

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answer which will be included in an addendum that will be circulated at the meeting:

(a) Councillor Sykes

“With reference to the £102,000 approved *“for parks and playgrounds including inter alia paving, seating, general environment e.g. planting, play equipment etc.”* from underspend, can the Lead Member please provide a ward by ward breakdown of the planned spend.”

Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

(b) Councillor Sykes

“Can the Lead Member please provide the latest data on (a) delays to planning applications i.e. what percentage are dealt with on time and (b) on how many planning applications a month does the council ask applicants for a time extension?”

Reply from Councillor Cattell – Chair of the Planning Committee

(c) Councillor Sykes

“Following consultation, communal refuse and recycling collection in the garden squares in Brunswick and Adelaide ward was passed for implementation by Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee on 29th Nov 2016. Residents of all opinions on this matter have been wondering what has happened to this decision and whether it will in fact be implemented. Please can Councillor Mitchell provide an up to date programme for implementation of this scheme.”

Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

(d) Councillor Barnett

“After the recent fatality and serious accident in Old Shoreham Road, can an assurance be given that this road, which runs through both Hangleton & Knoll Ward and Hove Park Ward, is given very serious and urgent consideration for extra safety measures, including a speed camera and extra pedestrian crossing points.”

Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

(e) Councillor Gibson - Housing Benefit Payments

“Please can you supply the actual costs for each of the last five years of housing benefit payments made to fund landlord charges:

- a) Private rented housing
- b) Council housing
- c) Temporary accommodation
- d) Emergency accommodation
- e) Housing association

And please indicate the number of claims for each accommodation type.”

Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

(f) Councillor Gibson - Additional rental income from new council housing

“Please can you indicate the expected total number of new council homes arising from the new homes for neighbourhoods programme as of April 2018? And for these homes estimate the annual rental income that is due to the council for the financial year 2018/19.”

Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

(g) Councillor Mac Cafferty

“Further to a written question to Cllr Mitchell in January on energy efficiency, I was informed that the administration is preparing an energy plan. Can I ask where that plan is and when it will be coming for full scrutiny from Councillors?”

Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

(h) Councillor Mac Cafferty

“In April in response to a written question to Councillor Daniel on anti-social behaviour, I was informed that Designated Public Places Orders enable the police to remove alcohol from people who are drinking and being anti-social. After yet another summer where my residents have suffered yet more anti-social behaviour, they report that these orders are never used. Can I ask how many Designated Public Places Orders were authorised? In the absence of these orders being effectively used, what other mechanisms will the administration pursue to prevent anti-social behaviour in the public squares?”

Reply from Councillor Daniel – Chair of the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee

(i) Councillor Mac Cafferty

“Figures published from the LGA earlier this year tell us that dissatisfaction is increasing with the quality of new homes. Can I ask what steps the administration is taking to ensure new build homes are being built to the highest standards?”

Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

(j) Councillor Druitt – Party Houses

At Council in April I asked a question on party houses and six months later I still have not had a straight answer to the question. The question was:

35. Can the administration tell me what it is doing to work with party house owners as soon as they are identified to ensure that change of use planning permission is sought if required, permission is sought for any licensable activities and the legitimate concerns of neighbouring residents are addressed before party houses become operational?”

The party house in question (90 North Street) has since been put on the market due to a successful resident-led campaign against its use as a party house, but there are many others in the city that continue to be a nuisance to their neighbours. Can the Administration tell me whether it is doing anything at all to work with party house owners as soon as they are identified, to ensure that change of use planning permission is sought if required, permission is sought for any licensable activities and the legitimate concerns of neighbouring residents are addressed before party houses become operational? And further to that can the council tell me whether the recommendations from the scrutiny on Party Houses undertaken during the previous Green administration have been implemented, who is the council's link person with the Brighton & Hove Holiday Rental Association, and what steps the council takes to make sure party houses are assessed for business rates in line with current legislation?

Reply from Councillor Cattell – Chair of the Planning Committee

(k) Councillor Druitt - Food delivery mopeds

Despite a meeting with Deliveroo representatives following my question to Council in April, a dedicated email address for resident concerns and numerous reports to Operation Crackdown the antisocial behaviour caused by food delivery mopeds gets worse by the day. What is the council doing to ensure that delivery riders do not ride where they are not permitted to, do not pose a noise nuisance to residents, and do not represent a hazard to pedestrians; and will the Administration meet with me to explore the specific concerns that residents in my ward have highlighted, and possible solutions.

Reply from Councillor O’Quinn – Chair of the Licensing Committee

(I) Councillor Druitt

Unauthorised encampments

In correspondence with Sussex Police on unauthorised encampments in the city I have been told, in relation to City Clean/City Parks' involvement in multi-agency meetings and weekly action days: "Unfortunately City Clean who are supposed to attend have stopped attending and we are unable to contact them on the day as they simply do not answer the phone. Perhaps you can apply some pressure to them to ensure they engage with police and partners as without them clearing these encampments they are simply taken over by another person." Can the Administration tell me why City Clean/City Parks no longer attend the meetings, how many calls to City Clean and City Parks go unanswered (in actual and percentage terms), and what the Administration is doing to sort the situation out and get these basics right.

Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee