

**Full Council 10 November 2022 – Schedule of written responses to
Public questions not answered at the meeting**

Agenda Reference	Question	Response
7A	<p>Carl Dunks, of Rainham asked the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Phil Filmer, the following:</p> <p>Can the Portfolio Holder give his view on the use of electric scooters?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question Mr Dunks. I think electric scooters could be of benefit when it comes to our Climate Change Action Plan and reducing emissions, however, I believe in some circumstances, they have become a public menace and aren't being used in line with the law.</p> <p>It is not currently possible to insure for privately owned e-scooters, meaning it is illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces. Rental e-scooters are permitted within recognised trial areas, however, there are no such areas in Medway at present and their use is restricted to private land. The nearest location is in Canterbury.</p> <p>We are working closely with Kent Police to enforce this and to deliver road safety messaging on the legalities around the use of e-scooters and liaising with educational settings across Medway to raise awareness. An e-scooter infographic was produced last year and promoted on our social media pages. The Police will take the appropriate action against rider behaviour, whether private or rental, and this is something we will continue to work with partners on to promote in line with road safety education.</p>
7B	<p>Ruth Banks of Gillingham asked the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:</p> <p>I am concerned about the lack of parking and the safety of anyone, particularly</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Ms Banks. We do understand that demand for residential parking on many of our streets is high, and this means that residents can't always park close to their property. Although we cannot control the number of vehicles that residents choose to own, and it is</p>

Agenda Reference	Question	Response
	<p>women, at night or very early hours of the day when their vehicle isn't parked in their own street/road.</p> <p>This is because there are not enough parking bays to accommodate the indiscriminate giving out of permits to all that apply.</p> <p>Can the Portfolio Holder please tell me what he plans to do about this?</p>	<p>not usually possible to create more space to park on the street, when we process applications for residential permits we ensure that the vehicle is registered at the home address. We also limit the number of visitor vouchers provided to an individual property. These controls mean that parking permits and vouchers are only issued to residents and their visitors. Please let us know if you are worried about community safety in your street – we will listen to any concerns you may have, and may be able to help.</p>
7D	<p>Liz O’Hanlon of Rainham asked the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:</p> <p>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?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Ms O’Hanlon. This year (2022) we are intending to plant over 270 trees.</p> <p>At this stage, we are also provisionally planning to plant over 180 trees the following year (2023).</p> <p>And of course, over the recent past we have planted 13,000 trees across Medway.</p>
7F	<p>Nina Gurung of Gillingham asked the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, the following:</p> <p>The Council is investing a considerable amount of funding into the refurbishment of the Paddock in Chatham.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Ms Gurung. We are using Future High Street funding to invest in the Paddock, improving accessibility and increasing biodiversity planting. Our Environmental Protection team has advised that if the daily movements of buses are below 2,500, that would indicate no risk of exceedance of the air quality objectives. The daily</p>

Agenda Reference	Question	Response
	<p>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?</p>	<p>movements of buses have been confirmed to be well below 2,500 movements and as such, no further assessment work or monitoring is required.</p>
7G	<p>Alan Wells of Chatham asked the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Mr Wells. There are now over 80 miles of cycle routes in Medway, but we recognise that cycling infrastructure on the Medway City Estate could be much better. We are currently developing an infrastructure plan for walking and cycling in Medway, to identify the gaps in our network and how we might deliver improvements. This plan will help us when opportunities arise to bid for Government funding. Your suggestion for new cycle paths in and around the Medway City Estate is welcome, and will be taken into account as we develop the plan.</p>

Agenda Reference	Question	Response
	<p>Are there any plans for the Council to invest in cycling infrastructure for Medway City Estate in the near future?</p>	
7H	<p>Satinder Shokar of Rochester asked the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. It is recognised that a wide range of charities, community and faith groups continue to work very hard to provide food and other support to residents. We are extremely grateful to these organisations for supporting vulnerable individuals and families. You will be pleased to know that Medway Council has provided financial support to a large number of food charities this year. We have utilised funding from the Household Support Fund to do this. As agreed by the Leader of the Council through an urgency powers decision earlier this year, we have awarded almost £375,000 in grants to local food charities to support their work. With this investment and the Council's own Household Support service, this means we have provided more than £2.5million to residents to help with the cost of food this year.</p>