

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 visitors to enjoy; where our built and natural environment is</p>
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	celebrated and where we play our part in addressing the climate emergency.”?
Councillor Steve Darling	<p>Due to the nature of the weather pattern this summer we have seen exceptional growth in nettles and brambles.</p> <p>Any foliage that impacts on footpaths, pavements and access points would be the responsibility of the adjacent landowner or the Highway authority. Torbay Council will continue to work with those responsible to ensure that maintenance is undertaken in line with the available resources.</p> <p>Torbay Council and SWISCo are aware that a different strategy needs to be adopted regarding the provision of litter bins. This strategy is currently being considered prior to consultation with Ward Councillors.</p> <p>£4000 has been allocated to replace and/or repair existing railings.</p> <p>The opening and closing of public toilets is governed by the availability of staff and it has been apparent over the summer that staff availability has been challenging for a variety of reasons.</p> <p>Recruitment and retention of staff continues to be a problem for contractors and for the Council.</p> <p>An extra £150,000 of one off funding has been available for the Beach service this financial year.</p> <p>This Council will continue to strive to be the premier resort in the UK despite the challenges that we face.</p>
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?
Councillor Morey	As part of the development of the Tree Warden Scheme we will be encouraging and supporting our Wardens to apply for community tree planting funds.

<p>Question (3) by Councillor Atiya-Alla to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>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?</p>
<p>Councillor Long</p>	<p>As a result of the reduced monies this means that proactive work with local landlords to help tenants with rent arrears will be reduced. Last year we spent £170,000 on discretionary housing which we restricted to social housing tenants. Both Sanctuary Housing and Westward Housing fed back that the payments were really helpful and saved tenancies. It will also mean a reduction in proactive “outreach” to vulnerable families, for example via foodbanks, debt relief organisations.</p>
<p>Question (4) by Councillor Douglas-Dunbar to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)</p>	<p>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?</p>
<p>Councillor Stockman</p>	<p>The Council takes its responsibility for supporting staff and their wellbeing very seriously and this has been a top priority, especially in view of the challenges that our staff have faced in the past 18 months. It continues to be a priority and as such will be an area of focus within our workforce strategy to ensure that it is embedded across the organisation.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Group, established last year with representatives from Health and Safety, HR and Public Health, will continue to ensure that wellbeing actions remain a priority and are included within our key organisational change projects.</p> <p>In the meantime, please see below a summary of actions we have taken to address support for staff so far:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced a short-term Wellbeing Covid response group, with members of Public Health and HR to identify and implement immediate wellbeing support

actions at the start of the pandemic – many of the below were implemented as outcomes from this group.

- Developed an employee helpline, Staff Reach, which originally was open during working hours and weekends/Bank Holidays at the start of the pandemic. It's still open to employees who may need signposting to support services.
- Developed new wellbeing resources and intranet pages for all staff to support physical and mental wellbeing, signposting to specific covid support services in the community and wider.
- Introduced a new bi-weekly Wellbeing Update, to keep staff regularly up to date with any changes and support/help available to them.
- Strengthened our network of Wellbeing Supporters, these are staff volunteers who are trained in Mental Health interventions (Connect 5) to provide 1:1 support to staff where needed.
- Developed a Covid toolkit for managers, with resources/tools to help them to support staff– includes links to the HSE stress awareness tool and wellness action plan.
- Rolled out a series of COVID support workshops for all our managers, to discuss/share any wellbeing concerns for them/their teams and to signpost to the COVID toolkit and resources available.
- Developed new policies/guidance – Bereavement Support, COVID Mental Health Workplace Guidance, Emotional Distress and Suicide Awareness guide.
- DSE and Homeworking assessments rolled-out to pick-up any health, safety and wellbeing concerns. Health and Safety still encouraging uptake of the DSE assessments across the council.
- Delivered a series of Wellbeing training courses to all staff and managers through our external training providers.
- Introduced an Employee Assistance Programme scheme.
- Currently reviewing our former Staff Wellbeing Group to guide our wellbeing agenda – this is currently under review as part of the Wellbeing Guardian model proposal.
- Ran a Staff Check-in Survey in June 2020 which focused on staff wellbeing – key actions from this were the COVID workshops for managers, Wellbeing training, Break and a Brew trial, roll-out of DSE and Homeworking assessments.

