

Council 23 April 2015 – Schedule of written responses to public questions not dealt with at the meeting

Question No.	Name	Question/Response
Public Question N	Robert McCulloch-Martin	<p>Question to ask the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Mrs Diane Chambers:</p> <p>Following Medway Messenger’s articles on 8 April 2015 and 15 August 2014 regarding Gillingham Football Club building a 24,000 seater multi-purpose stadium along with 300 houses and shops on Mill Hill in Rainham North, can the Chairman confirm whether or not this fits in with Medway Council’s development plans following the Council’s discussions with the Club.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The Council have been informed of the latest ideas of the club but there has been no planning applications submitted nor have any pre-application discussions taken place, therefore, I cannot comment on the newspaper article. The status of the land at Mill Hill Farm in the current Local Plan is an area of local landscape importance protected against development, as is much of the land in that area.</p> <p>For many years Gillingham Football Club have made it clear that the existing ground is too constrained to meet the needs of a modern day football club, and, therefore, they have been looking for an alternative site.</p> <p>Over a number of years there have been meetings with the Council at the request of the club where a number of options have been put forward by the club to date none have come forward as a planning application</p>

Question No.	Name	Question/Response
Public question O	Ben Pranczke	<p>Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Rodney Chambers OBE:</p> <p>Which do you think is more important, Medway Councillors retaining their full current Special Responsibilities Allowance or Medway Council paying the living wage to its lowest paid council staff?</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>This Council has always adhered to legislative policy as far as paying the minimum wage.</p> <p>The last two budgets of this administration have given a staff wage increase equivalent to 1% each year. This is an investment in our staff of £1.6 million over the last two years. It should also be remembered, that the Labour Group voted against such a pay increase on both occasions.</p> <p>Should legislation be introduced which requires a living wage to be paid, or increases the minimum above its current level we shall of course follow suit.</p>

Question No.	Name	Question/Response
Public question P	John Jones	<p>Question to the Community Safety and Customer Contact, Councillor Hicks:</p> <p>There are a mixture of views regarding the recent rapid expansion of on-street activity in Chatham High Street, some residents saying it has brought vibrancy whereas others feel it has further brought the High Street down and has a negative impact on people with limited mobility and visual impairment.</p> <p>With strong views and no clear position from the Council, at the moment nobody feels their view is being listened to by the Council.</p> <p>When will the Council consult with residents and traders to seek their views on both what the future direction of Chatham High Street should be and what levels of enforcement of current policies and guidelines should take place?</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The Council is aware of the issues, and officers will meet with members after the election to discuss a draft policy document and options for consultation.</p> <p>In the meantime the council will continue to consider enforcement where there is a clear risk to public safety.</p>

Question No.	Name	Question/Response
Public question Q	Alan Higgins	<p>Question to the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer:</p> <p>Many residents in Princes Park have raised with me concerns around the finish time of the 169 bus. Have Medway Council considered extending the finishing time of this service, if so what dialogue with Arriva has happened to date?</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>There may be scope to re-time a couple of the existing 169 services to create a later finish time but this would impact on the daytime service, possibly creating further issues. Re-timing of any service also depends on vehicle and staff availability.</p> <p>However, the Integrated Transport service will address the request with Arriva to see if there is any scope to reschedule the 169 service.</p>