

Council – 20 April 2023

Schedule of written responses to public and Members' questions not answered at the meeting

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**Full Council 20 April 2023 – Schedule of written responses to
Public questions not answered at the meeting**

Agenda Reference	Question	Response
7B	<p>Tracey Wilson, of Strood, submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gulvin:</p> <p>“Why is there no public toilet facility in Strood any more?</p> <p>We own the site of the Salon/Mortuary/Micropub next to Asda carpark entrance. The Public now think we must provide all the water, soap, electricity and toilet paper that should be funded by the Council. We are fed up with it.”</p>	<p>Thank you Mrs Wilson for your question.</p> <p>I can confirm that Medway Council do have a toilet facility in Strood Town Centre. This is an Automatic Public Convenience and is located in Newark Yard, which is near Aldi.</p> <p>This APC convenience is in place as a pay and use toilet for the public and can also be used as a disabled facility.</p> <p>It would appear that the location of this facility is not well sign posted so I have asked the Assistant Director for Front Line Services to look into this issue.</p>
7C	<p>Andrew Sweeting, of Chatham, submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer:</p> <p>“The speed limit on Pear Tree Lane has recently been reduced from 50mph to 40mph, though there have been very few accidents on this road over the last few years.</p> <p>Yet there is a clear need for the same restriction to be put in place on Ash Tree Lane after all the accidents we have had on this road, the last one taking out many of the concrete bollards at the edge of the road, yet it still remains at 60mph.</p> <p>The width of this road is also a major contributing factor to the accident rate as many of the bends are not suitable for</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Mr Sweeting. The speed limit on Ash Tree Lane has very recently been reduced to 40mph. Whilst there are currently no plans to modify the junction with Beacon Road, we have made other improvements to Ash Tree Lane over the past year, including new surfacing, new road signs and enhanced road markings.</p>

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	<p>cars to be traveling at high speeds.</p> <p>Would it not be beneficial for road safety for the junction of Beacon Road onto Ash Tree Lane to be modified to give better vision when turning out to go up Ash Tree Lane, as this has also caused many accidents in the past and to reduce the speed limit on Ash Tree Lane to 50mph?”</p>	
7D	<p>Ben Rist, of Gillingham, submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gulvin:</p> <p>“At the Council meeting on 19 January 2023, during agenda item 8 Leader’s report, Councillor Gulvin misled the questioner asking about investment in Gillingham by claiming a new mental health service was in Gillingham, which is untrue. Britton House is just Canada House that moved and is not new. When are we going to get the Mental Health Services we need in Medway such as a Therapeutic Community, a Section 136 Suite and a Psychiatric Unit?”</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Mr Rist. Like you, I have had great concerns over the provision of Mental Health Services in Medway for many years. Particularly over the loss of the Mental Health beds at Medway Hospital. However, we will have to beg to differ on Britton House, it’s not just Canada House moved. A great deal of effort was put in to provide a modern fit for purpose facility for Medway’s patients and the staff working there.</p> <p>Medway Council and the Medway Development Company played a large role in this. By obtaining One Public Estate funding for the feasibility study for the project, then successfully bidding for the capital grant which funded it and then managing the building works.</p> <p>The new facility has also enabled the construction of the new Adult Education Hub and 44 new social housing units for Council tenants by MDC, on the rest of the site.</p> <p>This has significantly helped regenerate this area of Gillingham.</p> <p>I’m pleased also to be able to address some of your other</p>

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		<p>concerns. Medway is fortunate to have been chosen as the location for the initial rollout of a new therapeutic community mental health service, which will be known as “Mental Health Together”. This new programme forms part of the Kent and Medway Community Health Transformation Programme. The aim is to add more local capacity to support adults with mental health needs from April 2023.</p> <p>In terms of section 136 suites, a public consultation has been undertaken by KMPT. This closed on 18th April. We await the outcome of this process and sincerely hope that it will result in a much needed 136 suite in Medway.</p> <p>The point I was making on 19th January was that there has been investment in both mental health and Medway’s regeneration by this Council. The 44 units at Britton Farm along with the 20 at White Road already occupied, show this Council’s commitment to social housing, unlike the Labour group who all voted against the planning permission for Mountbatten House and the social housing that that redevelopment will provide.</p>
7H	<p>Ben Pranczke, of Gillingham, submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty:</p> <p>“As this is your final Full Council, would you like to take this last opportunity to</p>	<p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>Although I wasn’t directly involved with this project, when the Japanese roundabout was installed, Tesco Extra in Gillingham agreed a financial contribution of £300,000 towards town centre improvements and £30,676 of that was used on the roundabout. That means £269,324</p>

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	<p>apologise for wasting £130,000 on a Japanese peace roundabout which nobody can access when that money could and should have been spent on improving Gillingham High Street?"</p>	<p>was leftover for other improvements within Gillingham which were mainly a new square near Mill Road/Gillingham High Street and linking to Medway Park. Below is a list of the improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of pedestrian crossing and guardrail • Landscaping design and specification • Purchase of trees, shrubs and planting • Surfacing of Mill Road • Lighting improvements along Mill Road • Gas governor relocation (approx. £50,000) • Gillingham Train Station and related Highway works <p>It is, what we hope will be, a lasting monument to Will Adams, who was the first Englishman to reach Japan in 1600 and set up trade links and he was also born in Gillingham. Therefore, it's just like we have monuments to other famous former residents elsewhere, such as Thomas Waghorn in Chatham.</p>

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**Full Council 20 April 2023 – Schedule of written responses to
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10E	<p>Councillor Mahil submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer:</p> <p>“The state of Medway’s roads has now become a standing joke, with them being described as Swiss Cheese and suitable for plastic ducks! This has an impact not just on the condition of people’s vehicles but on the overall economy and reputation of Medway.</p> <p>Can the Portfolio Holder please tell us what are the plans to rectify this very serious infrastructure problem, not just for the immediate future, but for the long term?”</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Councillor Mahil.</p> <p>Our highways network consists of 831km of carriageway and 1,400km of footways, making it one of the largest assets owned by the Council. As a Highway Authority with the statutory duty to maintain the public highway, fulfilling that duty with such an extensive network is extremely challenging, as is the case up and down the country.</p> <p>Alongside a robust annual resurfacing programme, we also undertake programmed inspections at different intervals throughout the year, and respond to safety-critical repairs, such as potholes, on a reactive basis.</p> <p>The effects of extreme weather events contribute to the number of defects appearing on our highway network, and this is not a situation unique to Medway.</p> <p>We’ve repaired 12,040 carriageway defects between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023: an increase of over 3,000 from the previous year as a result of the snow in December last year. We know there is more to be done and we continue with our efforts to address the condition of the network.</p>