

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion.

The following written questions have been received from Members:

**(i) Lack of response to King Alfred question- Councillor Nemeth**

When will the Chairman be providing the promised answer to Member Question of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018 (reproduced below) on the specific subject of officer costs?

“What estimate does the Chairman make of costs incurred to date by the Council in progressing the redevelopment of the King Alfred Leisure Centre since the project was revived in 2013?”

**(ii) King Alfred- Councillor Nemeth**

With King Alfred delays, transparency, design and finances in mind, what lessons have been learnt by the Administration from the current proposal's shortcomings that can be applied to future major projects?

**(iii) Planning Consultation Complaints- Councillor Nemeth**

What plans are in place to address continued public complaints about the way in which the Council involves residents in the planning process? Just this year alone, I personally have received a number of complaints about the handling of applications at Hove Library, Hove Rugby Club, 80a Stoneham Road and the Westerman Complex where site notices have not been noticed; consultation letters have not been sent out or sometimes even received; and Planning Committee resident involvement procedures have not been logical or transparent with regard to both meeting date and actually attending

**(iv) Marlborough House- Councillor Nemeth**

Will the Chairman give an update on the latest position with regard to the condition of this historic asset (including a specific update on the site meeting that was held with the Heritage Officer and owner on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018)?

**(v) Community Facilities- Councillor Nemeth**

Will the Chairman give his views on the continued loss of community facilities in Hove in favour of more and more housing? With the loss of the YMCA, Westows and the Great Hall in Hove Town Hall, is the likely future fewer community assets for more people?

**(vi) Brunswick Lawns railings- Councillor Mac Cafferty**

Further to three surveys, one in November, one in January, the other a few weeks ago, the continuous degradation of the railings is notable. In January I photographed several railings that had fallen off and were left on the lawns and tied to the railings themselves. The railings have suffered poor maintenance, have been damaged, and worse, are fast disappearing.

Although the Lawns are not Listed nationally, they are on the Local List of Heritage Assets. In addition, they have the protection of being officially located within the Brunswick Town and Avenues Conservation Areas and, in the case of the Brunswick Lawns, within the setting of Grade 1 and Grade 2\* Listed Buildings. So we are under a statutory duty to protect the railings. Given their current state, is there a maintenance and repair programme planned for the railings and what funding streams is the council looking to revive the railings?

**(vii) Brexit- Councillor Mac Cafferty**

As we are less than 200 days till the official Brexit date, in order that Councillors and our communities alike are appraised of the economic risks associated with any deal, or worse, no deal, can we have the risks added onto the corporate Strategic Risks Register.

**(viii) Fences around construction sites- Councillor Mac Cafferty**

We have a number of construction sites where hoardings and fences completely take over the pavement area. This has led to pedestrians stranded and having to walk on the highway, which is a safety hazard to all road users. In several locations, the fences are blocking sight paths. Can we explore how this area of policy works to avoid this in the future and so consents aren't permitted to entirely block off the pavement?

**(ix) Retail- Councillor Mac Cafferty**

Further to my question to the last committee about retail, Debenhams has been added to the retailers downsizing. According to a survey published by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in January, 14% of small businesses are now expecting to scale down or stop trading, with retailers among the least optimistic. What work is underway to help our small retailers through the difficult period.

**(x) Seafront shelters- Councillor Mac Cafferty**

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, a number of the wooden seafront shelters and benches had been vandalised, including one which was partially demolished through vandalism. A further check last Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September revealed some repairs were now thankfully under way, however one of the shelters, located near the Meeting Place Café, has suffered further vandalism and is in a very bad way, with almost its entire centre composed of broken wooden panels and several broken panes of glass. Can I ask that the shelter is repaired before the onslaught of winter?