

**Council – 28 February 2024**

**Councillor Questions:**

**1. From Councillor Lockwood to Councillor M Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Community and Collaboration**

As you are aware Kent County Council has taken the decision to end the commission of youth services in Kent. 'Salus', to whom KCC subcontract the running of youth provision, want to continue to operate the Hythe Youth Centre, which has over 800 members from across the district, and remain responsible for the Safeguarding procedures at youth clubs at New Romney and Lympne. They are actively trying to secure alternative sources of funding. Does FHDC have any plans to offer support for vital youth services across the district?

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

Although I take on board the lack of council housing in the district, is it appropriate to place families with small children in house on age designated estates where the properties are cramped and have very little secure outside space?

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

Could it please be explained why we as a council find it appropriate to place families with babies, newborns and children in temporary accommodation where they are not allowed to take washing machines and freezers? These families are often in this accommodation for over a year and sometimes longer. Launderettes are expensive and these families are more often than not fleeing domestic violence, economically challenged and time consuming if you are fitting them in around children and work.

**4. From Councillor Keen to Councillor P Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control**

The Road of Remembrance where we recently had the landslip, and where over the years there have been several near misses for drivers and pedestrians alike. Could I ask that we speak with KCC and either make this road one way or we have it pedestrianised ?

**5. From Councillor Keen to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

Could we have an update on what the yearly cost of the Otterpool site is, staff salaries, directors fees etc?

**6. From Councillor Cooper to Councillor Meade, Chair of the Planning and Licensing Committee**

Given the Developer has appealed the Planning Committees decision to refuse outline planning permission at High Knocke, the people of Dymchurch want to know if the district council will be supporting them and be contesting the Developers Planning Appeal to the Inspector?

**7. From Councillor A Martin to Councillor Fuller, Cabinet Member for Resident Engagement and Accountability**

During last month's debate on the motion to delay introduction of the committee system I heard a number of members express the view that this change is something residents are strongly passionate about. Given the extremely poor attendance at the public meeting, and low response to the consultation – Is it fair to assume that this topic is of no interest to the public or does the council have a problem with how it engages with residents?

**8. From Councillor A Martin to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

I am pleased to see the ongoing engagement with Southern Water in relation to the various issues with sewage and pumping stations. Is there an opportunity within these discussions to raise the topic of the treatment plants and pumping stations that the council inherited from East Kent Housing and are currently under the management of the council on the Marsh? These create a significant cost and management burden to us, and arguably Southern Water are better placed to take ownership of them.

**9. From Councillor Cooper to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

It has been brought to my attention the Dymchurch Dippers Sea Swimming Group have had to advise their members it was not advisable to go into the sea due to continued discharge of sewage water across the Bay. Could you please advise on the actions the council is taking on:

1. Putting pressure on Southern Water to upgrade the sewage plants on the Marsh and to stop them polluting our beaches.
2. Querying why is Hythe being upgraded and not the Romney Marsh.
3. Notifying people and others to ensure the residents of and visitors to the Romney Marsh are updated about the beaches and sea water standards.

and finally, would you please call a public meeting and invite the Environment Agency, Southern Water, Local Parish Councils and concerned local stake holders to come along in order to work together to try to resolve these and similar matters?

**10. From Councillor Davison to Councillor Holgate, Cabinet Member for Place Plan, Heritage, Tourism and District Economy**

Please could we have an update about the medical centre that was proposed for the Victorian part of Folca (formerly Debenhams)?

**11. From Councillor Davison to Councillor M Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Community and Collaboration**

Please could we have some more details about the work of the Folkestone Community Forum - for example topics that have been discussed and work that is taking place?

**12. From Councillor Davison to Councillor P Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control**

Please could we have an update on the Leas pavilion development from the council's perspective?

**13. From Councillor Cooper to Councillor Scoffham , Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity**

The public can get information about discharges in the bay from things such as, for example, beachbouy and SSRS, but this only gives discharge information for the outlets at designated bathing areas, however, there are other outlets which are not considered at designated bathing areas such as for example, at Willop/Redoubt - which is used by a number of sea swimmers. As you will be aware It's understood discharges from any outlet affects the whole bay which is evidenced by Dymchurch not releasing all last season. But having high bacteria readings during test dates when other outlets were discharging. Can we please find out why is there no apparent transparency about these outlets and please can the council pressure Southern water and the EA make this data available on beachbouy etc? In so doing, I along with a number of others, would like to have a look/tour at the New Romney plant and the Willop depot, to get a better understanding of how it all works - or should work! Can you please use your best endeavours to make this happen and also include other interested parties.

**14 From Councillor Keen to Councillor Prater, Deputy Leader and cabinet Member for Finance and Governance**

How many of our tenants are in receipt of housing benefits and how many are working and receiving housing benefit?

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

What is the age breakdown of residents in age designated apartments in Warren Close?

**16. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

Can the Leader confirm that flood prevention measures, including ditch inspections, that were not carried out in the periodical inspection programme in 2017, will now be actioned as a matter of urgency. The ditches in question were in St Nicholas Road, New Romney and are the responsibility of the District Council.

**Supplementary question:**

Two residents from St Nicholas road were displaced by the flooding in November 2023 and are still awaiting completion of repairs to their property. In this time, they have still continued to pay Council Tax. Would the Leader support the reimbursement of Council Tax to these two residents, as they have received no additional financial support from any agency. FHDC Officers have confirmed they can apply to the Valuation Office to have their properties exempt but this would not result in reimbursement of any previously paid Council Tax.