

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 20 July 2023

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

Question (1) from Councillor Johns to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)	As grateful as I am that the public consultation for Oldway Mansion and Gardens got started in June although late, please can you tell us when the public will be able to hear the results of the consultation?
Question (2) from Councillor Barbara Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)	What is the current situation with the viability and deliverable time scales with regards Crossways?
Question (3) from Councillor Billings to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)	What is the current situation with the viability and deliverable time scales with regards Pavilion?
Question (4) from Councillor Brook to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)	What is the current situation with the viability and deliverable time scales with regards Edginswell?
Question (5) from Councillor Jackie Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)	What is the current situation with the viability and deliverable time scales with regards Oldway?
Question (6) from Councillor Strang to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)	Since the election there have been a number of road markings refreshed across the bay, will there be more?
Question (7) from Councillor Joyce to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)	Can we have an update of when the new hotel on the Terrace car park will be open?

<p>Question (8) from Councillor Fox to the Leader of the Council (Councillor David Thomas)</p>	<p>Torbay Local Plan</p> <p>Can the Leader of the Council update the Council on the programme for review of the Local Plan, including possible dates for Regulation 19 submission, Examination and Adoption? In this regard I believe that it would be useful for a Situation Update Report be prepared by Officers, addressing the following issues (and any others the Officers deem relevant):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest updates on housing (and Housing) need. • Other land use needs, e.g. employment and community uses. • Town centres regeneration. • Infrastructure requirements. • Environment and sustainability considerations. • The possible need for additional consultation. • Updated programming to examination and adoption. • Resource considerations. • Viability considerations. <p>Would the Leader of the Council be prepared to request the same from Officers?</p>
<p>Question (9) from Councillor Law to Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)</p>	<p>A representative from SWISCo advised that, on 19th January 2023, a representative of the TDA met with the Principal of Torquay Academy to agree the preliminary layout for a Zebra Crossing on Barton Road and detailed plans were drawn up on 28.03.23. As ward councillors we understood that work could possibly start as early as this Spring. Recently, yet another child has been injured on this road, yet there is still no sign of a safe crossing. Can you please reassure me that this Administration still plans to go ahead with a safe road crossing for Torquay Academy students? If so, when will work start?</p>
<p>Question (10) from Councillor Steve Darling to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services (Councillor Tyerman)</p>	<p>According to the Bank of England, bill payers withdrew from bank and savings accounts at a record level in May. £4.6 billion more was paid out than paid into bank and building society accounts, which was the highest level seen since comparable records began 26 years ago. Furthermore, recent media reports show 12.8 million people are struggling to pay off debts. In light of these growing pressures on household budgets in the UK, how is the council planning to enhance its cost of living financial support to our communities in need in Torbay?</p>
<p>Question (11) from Councillor Long to the Leader of the Council (Councillor David Thomas)</p>	<p>At the Cabinet meeting on 21st March 2023, a preferred bidder was appointed for the future development of homes at land located at Preston Down Road, Paignton. How has the Cabinet progressed this project?</p>
<p>Question (12) from Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)</p>	<p>Torbay has a £100,000 premier resort fund. Several St Marychurch residents and businesses have raised issues within the ward that could benefit from this funding. Would the administration consider releasing these funds to enable enhancing of the causeway surface running from Oddicombe beach towards Babbacombe, and improve signage between the Babbacombe Downs and St Marychurch Precinct.</p>
<p>Question (13) from Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet</p>	<p>The pedestrian footbridge at the bottom of Belgrave Road is much valued by residents. As part of enhancing our cultural offer in Torbay would the Cabinet consider renaming the bridge as the Christie Bridge</p>

Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)	and print the name of an Agatha Christie book on the frontage of each step to enhance our cultural offer in Torbay?
Question (14) from Councillor Harvey to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)	A recent survey we carried out in St Marychurch has highlighted an increase in ASB and street crime, reported by both traders and residents, who feel that this is a consequence of Operation Loki having a dispersion effect on criminal activity to areas beyond the town centre focus of the initiative. What Op Loki has illustrated is that a regular, visible, police presence on the streets has a clear impact on crime reduction and feelings of public safety which is what the members of our communities want on a consistent basis. Do we know what actions are being taken by D&C police to deliver this?
Question (15) from Councillor Penny to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)	There has been an unprecedented influx of illegal encampments around the Paignton area from Churston, Splashdown, Velopark, Clennon Valley Leisure Centre, Paignton Green North, Whiterock and Churston again. Previously, the Council has spent time, effort and money to prevent encroachments. Some people have reported that damage was done to gain access to Paignton Green recently and disruption caused to those using the green and exchanges between members of the public and the travellers. Visitors will have gained a poor impression of our Bay at these prime locations. What urgent action is being taken to prevent a recurrence of illegal encampments on our prominent places and parks, and what future actions will be taken to increase the protection for these areas?

