

**Full Council 21 July 2022 – Schedule of written responses to Public questions not answered at the meeting**

Agenda Reference	Question	Response
7B	<p><b>Alan Wells of Chatham asked the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:</b></p> <p>In recent months there has been a number of fly tipping incidents in Strood Rural.</p> <p>The sites targeted that I know of are:</p> <p>Off Berwick Way approaching Medway City Estate (now cleared). In particular, the land between Hasted Road and Islingham Farm Road approaching the Wainscott Bypass, as well as other sites in the Frindsbury, Wainscott, and Upnor area.</p> <p>I have seen for myself huge mounds of construction and commercial waste illegally dumped on an industrial scale in the area, which is affecting the immediate environment. Fly-tipping has a detrimental effect on the look and feel of our area and the dumpers, must have made multiple visits, to these sites. Rural paths and views are blocked by lorry loads of commercial and industrial waste.</p> <p>As reported on <a href="#">KM Online</a>, Medway has the highest amount of fly tipping in Kent, with 5,141 reported incidents, 2019/20 with residents and landowners forced to deal with the potential health and environmental hazards the rubbish represents.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Mr Wells.</p> <p>The issue of fly tipping is a blight across the country and Medway occasionally experiences similar problems. Whilst I am unable to comment on specific sites, as they may be subject to active investigation, I would make the following observations.</p> <p>Regulatory Services lawfully deploys both overt and covert video surveillance equipment to capture evidence of those involved in waste crime, and this evidence is frequently used in criminal prosecutions.</p> <p>The issue of presenting video and photographic images online to identify those involved in fly tipping is being considered by the team and a policy is being produced to lawfully manage this process.</p> <p>A recent Medway Council prosecution for fly tipping resulted in a custodial sentence of twenty weeks and a Criminal Behaviour Order for five years, restricting involvement in handling waste.</p> <p>Our teams work in partnership with Kent Police, the Environment Agency and other Government bodies to tackle the organised criminals behind many major fly tipping incidents.</p> <p>They also have regular proactive patrols with the Kent Police's Rural Taskforce to disrupt those involved in the unlawful disposal of waste. These operations routinely result in prosecutions and the</p>

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	<p>Environmental crime should not be tolerated, and our green spaces should be there to be enjoyed by the whole community.</p> <p>The Council could install CCTV at the fly-tipping hotspots and introduce a 'Caught on Camera' campaign across Medway to deter and identify fly-tippers, and act to reduce incidents of fly-tipping. This type of approach has proven successful elsewhere, with a 'Wall of Shame' campaign, where video and images of fly-tipping are published on the Council's website, asking residents to help identify the perpetrators. The locations of the cameras based on fly-tipping complaints are monitored to understand reduction in fly-tipping at the sites with CCTV, but also to see if there are any adverse impacts such as fly-tipping increasing elsewhere.</p> <p>What actions are the Council going to undertake to ensure compliance with environmental legislation, and to crack down on fly tipping?</p>	<p>seizure of vehicles involved in the illegal carriage of waste.</p> <p>Residents can report any fly tipping incident on our website or by calling 01634 333333.</p>
7D	<p><b>Sean Carter of Gillingham asked the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:</b></p> <p>Why does Medway Council's housing department not deal with housing repairs and housing issues, for example</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Mr Carter.</p> <p>The Housing Repairs team takes on average around 56 calls a day, raising approximately 530 jobs and completes anywhere between 400 and 500 jobs per month.</p> <p>In May, the repairs service received a score of 94.4% for customers satisfied with the</p>

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	<p>they are not available or hang up the phone?</p>	<p>overall repairs service and answered 97.5% of calls received, with an average waiting time of 19 seconds.</p> <p>The only time that a call handler would hang up the phone is if there was a loss of signal or if the caller was being verbally abusive. If the latter was the case, then the call handler would warn the caller prior to terminating the call.</p> <p>If you have any specific examples of any housing repairs or issues not being dealt with, then these can be raised as a stage one complaint, investigated, and they will be responded to directly.</p>
7F	<p><b>Paul O’Neill of Chatham asked the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, the following:</b></p> <p>New proposed laws will introduce a new criminal offence where a person resides or intends to reside on any public or private land without permission. Currently Medway does not provide adequate temporary traveller sites which leads to inappropriate areas being used by travellers.</p> <p>The Council could acquire land for this purpose, for example, it could use compulsory purchase powers to acquire the site on Gillingham Business Park behind Aldi.</p> <p>How does the Council intend to fulfil its requirements to the</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Mr O’Neill.</p> <p>We do of course have a Traveller’s site at Cuxton.</p> <p>The Government is encouraging councils to have a site or sites that the travelling community could temporarily use, when in that Authority’s area.</p> <p>We do own the freehold of the site that you refer to at Gillingham Business Park, however, the site has been leased until 2280, and at present we have no intention of using compulsory purchase powers to acquire this or any other sites for temporary traveller accommodation.</p> <p>We will, as always, follow legislation and where necessary, consider what is appropriate, taking into account any action that has been undertaken by other councils.</p>

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	traveller community in the local plan?	In terms of the Local Plan, the Council has undertaken, as part of its evidence base, an assessment of Gypsy and traveller need and has assessed all existing sites. Relevant policies and allocations to assist meeting that identified need will come forward as part of the emerging Local Plan.