

Public Questions

Question A – Toni Oliver, of Chatham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, the following:

What is being done to make the owners of the site at Dock Head Road machine shop structure clean up the site?

It's currently overgrown and an eyesore for the area. It has planning permission, I understand, with restrictions on it but it has been on and off and in this state for approximately 4 years now and is getting worse!

Question B – Tracey Wilson, of Strood, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gulvin, the following:

Why is there no public toilet facility in Strood any more?

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.

Question C – Andrew Sweeting, of Chatham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:

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.

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.

The width of this road is also a major contributing factor to the accident rate as many of the bends are not suitable for cars to be traveling at high speeds.

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?

Question D – Ben Rist, of Gillingham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gulvin, the following:

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?

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

What is the Council going to do about people driving the wrong way down Brake Avenue, Chatham? I and other people have nearly suffered a car accident meeting people driving the wrong way.

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

In the Spring Budget on 15 March 2023, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a one year fund of £63.3 Million being made available for publicly owned leisure centres with swimming pools.

This fund is being managed by Sport England and allows local authorities to apply for funding for leisure centres with swimming pools that face immediate cost pressures, including operational and maintenance costs, as well as energy bills.

£40 million is being made available for capital investment to improve the energy efficiency of such public facilities while the remainder comes in revenue grants.

Can you confirm Medway Council has applied for money from this fund for Hoo Sport Centre, including how much has been asked for?

Question G – Jon Castle, of Chatham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services, Councillor Brake, the following:

Numbers published recently have highlighted that some GP surgeries have very high numbers of patients registered. In particular, St Mary's Island Surgery has over 34,000 patients, one of four practices across Medway with more than 20,000 patients registered.

Does the Portfolio Holder agree with me that this data shows both an unsustainable number of patients registered at some practices in Medway and a chronic lack of GPs in Medway?

Question H – Ben Pranczke, of Gillingham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, the following:

As this is your final Full Council, would you like to take this last opportunity to 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?