring as a result of this action?
Question (15) by Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	How many missed recycling and general waste collections have there been for the last 3 months(for clarification this is not calls to SWISCo, but actual missed individual collections)? How much would this have meant in fine days to the previous contractor Tor 2?

Second Round

Question (16) by Councillor Johns to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	A recent study from Exeter University stated that there is land mass the equivalent size of Dorset that could be used to grow wildflower meadows and create habitat for wildlife. In the report it suggests by reducing mowing to one or twice a year could provide more flowers for pollinators, allows plants to set seed and creates better habitats for other animals. How is Torbay Council working towards this?
Question (17) by Councillor Aitya-Alla to the Cabinet for Children's Services (Councillor Law)	The LGA suggests there is going to be a £3.1 billion gap for Children's Services. The last census placed the number of young carers in England at nearly 166,000 but recent research suggests that the actual figure may be as many as 800,000. What are our young carer numbers in Torbay and how have we been supporting them through the pandemic?
Question (18) by Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet for Children's Services (Councillor Law)	I was pleased to learn that Torbay have recently entered into a contract with Home for Good to help develop adoption and foster care opportunities in Torbay. Have we been able to gauge the support of our churches in Torbay to this project?
Question (19) by Councillor Douglas- Dunbar to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)	The pandemic has clearly taken its toll on Council staff , who have gone above and beyond over the course of this crisis. How are we as a local authority seeking to acknowledge this?
Question (20) by Councillor B Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	Can the Portfolio Holder please provide an update on Motorhomes parking in residential areas. In particular, we have a problem at the top of Roundham. The current situation is not fair on residents where Motorhomes can be parked outside their house for months if not years.

<p>Question (21) by Councillor Chris Lewis to the Cabinet for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Can the Portfolio holder please provide an update on when the Preston Seafront lights will be repaired and operational?</p>
<p>Question (22) by Councillor Jacqueline Thomas to the Cabinet for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Our roads and pavements look pretty bad currently with weeds and plants over growing everywhere. Have cleaning amounts been reduced and periods between cleaning been extended and so to what for each road type?</p>
<p>Question (23) by Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Regarding planning, please could you provide the up to date figures and for the past 12 months of applications carried out in time with and without agreement for extensions, the different types of application and appeals numbers and results.</p>
<p>Question (24) by Councillor Kennedy to the Cabinet for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Section 106 funds for Cirl Bunting compensation amounting to £88,417.00 relating to P/2017/1042 had to be spent by July this year. I understand that the Section 106 deadline was extended, due to the funds not having been spent, but I have not received the details. Please provide the new deadline date for the spending of the funds; plus how, when and to whom these funds are to be allocated.</p> <p>A Section 106 agreement provided funds for on site mitigation for one pair of Cirl Buntings relating to application P/2014/0983. A field to the southern part of the site was set aside for this mitigation. The agreement included the management of this site in perpetuity, plus monitoring by an appropriate person or body. Please provide me with the details of the person or body managing the site; the person or body monitoring the site; and the current number of breeding pairs on the site.</p>