<p>Question (5) by Councillor Johns to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>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?</p>
<p>Councillor Long</p>	<p>The inquiry was listed for 4 days from 27 September 2021. This is the earliest date that the Planning Inspectorate was able to offer, based on all parties availability. Whilst the delay is frustrating, it has allowed the Council to continue to negotiate with objectors and other parties, which is critical to support the Compulsory Purchase Order case and strategically, has put the Council in a better position going into the public inquiry. I am pleased to update that as a result of the negotiations both objections to the CPO were withdrawn, and the enquiry was concluded within one day. We await the outcome of the enquiry and the confirmation of the CPO.</p>
<p>Question (6) by Councillor Dart to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>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>
<p>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>Yes, this would focus the minds of developers and speed up the delivery of sites. There is also the option for Torbay to attach a shorter implementation planning condition to any residential schemes, providing that is reasonable. I can confirm this conversation is now happening on each larger residential scheme, to seek an opportunity for quicker implementation dates.</p>
<p>Question (7) 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>Councillor Long</p>	<p>Whilst we understand that neighbours would wish to be consulted, we must consider that consulting neighbours</p>

	<p>would the reveal personal information about the people who would moving into these properties. Therefore, the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) apply and we would have a duty to protect the rights and freedoms of those residents. Under the GDPR we would need a lawful basis in order to reveal this information and the only one we could rely on would be obtaining the consent of those occupying the property. We would therefore need the consent of the individual to share this information and they would need to know what was being shared and with whom. To share this without a sound lawful basis and without the individual's knowledge would be breach of GDPR and could leave the organisation open to enforcement action from the Information Commissioner's Office.</p>
<p>Question (8) 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>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>The Recycling Support Co-ordinators have been working in targeted areas across Torbay, based on collection rounds. Through the monitoring of the communications and education, there has been an average of 7% increase in the participation of residents using the food waste service and an average of 3% increase in the number of recycling boxes presented for collections in the areas the Recycling Support Co-ordinators have been working in. Between March and June 2021 the Recycling Support Co-ordinators have provided residents with over 250 recycling boxes, 160 food caddies, and 160 food waste bins. In the areas visited, all residents are provided with recycling information and recycling box stickers. In addition to the above, the Recycling Support Co-ordinators have been making contact with residents where it has been identified further assistance and advice could be provided with increasing recycling and containing waste correctly, to prevent littering and improve the environment.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has had a big impact on waste performance, with more people working and spending time at home, as well as the Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) being closed during the first lockdown, until 10th May and the reduced capacity allowed on site. The</p>

	<p>overall recycling figure for 2020/21 was 35.6%. Analysis of the 2020/21 data showed, overall, kerbside collected domestic residual waste increased by 3477 tonnes (12.61% increase) compared to 2019/20. There was also a rise of 14.5% in the tonnage of residual waste collected from litter bins. All other types of domestic residual waste decreased including HWRC waste (800 tonnes decrease / -28.28). The decreases were smaller than the increases, so household residual waste rose overall. Overall, during 2020/21, kerbside collected household recycling increased by over 1000 tonnes (7.8% increase) compared to 2019/20. Paper collection decreased by 16% (over 250 tonnes) this is a trend that has been ongoing over several years as more paper is replaced by digital technologies. Textiles were down by 30% (20 tonnes) possibly as people have been more limited in their fashion purchases through lockdown and also due to a drive for increased quality by the reprocessor, meaning that more textiles had to be rejected, after collection, as they were not suitable for reuse or recycling. Glass increased by over 15% (540 tonnes); Aluminium increased by 17.8% (28 tonnes); Plastics increased by 19% (170 tonnes); Cardboard increased by 20% (500 tonnes); Steel cans increased by 28% (80 tonnes); Food waste increased by 15% (450 tonnes). The amount of recycling collected, co-mingled and sent to a Material Recycling Facility (MRF) for sorting before recycling decreased by approx. 23%.</p> <p>As co-mingled collections have been used in previous years to help catch up on late / delayed collections, this can be seen as an indicator of the collection rounds being completed successfully throughout the year with less delays to collections than in previous years.</p> <p>At the Household Waste Recycling Centre there was a decrease in residual waste for 2020/21 (noted above -800 tonnes / -28%). The recycling collected at the site has decreased by over 3000 tonnes (-42%) with garden waste being the most affected material with a 49% reduction in tonnage (2700 tonnes). The site was closed during the first lock down, which was also at a time of year when garden waste tonnages are usually high, due to its seasonal arising</p> <p>The unaudited recycling rate for quarter 1 of 2021/22 is 36.8%, this is an improvement on last year, 31.8%. Although the quarter 1 figures are showing a recovery in the recycling rate, it is still not back to pre-covid performance.</p>
<p>Question (9) by Councillor Pentney to the</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>Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	
<p>Councillor Long</p>	<p>We are working with the current tenant to bring about a full restoration of the Pavilion, with non-intrusive surveys completed over the summer as well as professional engineering reports, which is assisting in the discussions with the tenant.</p> <p>We are anticipating that discussions with the tenant will shortly provide clarity as to the way forward, with decisions as appropriate by Cabinet and Council in the coming months.</p>
<p>Question (10) 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>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>May I firstly reassure you that we have been monitoring our public convenience facilities over the last 2 months for any signs of unacceptable levels of queuing. I confirm that there is no sign of unacceptable queuing at public conveniences anywhere in Torbay. If queues are spotted, operatives on the ground are advised to encourage people to use facilities that may not be in use.</p> <p>The practical advice I would offer is to check that the queue is not simply because the door is being held open to facilitate free use of the toilet whilst other toilet cubicles are available. We have clear evidence that this is happening and therefore a queue doesn't necessarily mean that we have a capacity problem.</p> <p>The Bay experienced many more visitors than in a normal year, and therefore it is inevitable that queues may form for public conveniences at peak times and although this is not</p>

