

Council – 26 July 2023

Councillor Questions:

1. From Councillor Cooper to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

With the proposed forthcoming boundary changes can the District Council use this opportunity to change its name from Folkestone and Hythe District Council to Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh District Council to make it abundantly clear it serves and is inclusive of all residents of the District.

2. From Councillor Wimble to Councillor Holgate, Cabinet Member for Place Plan, Heritage, Tourism and District Economy

I would like to inquire about the rumours circulating regarding the potential scrapping of the Folkestone Airshow next year. Is it true that the current administration is considering this action based on concerns about the event's compatibility with their green credentials, given the carbon footprint associated with thousands of people attending and whether the economic benefits to the local community justify its continuation?

3. From Councillor Wimble to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

Can you provide the residents of Romney Marsh with a concrete timeline regarding the commencement of construction for the new swimming pool at Martello Lakes? It has been over five years since the promise was made in your campaign pledges, which included building a larger, more functional pool on land that could be purchased for a mere £1. The anticipation in the community is palpable, and we all look forward to the potential benefits this facility could bring to the district.

4. From Councillor Wimble to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

Regarding the proposed construction of a new nuclear plant at Dungeness, which enjoys support from the majority of people in the Romney Marsh, I would like to inquire about the position of the council. Former Green Party leader Cllr Leslie Whybrow expressed opposition to the project, citing concerns over nuclear waste. Is this view shared by the current Green Administration? If so, how does the council plan to compensate for the £50 million-plus contribution to the district economy from the Magnox and EDF plants?

5. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Speakman, Cabinet Member for Assets and Operations

Whilst I support the principle of "No Mow May", could I ask that an exception is made for the New Romney Cemetery? The basis for this request is that as an older cemetery with many grave edgings and grave ornaments that have been laid on the ground for safety reasons, the long grass increases the risk of a fall, due to these unseen tripping hazards. This is a particular problem for residents with mobility issues and those who are vision impaired.

6. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor P Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control

In the last few months, there have been three significant car accidents at the junction of the High Street and Ashford Road in New Romney. There are over two hundred new homes built or being built on Ashford Road and the traffic at this junction is increasing significantly. One major contributor to these accidents is the inconsiderate (and unlawful) parking on single yellow lines between this junction and the High Street shops, which severely restricts the vision of drivers entering the High Street. Can Parking Enforcement be directed to take a zero tolerance approach to parking offences in this area, and increase the frequency of patrols, particularly at peak times when the local school traffic is at its highest?

7. From Councillor Alan Martin to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

Following the recent presentation by Matthew Pardo, of EDF Energy, to Councillors at Dungeness on 7th July, the creation of Great British Nuclear and support from the Energy Minister following his visit to Dungeness on 17th July, can the Leader confirm that the Council will fully engage with KCC and support the case for SMRs at Dungeness?

8. From Councillor David Godfrey to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

Further to the Leaders proclamation that Princes Parade is 'Saved' at the Annual Council meeting on 24th May, he has announced the extension of planning permission and quite properly expressed caution over the swift removal of hoardings, Now that he has had time to fully absorb the implications of completely abandoning the Princess Parade project and loss of an asset worth more than £20,000,000 to the residents of the whole of the District can he categorically confirm that no development will take place on PP?

9. From Councillor Cooper to Councillor P Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control

Residents are concerned the Fire Hydrant in Aspen Close, St Mary`s Bay is being obstructed by inconsiderate parking and making it difficult for large delivery, refuse vehicles and residents to access their properties, never mind turn round. Its an accident waiting to happen, and given Kent County Council have refused to paint any yellow lines due to the lack of crash date. Would she please, use her discretion to enable double yellow lines be installed at this location as soon as is possible?

10. From Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

At the recent Personnel Committee the Chief Executive listed the priorities of your administration in addition to maintaining the delivery of front line services. With budget pressures and time constraints on moving to a Committee system of governance by next May, can you assure me that the Health and well being of staff will not be compromised ?

11 From Councillor Keen to Councillor Speakman, Cabinet Member for Assets and Operations

In view of the economic climate and the fact that FHDC are under financial pressure, could we not look to freezing the Beach Hut Project in favour of services supplied to the residents of the district?

12. From Councillor Keen to Councillor Prater, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for finance and governance

Can we please have some clarity around how much gross and net revenue we as a council make form the Parking Enforcement service?

13. From Councillor Keen to Councillor Shoob, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

With recent publicity around rat infested council properties in the district why are we charging our tenants for pest control?

14. From Councillor Keen to Councillor Shoob, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

How many families that are on the housing register have been accommodated out of the district, and how many families have been placed in B&B`s in the last 12 months?

15. From Councillor Chapman to Councillor P Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control

The number one issue that residents in Folkestone Harbour ward raise with me is the issue of parking. Could the council increase the presence of its civil enforcement officers to deter the inconsiderate parking which is affecting

people's enjoyment of their homes? Additionally, can be more be done to deter the pavements from being blocked in Harbour ward because parents with pushchairs, the elderly and those with mobility issues are being forced to walk into the road and traffic simple to go about their business?