Second Round

Question (16) from Councillor Johns to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)	My residents in Clifton with Maidenway are starting to get a bit concerned about the Torbay Road and Station Square project and the lack of progress since the change of direction in plans. Please can you confirm when the dead line is to use the £13.36 million Future High Streets Funding?
Question (17) from Councillor Law to Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)	The road junction of Avenue Road, Falkland Road, Chestnut Avenue, Walnut Road and The Kings Drive does not have a single safe pedestrian crossing. Some people using Torre Valley Car Park to access the Abbey, events on the Meadows and the seafront have reported to me that they feel unsafe to get to Torre Abbey gates. Indeed from my perspective the current wide layout of the junction seems to encourage drivers to take chances they wouldn't normally take at other junctions, making it even more perilous for pedestrians to cross. Nearby residents and people who use this crossing daily (both drivers and pedestrians) have reported to me that they worry that it is only a matter of time before one of the near misses results in a tragedy. The Partnership Administration had committed to look at this crossing as part of its wider highways and road safety campaign. Can this

	Administration give me assurance that they will look at pedestrian road safety at this junction as a matter of priority?
Question (18) from Councillor Steve Darling to the Cabinet Member Children's Services (Councillor Bye)	I understand that a foster carer at a recent fostering forum put forward this question: young people in 6th form whose birthdays fall early in the school year, when they are 18 years old, may have to move into independent living as the carer/s may live in rented accommodation or have large mortgages and the staying put allowance won't cover it. Will the Council consider enhancing the staying put payments in such situations to help reach the financial cap in the interests of stability for our cared-for young people? Can the Cabinet Member please advise how he is progressing this proposal?
Question (19) from Councillor Fox to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)	Since before the pandemic the Council have been consulting on the implementation of a 20 mph zone on and around Higher Fore Street, Barton. When is this project set to be implemented?
Question (20) from Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services (Councillor Tyerman)	Torbay Council are undertaking a 'Have your say' survey with two Roadshow sessions set to be held in Torquay, Paignton and Brixham each and an online survey. Please can you advise what the costs of undertaking this survey and the associated roadshow, including the cost in officer hours of manning the stalls?
Question (21) from Councillor Long to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services (Councillor Tyerman)	What is the population of the three main towns in Torbay (Paignton, Brixham and Torquay), how many sessions of the 'Your Say!' Residents Survey took place in each town and where did each session take place?
Question (22) from Councillor Harvey to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)	It was hugely disappointing to find Torbay (in particular Paignton) overlooked in the recent announcement from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner of six new police enquiry desks being opened across the Devon & Cornwall force area - these were Ilfracombe, Honiton, Kingsbridge, Okehampton, Devonport & Looe. It therefore concerns me as to whether the current administration are strongly representing the need for investment of Devon & Cornwall police force resources across Torbay. Can the Cabinet Member provide any assurance of how they are raising such issues?

Third Round

Question (23) from Councillor Law to Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)	The Partnership Administration had identified 6 further locations for the creation of 20 mph School Zones and in February this year we were assured that we would get an update on the developed locations and estimated costs of the work.
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	<p>Clearly the summer holidays would have been the ideal time to undertake such work, however as yet none of the necessary public consultations have taken place.</p> <p>Can you please confirm that the 6 identified 20mph School Zones will still go ahead, and if they are to confirm when the public consultations will commence and when the work is programmed to actually take place?</p>
<p>Question (24) from Councillor Steve Darling to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)</p>	<p>A few weeks ago, I exchanged emails with SWISCo about a broken lock on a gate at the Windmill playing fields in Torquay off of Higher Audley Avenue. When I reported this to the out of hours team on 4 June, I was advised that this would be emailed to officers so it would be dealt with on Monday morning even though I was calling the out of hours team as residents were concerned that the lock had been deliberately broken by travellers who intended to gain access to the site over the weekend. Can you please explain why Torbay Council have adopted this approach to what many would see as an urgent issue?</p>
<p>Question (25) from Councillor Fox to the Leader of the Council (Councillor David Thomas)</p>	<p>Torbay's residents continue to suffer from lower levels of bus services since the pandemic, when does the Torbay Bus Forum next meet?</p>
<p>Question (26) from Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)</p>	<p>Residents have raised concerns about the poor condition of Haytor Park. Swings are broken, play-surfaces are potholed, and it has become a magnet for antisocial behaviour. The Park falls with the Plainmoor Community Investment Area and is therefore a priority for investment. What action is the council taking to regenerate this space?</p>
<p>Question (27) from Councillor Long to the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)</p>	<p>How regularly are drains/gulleys on Torbay's road network checked by the Council?</p>