

Meeting of the Council

Tuesday, 24 May 2011

Questions Under Standing Order A13

<p><b>Question (1) by Councillor Darling to the Mayor</b></p>	<p><b>Your ‘Intouch’ leaflet circulated during the local elections promised ‘Value for Money’.</b></p> <p><b>A by-election will now have to be held in the Cockington with Chelston Ward due to your decision to stand for election to both the Mayoral and Councillor Positions despite it being illegal to hold both posts.</b></p> <p><b>How will the Council fund this by-election in the current difficult financial climate?</b></p>
<p>Mayor Oliver</p>	<p>Electoral Services established a by-election contingency reserve of £6,000 for this situation. Among the nine candidates for Mayor this year, five were also candidates for a seat on the Council.</p>
<p><b>Question (2) by Councillor Darling to the Deputy Mayor and Executive Lead for Strategic Planning, Housing and Energy</b></p>	<p><b>Devon County Council has recently introduced charges for residents taking some forms of waste to their recycling centres.</b></p> <p><b>What assurances can the Cabinet member give that Torbay Council will not be introducing similar charges at Torbay’s recycling centre?</b></p>
<p>Councillor Thomas (D)</p>	<p>Torbay Council has no intention of introducing charges at Torbay’s recycling centre. Officers are currently working with TOR2 to monitor the impact of this decision made by Devon County Council in relation to potential displacement and increased use of the Torbay recycling and waste site. If the use of the Torbay site increases and therefore results in higher landfill tonnage the recovery of additional taxes and charges will need to be considered. When considering the option of introducing charges to recover potential increased costs, the potential for increased fly tipping and resultant consequences will need to be taken into account.</p>

<b>Question (3) by Councillor Darling to the Mayor</b>	<b>The Village Green Act gives Local Authorities the ability to voluntarily grant 'Village Green Status' to land in their area.</b> <b>Does the new administration plan to grant 'Village Green Status' to Paignton Green and Babbacombe Downs?</b>
Mayor Oliver	The new administration would like to make such an application. However, before making such an application independent expert counsel's opinion is being sought on whether a council voluntarily registering its land is legally possible (particularly in light of the council's fiduciary duties to residents) and whether registration as town or village green would restrict current and proposed future uses of Paignton Green and Babbacombe Downs.