	<p>ideal it is not a sign of a fundamental problem with our infrastructure. However, we did create additional capacity, where we could at Broadsands, Preston and Torquay harbourside</p>
<p>Question (11) by Councillor Barbara Lewis to The Leader of the Council (Councillor Steve Darling)</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 tell the good people of Paignton why Preston, Paignton and Goodrington have not been included?</p>
<p>Councillor Steve Darling</p>	<p>The Council has and continues to invest in Paignton, Preston and Goodrington. Examples include the investment in the Harbour light building which has acted as a catalyst for the regeneration of Paignton harbour, measures to prevent illegal encampments, the re-opening of the Preston South Toilets and works to the illuminations, promenade lighting, installation of new lanterns in Youngs Park, as well replacements of handrails.</p> <p>It is therefore clear that Councillor Barbara Lewis is mistaken in her belief that Paignton has not been invested in and is reminded that she voted against investment in the Paignton Illuminations when it was considered at a Council budget setting meeting earlier this year.</p>
<p>Question (12) by Councillor Hill to the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Cowell)</p>	<p>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?</p>
<p>Councillor Cowell</p>	<p>The Beach Team have replaced some damaged and lost signs with ones that were held in stock. They have also spent circa £2,000 on new beach information signs from the beach services revenue budget. Further one-off funding is available to renew any safety related warning signs along the beaches. If there are any particular examples or areas of concern these should be forwarded to the Director of Place.</p>
<p>Question (13) by Councillor Foster to the Cabinet Member for</p>	<p>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</p>

<p>Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>please have an update on any progress in Cary Green and any proposals for recycling or Dual bins at other sites including Babbacombe Downs.</p>
<p>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>I am sorry but I am not aware of any trial at Cary Green or plans for Babbacombe Downs. This has never been discussed to my knowledge. My only recollection was to increase the litter collection provision on the Downs, which with SWISCo we have achieved. The only Parks Recycling bin trial that is underway is currently in Princess Garden and on Torquay Promenade. This trial is ongoing, and we aim to review the data towards the end of the year after the summer season has ended.</p>
<p>Question (14) by Councillor Chris Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>Can the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Housing 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.</p>
<p>Councillor Long</p>	<p>An application has been submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Resilience Funding of £120,000, plus £30k from the Council and £20k from matched funding from volunteer hours. If successful we will recruit a Project Manager and this will bring new capacity and focus to all of our efforts. Unfortunately it is not possible to provide an exact answer to the question because we will be in the hands of the funders, but hopefully we will have the Project Manager in post in early 2022.</p>
<p>Question (15) by Councillor David Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>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?</p>
<p>Councillor Long</p>	<p>Due to local accommodation that has been brought online in recent days, I am pleased to advise that there are now no families placed out of area. The additional cost with any placement of the area are usually associated with travel.</p>

