

Full Council – 18 July 2024

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 & 2 – submitted by Cllr Hannah Hobbs-Chell

1. The Ferndown regeneration plan was signed off in January 2017. We have since been successively promised funding and delivery on this, and social media posts and news reports have gone out as such, but to date have had no progress. The plan of 2017 is now outdated and not fit for purpose, and arguably became so 6months after formal adoption due to a large part of the land being sold to Torbay council in August 2017. Please can council confirm what funding, if any, was/is in place to bring this forward, and to work with the town council to develop a new action plan taking in to account the revised needs of the town and the residents, and any revised budgetary constraints or opportunities?

2. The tcf works, as agreed and signed off by the previous administration, have hit Ferndown hard, and residents have been subjected to a lot of disturbance from roadworks etc. In particular, local businesses have been very negatively impacted, and it has caused business closures, most recently the fish and chip shop due to trading volumes. Businesses are reporting that they have not received any support during this time, either through compensation, direct consultation or business rate relief. Please can the council confirm what business support has been offered or not, and can we learn from this for future so that we support our essential business and commerce sectors in Dorset?

Question 3 - submitted by Cllr Peter Dickenson

Weymouth recycling and waste centre is a much used facility but is in need of modernisation.

Expecting users to go up 8 steps then unload their waste or recycling is both unsafe and out of date.

I would like to request that this council look into up grading the facility as a matter of urgency

Question 4 - submitted by Cllr Craig Monks

In a recent Council surgery, a local resident in Beaminster asked me about the proposed actions of this Council in response to the pledges made during the local and elections, expressing keen interest in seeing a concrete plan to tackle the issue of pollution in the river Brit and the wider Dorset's rivers and coastline.

With this commitment to the residents of Dorset in mind, the Council would need to consider within its plan's issues such as what legislation or other relevant powers it might intend to rely on to achieve its aim of cleaning up Dorset's rivers and coastline, Other organisations or stakeholders that the Council would need to collaborate with to implement any policy, Projected costs to the Council and clear set targets, including timeframes, to measure the policy's success?

So, my question to the Council is: Taking all these points into consideration can the council share with us what progress has been made so far to tackle this issue and will this work be a stand-alone commitment with its own budgets and timeframes of delivery or within the Councils proposed nature emergency declaration?

Question 5 – submitted by Cllr Piers Brown

Could the Portfolio Holder outline his preferred options from the 'Horton Road Safety Scheme PRE-FEASIBILITY REPORT', including the timeline for delivery & confirm that cost will not be the overriding factor in the decision-making process?

Question 6 – submitted by Cllr Robin Legg

It's at least a year since the unauthorised development of a coach park at Loscombe Cross in the parish of Bradford Abbas first appeared. The matter is of grave concern to both Bradford Abbas and the Queen Thorne Group parish councils because the access to the parking area gives on to the crossroads of the A30 dual carriageway where there have been four fatalities in as many years, most recently on 20th February. I am told that a planning enforcement case has been opened reference EN/2023/00402. On the 4th of January this year I received an email from Planning Enforcement saying, "I will ask the enforcement officer to provide updates should there be any significant changes to the enforcement case". To date I have received no updates. Local residents are becoming exasperated at the lack of action when there is an obvious and continuing risk of death or serious injury at this location by the unregulated use of this site as a coach park. Please explain in detail what action is being taken to bring this use to an end with a specific timescale in which that will take place.

Question 7 – submitted by Cllr Robin Legg

The ground floor frontage of a late medieval timber house is located on the corner of Long Street and Cheap Street, Sherborne. The structure was first listed in 1950 but has been neglected for many years and is in a sorry state of repair. Last week the structure was damaged in a wanton act of vandalism. One of the oak panels was kicked in. What action will the authority take, including the use of statutory powers, to ensure that this historic structure is repaired and protected to be enjoyed by future generations?

Question 8 – submitted by Cllr Richard Crabb

Barton Farm Estate, Sherborne

The Barton Farm Estate in Sherborne a development of 344 houses by Persimmon is the subject of many failures of planning enforcement, incomplete roads, pavements and lighting and breaches of obligations under the Section 106 Agreements. I understand talking to colleagues that similar problems have occurred on Persimmon developments in Shaftesbury and elsewhere. How many breaches of planning conditions, Section 106 obligations and road making agreements remain outstanding on Persimmon developments across Dorset and please will you list those estates? What measures will the authority be taking in future to ensure proper compliance by this developer with its obligations and will that include ensuring that maintenance of public areas is under the control of residents?

Question 9 – submitted by Cllr Louie O’Leary

In July 2023 the previous council passed a motion condemning the Bibby Stockholm barge and calling for its removal from Portland harbour. This request fell on deaf ears by both the previous government and the Port. There is a new Labour government now and a Labour MP in South Dorset who was elected on the promise of removing this barge. The renewal of the contract for the barge is coming up shortly. Therefore, will this Council re-affirm its stance and once again call on this barge which is a disgrace to Dorset and a blot on the Jurassic coast and call for this barge to be removed as soon as possible.