

Members' Questions

Question A – Councillor Doe will ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property, Councillor Khan, the following:

Several local residents have called me to express their concern about the sudden invasion of the Wigmore Coach Park by a large group of travellers, without any prior consultation with the local Councillors.

I have since been informed that this occupation will last no more than three months while the Council deals with necessary legal duties.

I am deeply concerned that the travellers were moved there without any consultation with residents or local Members.

Accordingly, can the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Khan, assure me that this site will not be used for this purpose in the future and in doing so, that no permanent traveller site will be permitted at this location?

Question B – Councillor Spring will ask the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Curry, the following:

"Red routes are nothing more than money making schemes", a comment made by a constituent during a surgery. The route proposed in Rainham North has been plagued by street-works which are causing utter chaos across our town. As was highlighted by multiple comments on the issue, a serious review of the roads should be undertaken by your administration, not imposing anti-motorist measures which will make no impact on air quality. It is idling and poor road layouts that cause delays and poor air quality, not people stopping on the A2.

What is very interesting is the apparent lack of comprehension of the view set out by the Labour Party in their publication 'A New Britain'. It is stated quite proudly that:

"Our starting point is a modern system of decision making that does not start from the top – but starts from the people and is grounded in new ways of consulting, participating, and deciding."

You consulted.

The public participated.

You decided. You decided to ignore the objections and views of 64% of the respondents and intend to roll this out. You are punishing unnecessarily hard-working people – in the same way your disastrous Mayor of London has punished hard working people in Greater London and the Home Counties.

Will the Portfolio Holder do the democratic thing (and do as you have already shown your party is capable of doing with the multiple U-turns in your first 100 days, such as on the visitor's parking permits), and reverse the decision to have an unwanted Labour red route in Rainham?

Question C – Councillor Perfect will ask the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services, Councillor Price, the following:

The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders have made clear that the administration’s “sixth pledge” is the reduction in the use of non-permanent (locum/agency) staff. This is not a new objective and has been a priority of the Council for some time, but the renewed focus is very much welcome. This is something that can support further improvement towards outstanding, following the recent ‘Good’ ILACs report.

Assuming that there will be a new strategy or plan to underpin this renewed focus and a new target for the number of non-permanent staff within the service, can the Portfolio Holder please update the Council on this matter in relation to Children’s Services, with particular focus on the current number of non-permanent staff?

Question D – Councillor Sands will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

On October 8th 2020, the Labour Party supported my motion to campaign for the Hoo Peninsula to become an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and part of the North Downs AONB, the motion was not supported by the then administration and so defeated.

Now your party is in power here in Medway, will you resolve to start a vigorous campaign to have the Hoo Peninsula recognised as an area of outstanding natural beauty?

Question E – Councillor Spalding will ask the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Curry, the following:

Roadworks and Streetworks projects seem to always over run time and are planned such that they cause maximum inconvenience to residents and businesses.

Given current contracts do not apparently contain penalty clauses, what is the Portfolio Holder doing to ensure future works are delivered on time, on budget, with the least amount of disruption?

Question F – Councillor Lawrence will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

At the Council meeting of the 20th July 2023, in the Leader’s Report, the Leader of the Council made the following very bold statement:

“We have got to grip with GP services...”

Can he tell the Council exactly how he got to grip with GP Services, including setting out what is the net increase in GPs operating in Medway based surgeries serving the people of Medway?

Question G – Councillor Pearce will ask the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Curry, the following:

Lordswood and Walderslade Community Litter Group is apparently set to cease operating because Medway Council is making it more difficult for these volunteers to continue litter-picking - with regards to the collection of their sacks of litter.

Myself and former Peninsula Ward Councillor, Tony Watson, founded the Hoo Clean Up litter-picking group in January 2012 and this is one of the longest running groups in the local authority area. If Medway Council refuses to collect the black sacks from this litter-picking group - the volunteers have already told me that they will have no problem in dropping off those sacks to the front door of Gun Wharf.

Although collecting litter is a key priority for litter-picking groups - many of those who take part, who are of all ages and different backgrounds, regard the sessions as really important for their physical and mental health and they value the time they spend mixing with other residents and positively contributing to where they live.

Will the Portfolio Holder reverse the Council's regressive decision and join me in showing solidarity to all of our much-loved community litter-picking groups by guaranteeing that bags of litter from different volunteer groups will continue to be collected in the same way as previously agreed?

Question H – Councillor Anang will ask the Portfolio Holder for Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment, Councillor Edwards, the following:

Did the Portfolio Holder consult the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), before revoking the Monday free parking in Medway?

Question I – Councillor Tejan will ask the Portfolio Holder for Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment, Councillor Edwards, the following:

We are becoming more and more concerned about decisions made by Medway Council since Labour took charge in May 2023. It seems that they are spending on unnecessary projects like the Red Routes that nobody wants or needs and have even made the decision to extinguish the beloved Christmas lights across the Medway towns.

This Labour administration is turning Medway into Halloween Towns for Christmas, and we do not know if they prefer a more traditional festive look or the spookier version.

Explaining why, if they have not, has the portfolio holder considered engaging with businesses and communities across our towns to seek sponsorship for the Christmas lights and considered the reversal of this disastrous decision?

Question J – Councillor Barrett will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

At the Council meeting of the 20th July 2023 in the Leader's Report, the Leader of the Council made the following very bold statement:

“We have started to tackle the excessive use of consultants and locums in many Council Departments...”

Can he tell the Council exactly how many consultants and locums have been dismissed or transferred to Council employment contracts, setting out the annualised net saving to the Council taxpayer?