<p>Question (16) by Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>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?</p>
<p>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>Unfortunately we have not kept records of these delays due to the exonerating circumstances of staff losses due to COVID 19 and the HGV driver shortage.</p> <p>Under the contract with TOR2, these unforeseen exceptional circumstances which are beyond anyone's control would have been reasonably taken into account and it would have been very unlikely that any fines would have been issued by Torbay Council.</p> <p>The current collection delays are nationwide for the reasons stated above, impacting on all sectors who employ HGV drivers, which has been widely publicised and is becoming a national crisis. Central Government have, following lobbying from all sectors, started to implement interim measures to try to ease these shortages, but it will not be a quick fix.</p>

Second Round

<p>Question (17) by Councillor Johns to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>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?</p>
<p>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>As part of the SWISCo Business Plan, Parks and Green Infrastructure are planning to develop a Local Grass Verge Good Management Scheme for the improvement of biodiversity on highway grass verges that will incorporate natural wildflower meadows.</p> <p>The creation of a Parks Management Action Plan working alongside 'Friends Of' groups for parks and open spaces will</p>

	also work to achieve further developments on the current local pollinator patches and urban flower meadows.
Question (18) by Councillor Atiya-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?
Councillor Law	<p>There are 730 young carers who have been identified and assessed as young carers. These young carers are held on the Young Carers Register. In order to support them during the Covid 19 pandemic, a number of activities have been in place.</p> <p>We have had two successful on line activity programmes which were run from January 2021 to April 2021. One in the February half term, when there were 60 places offered and 50 young people signed up to the programme. For most of the activities, packs were delivered to the home of the young carer beforehand so they could actively engage in the sessions. This meant that the Young Carers service were able to offer a variety of craft activities, alongside martial arts, and online Karaoke. The second was in the Easter holidays. This programme had 43 young carers sessions, but whole family events were also offered to 10 families.</p> <p>An online art project was developed over a number of weeks from February Half Term: spaces were offered to 24 young carers with ages ranging from some of our youngest primary school carers upwards.</p> <p>The Young Carers service have been working with Bath Philharmonia to present an opportunity to our primary school leavers and to those currently in year 7, in order to support the primary transition phase.</p> <p>All of our young carers aged 16 and above have been supported to develop their awareness of access to Covid vaccinations. Young carers were also supported in transport to their vaccinations and help in terms of finding their way through the process of organising appointments and signing up.</p>
Question (19) by Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet for	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?

<p>Children's Services (Councillor Law)</p>	
<p>Councillor Law</p>	<p>I am very pleased to advise that we have now entered into a three-year contract with Home For Good and have entered into the engagement phase with our local families of faith.</p> <p>Peter Clayton delivered a speech to the congregation of St Mary Magdalene's Church in Torquay on the 19 June 2021, and delivered the message about the joint work being undertaken by Home For Good and Torbay Council to consider fostering.</p> <p>The Home for Good Torbay coordinator role is now being advertised and we have regular catch up meetings between Regulated Services and Home for Good in respect of the progress of their engagement work.</p> <p>All fostering social workers have also now been subject to Home for Good Faith Literacy training which took place on the 22 June 2021.</p>
<p>Question (20) by Councillor Barbara Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>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>
<p>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>The issue of motorhomes parked on the highway is not straight forward. Firstly it should be appreciated that motorhomes are used as a legitimate form of transport by many people and therefore may be parked in a safe location on the highway, unless restrictions are in place. It is possible to restrict motorhomes from parking in certain areas by the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order, however, this can result in the displacement of the vehicle to another nearby location. Therefore, there may be a need to take a view across the whole Torbay area as to how this may be implemented in the future, but there will be no quick solution to any of the current issues.</p> <p>It should be noted that discharging any waste or effluent from motorhomes on to the highway or adjacent land is an offence and any such issues should be reported to the Community Safety Team. Unfortunately, the occupation of a</p>

	<p>motorhome on the highway is not, in itself, an offence and therefore, the authority has no powers to take action to restrict a legitimately parked motorhome, unless there are environmental issues resulting from it, or a parking restriction is in place.</p>
<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>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>The repairs to the lighting at Preston were completed on 13 September 2021. Eight lights have been repaired and the sections of festoon lighting, which were dangling or drooping, have been reattached. The timer clock for the illuminations has also been reset.</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>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>The rainfall in May 2021 was 224% of the average for that month. The main consequence of this has been that SWISCo was only able to use the granular herbicide application as the ground was so wet, therefore the weed growth rate was accelerated. Throughout June 2021 the weed growth rate was estimated to have been 40% in excess of the 10 year average – this was due to optimum soil temperatures and moisture contents coupled with the longest daylight hours of the year. Due to these extenuating circumstances SWISCo are behind schedule. It is also relevant to note that as part of austerity related budget reductions in recent years, the weed spraying of the highway was reduced to a twice yearly cycle and this continues. As stated above, both weed growth, and the ability to carry out spraying, are affected by weather. SWISCo are expected to recommend to the Council that the current level of spraying would benefit from being increased to provide a more appropriate level of highway weed control.</p>

