

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:

(1) Councillor: Ebel

The council is currently replacing the old seafront bins with new ones. After the transition period, what is the council intending to do with the old seafront bins? Can the old bins be re-purposed and placed across the city in places where there is a need for additional bins? Is there any consultation planned for the future use of the old seafront bins that the public and the councillors can engage in?

Given that there are many overflowing bins across the city and that many residents have to walk long distances to reach their nearest bin, it would be a positive step to re-allocate the old seafront bins quickly to ease one of the city's most pressing issues.

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

(2) Councillor Ebel

In the last few months we have been contacted by several residents who are concerned about the welfare of the animals used for racing at the Brighton and Hove Greyhound Stadium.

How many incidents where animals were injured or have died as a result of the sport have occurred at the Brighton and Hove Greyhound Stadium in the last year?

Reply from Councillor Robins – Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee.

(3) Councillor Hills

My residents want to know answers to the following:

- (a) When improvements to recycling in the city will be made.
- (b) When will the range of items collected be widened to include recyclable plastics other than bottles?
- (c) When might their recycling be collected weekly?
- (d) When will the waiting list for food waste collections be reduced?

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

(4) Councillor Davis

Since its introduction to our city the 20mph limit has helped to reduce fatalities and accidents but it could have a much bigger effect. Car ownership increases every month and with that drivers are using our rat run side streets like race tracks. I receive regular complaints from residents in my ward about the dangers and problems caused by speeding motorists.

What work is the Administration pursuing with Sussex Police to ensure 20mph is enforced?

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

(5) Councillor Hugh-Jones

I understand the Council recently awarded its Public Toilet Cleansing and Maintenance Contract to a new contractor, Healthmatic Limited. A ward resident has raised a number of issues specifically about the toilets in Blakers Park, i.e. that they:

1. Are frequently closed during the winter months (resulting in children defecating in the nearby bushes)
2. Staff who do visit are not reporting problems (including damage to the fabric of the building)
3. Contain offensive graffiti (including a swastika) and tags
4. Are filthy.

Given these concerns could you tell me

(a) What system is in place to manage and monitor the performance of the new contractor and

(b) Whether the level of service has been deliberately cut out of financial considerations?

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

(6) Councillor Clare

Would the Administration like to congratulate Love George Street and the Red Box Project Brighton on their successful roll out of 'red boxes' to all schools in Brighton and Hove?

Reply from Councillor Childs, Chair of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee.

(7) Councillor Clare

The road layout around the floral clock roundabout leading into St Johns Road is at an angle which is dangerous to both pedestrians and road users alike due to the angle of entry. In addition, the business owners by the entrance would like some additional space for outdoor seating and for the location of the recycling point to be moved.

What could be done to make this area safer and more friendly to all who need to access it?

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

(8) Councillor Mac Cafferty - Community safety

Will the Administration lead for community safety write to the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner asking:

- when the precept increase from council tax bills this year will be used to recruit police and PCSOs, as promised, and
- will we have PCSOs attending community Local Action Team meetings as routine once again?

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

(9) Councillor Mac Cafferty - Preston Twin elms

Given the significant loss to the city's elm collection with the necessary destruction of one of the 'Preston Twin' elms, when will the Administration be reinstating online reporting forms for the public to report elms suffering Dutch Elm disease? When a resident in my ward reported a suspected elm with the disease just weeks ago on Brunswick Road, the facility to report wasn't possible at the time. This still isn't available. Brunswick Road has now lost four elms in quick succession. What evidence is there that the Dutch Elm disease has struck harder this year than last and for the past five years?

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

(10) Councillor Mac Cafferty - Construction projects

Further to the shock news that the construction firm performing the works at the restored Corn Exchange has folded, how is the council ensuring that any replacement firm isn't given carte blanche to finish the works at significantly increased cost to the council and public purse. What internal auditing is the council conducting in its other construction projects to ensure we minimise similar problems.

Reply from Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee

(11) Councillor Theobald

When is the dreadful state of the carpark opposite Hove Town hall going to be tidied up?

The piece of land in front of the car park is overgrown and full of weeds. Also grass and weeds are growing along the walls and paths.

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

(12) Councillor Theobald

When will the children’s playgrounds in the City that are in need of refurbishing and upgrading going to be improved? Equipment in Hove Park and Patcham has been out of order for some time. Is there not a rolling programme for children’s playgrounds?

Section 106 money is infrequent, and action needs to be taken now.

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

(13) Councillor Druitt - Pesticides:

The council’s recent commitment to phase out the use of pesticides within three years is to be welcomed wholeheartedly. However, in the council’s press release of 27 June Cllr Pissaridou is quoted saying “we should achieve in excess of 95 per cent reduction in the use of glyphosate by the council this year as compared to last year”.

If this is the case, why can’t we go all the way and reduce it by 100%? What is the 5% that will still be treated with glyphosate and why can’t it be managed any other way?

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

(14) Councillor Druitt - 5G

Due to the public interest in 5G and a number of concerns raised by residents that there may be health risks associated with the technology can the council satisfy councillors that the science of 5G is well understood and the technology does not pose any health risks to residents?

Reply from Councillor Moonan – Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board

(15) Councillor Druitt - Trees

As we all know, urban trees have a huge number of benefits; they are crucial habitats for wildlife, they improve air quality and mental health and are critical assets in the fight against climate change. I'm delighted that the council is bidding for funding from the government's Urban Tree Challenge Fund to plant more trees in Brighton & Hove and wonder if the council can give more information on where these will go, how allocations will be made and whether this initiative can be accompanied by a comprehensive Tree strategy for the city?

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

(16) Councillor Osborne

Is there a charge levied to your phone network for calling the parking enforcement team? If so, how much is this charge?

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

(17) Councillor Osborne

When parking permits are started in an area is there a plan to protect those on low incomes/benefits that still require the use of their car? Has there been a consideration for a more gradual implementation to ease the transition or additional schemes to encourage the uptake of more sustainable forms of transport when the permits are brought in?

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

(18) Councillor Shanks

What is the council doing to progress development on derelict sites in the city? In my ward alone, we have Buckingham Road and Portland road both are brownfield sites ideal for housing. Will the council look at using CPOs to acquire these sites and others like it throughout the city and develop them for social housing?

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

(19) Councillor Deane

Will this Council sign-up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration, which was launched on the 12th July?

Reply from Councillor Platts – Leader of the Council

