

Public Questions

Question A – Carl Dunks of Rainham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:

Can the Portfolio Holder give his view on the use of electric scooters?

Question B – Ruth Banks of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:

I am concerned about the lack of parking and the safety of anyone, particularly women, at night or very early hours of the day when their vehicle isn't parked in their own street/road.

This is because there are not enough parking bays to accommodate the indiscriminate giving out of permits to all that apply.

Can the Portfolio Holder please tell me what he plans to do about this?

Question C – Kevin Fowle of Chatham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Business Management, Councillor Hackwell, the following:

I am concerned and frustrated about the total lack of any warning about the ward boundary changes. I received nothing in the mail or any contact from the current wards' elected councillors. I have unanswered emails from both, so have no faith in that channel.

The law states that proposed changes should be communicated for feedback. I am not a social media user, it is totally wrong to rely on social media, online web sites and inadequate elected representatives so why was there no direct, to the door communication of those affected?

Question D – Liz O'Hanlon of Rainham will ask the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:

Given we are in a climate emergency and tree planting is a key part of tackling poor air quality and climate change, (Please exclude volunteer led activity and 'friends of groups' in this figure) via Norse (or directly from the Council), how many replacement trees and additional trees are the council planning on planting in the next 12 months?

Question E – Stephen Taylor of Chatham will ask the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:

As a local family who has purchased an electric car to help the environment during this climate emergency, could the Portfolio Holder set out how the Council is trying to make it easier for families like ours who want to do the right thing, specifically with regards to charging our vehicles and the options for those who live in houses with no off-street parking?

Question F – Nina Gurung of Gillingham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, the following:

The Council is investing a considerable amount of funding into the refurbishment of the Paddock in Chatham. What measures are in place to protect the users of this greenspace from the high levels of air pollution, both gaseous and particulate, arising from the adjacent bus station?

Question G – Alan Wells of Chatham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:

As traffic congestion adds to Medway's emissions each year and reduces local productivity, cycling - especially at peak hours - would help reduce emissions and ease congestion across Medway. At present there are no designated cycle paths or cycling infrastructure going on and off Medway City Estate. The roads affected are Sir Thomas Longley Road (most notably), Neptune Close, Royal Eagle Close, Clipper Close and Whitewall Road, Anthony's Way leading onto the estate from Canal Road and Commissioners Road.

Cycling paths on the estate would benefit workers and people using the estate. As a cyclist myself, the roads around the estate can become treacherous especially during peak times.

Cycling infrastructure would also add as an incentive for people using the estate to cycle as a different and safe mode of transport, as well as added environmental benefit.

Are there any plans for the Council to invest in cycling infrastructure for Medway City Estate in the near future?

Question H – Satinder Shokar of Rochester will ask the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:

With this seemingly never-ending cost of living crisis, our local food banks for some time now have been taking on too much of the burden. An example of this is a local food bank that has seen the number of meals delivered more than double in the space of one year, they provide on average 14,000 meals per month.

If the Council is unable to reduce the number of residents needing to use food banks, are they at least able to provide an emergency injection of financial support to these organisations? As the cost of groceries has increased by over 13% and the number of donations isn't matching this increase.

Question I – Vivienne Parker of Chatham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:

At the moment staff at our Healthy Living Centres have to pay to park in Council car parks when they are working. Would it be possible for the Council to give them free parking passes or enable them to reclaim their parking costs?

Question J – Alan Stockey of Rainham will ask the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:

The prior version of the Climate Change Action Plan included 11.10 – “Ensure the Heatwave Plan and Cold Weather Plan are reviewed and updated annually.”

It is noted that this action has been removed from the latest version of the Climate Action Plan, but it is not clear what has been done to address this given the experiences of 40c heatwave in recent months. It is a given that such temperatures will no longer be extremes and the preserve of emergency plans only and will need particular focus to ensure a coordinated approach to publishing places of refuge and clear communications out to the communities.

I would like to know, given that the Council has felt it appropriate to remove this reference in the latest Action Plan, what policies the Council plans to put in place to address more regular extremes of temperature?

Question K – Bryan Fowler of Chatham will ask the Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships, Councillor Rodney Chambers OBE, the following:

How much budget will Medway Council be setting aside annually for maintaining the water feature in the Paddock, Chatham for the 5 financial years commencing 2024? This includes maintenance cleaning, water and electricity charges.

Question L – Chris Spalding of Gillingham will ask the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:

Tomorrow is the eleventh day of the eleventh month. It is Remembrance Day.

At the Council meeting in January 2019, my very good friend, the late Councillor Mick Pendergast, put forward a motion that some tickets to Medway Council events be donated to the charity, Tickets for Troops.

The motion received cross party support and was carried unanimously.

At the Council meeting on 18 July 2019, I enquired how many tickets had been donated thus far.

Councillor Rupert Turpin, responding on your behalf, gave, in my opinion, a waffling response in an attempt to deflect away from the answer which was no tickets had been donated.

I appreciate we have had Covid and Lockdown, but can you kindly tell me how many tickets have been donated between January 2019 and 31 October 2022?

Question M – Nigel Jackson of Strood will ask the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, the following:

Can the Portfolio Holder update Council on the progress made regarding the April 2019 motion on Uber operating in Medway?