	<p>The availability of additional resources for this purpose has yet to be determined, but in the meantime if there are any particular areas of concern these should be reported to the SWISCo street cleansing team, in order that these can be considered for potential prioritisation in the next round of cyclical spraying.</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>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>The data provided has been categorised into major, minor and other, in accordance with the quarterly returns to Ministry for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (MLUHC) as follows:</p> <p>Major</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwellings (Largescale major developments) • Offices / research and development / light industry (Largescale major developments) • General industry / storage / warehousing (Largescale major developments) • Retail distribution and servicing (Largescale major developments) • Gypsy and Traveller pitches (Largescale major developments) • All other largescale major developments • Dwellings (Smallscale major developments) • Offices / research and development / light industry (Smallscale major developments) • General industry / storage / warehousing (Smallscale major developments) • Retail distribution and servicing (Smallscale major developments) • Gypsy and Traveller pitches (Smallscale major developments) • All other smallscale major developments (Smallscale major developments) <p>Minor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwellings (minor developments) • Offices / research and development / light industry (minor developments)

- General industry / storage / warehousing (minor developments)
- Retail distribution and servicing (minor developments)
- Gypsy and Traveller pitches (minor developments)
- All other minor developments

Other

- Change of use (Other developments)
- Householder developments (Other developments)
- Advertisements (Other developments)
- Listed building consents to alter / extend (Other developments)
- Listed building consents to demolish (Other developments)
- Conservation area consents

Decisions issued between 30 September 2020 and 29 September 2021 were issued in time / within the determination period set by MLUHC, or within the extension of time period agreed by the customer:

	Total	In time	
Major	16	13	81.25%
Minor	214	167	78.04%
Other	694	552	79.54%

Decisions issued between 30 September 2020 and 29 September 2021 were issued in time / within the determination period set by MLUHC, but with no Extensions of time (as a proportion of the total figures in the table above):

	Total	In time	
Major	16	0	0.00%
Minor	214	64	29.91%
Other	694	246	35.45%

Appeal decisions were issued between 30 September 2020 and 29 September 2021, and of appeals allowed and dismissed

Total	Allowed	Dismissed	Split
56	22	30	4
	39.29%	53.57%	7.14%

“Split” includes part allowed, part dismissed.

Question (24) by Councillor Kennedy to the

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,

<p>Cabinet for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>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>
<p>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>Midas have not provided a deadline date for which the money needs to be spent. The funds are with Torbay Council and as previously advised to Councillor Kennedy on 3 September 2021, the RSPB Report remains outstanding. The Head of Parks and Green Infrastructure at SWISCo has chased the RSPB for this report, however, until this is received a mitigation plan cannot be developed. It is imperative that the exp of the RSPB for existing and future mitigation is obtained.</p> <p>The on-site cirl bunting habitat and mitigation to the south of the site was secured via condition 25 on the planning permission.</p> <p>The applicant submitted the management and monitoring report to discharge this condition. This was reviewed and deemed acceptable by the Devon County Council ecologist. The report states that Barratt Homes will hand the cirl bunting mitigation area to a management company who would then be responsible for sourcing and agreeing management, as set out in this scheme, with a local farmer/tenant.</p> <p>Regarding monitoring the report states, that monitoring will be undertaken of the onsite mitigation land in accordance with the Section 106 Agreement and the s106 also provides the means of funding the monitoring. The scheme will be monitored for 25 years. A report will be produced detailing the results of the monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of mitigation. The report will be issued to the LPA and Barratt Homes within 12 months of any given monitoring year.</p> <p>With regard to the current breeding pairs on the site, the submitted mitigation and monitoring strategy is for one pair of breeding cirl buntings to the south of the site. However, we also have funding secured by s.106 to deliver mitigation</p>

	<p>for one pair of cirls at Cockington. Therefore, we assume that overall the site pre-development had the potential to support two pairs of cirl buntings.</p>
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