

Public Questions

Question A – Nancy Paulding, of Gillingham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement, Councillor Alex Paterson, the following:

As a resident of Jeffery Street, Gillingham, I wish to raise a concern about the lack of evening parking availability in our area. Due to limited on-street availability and increasing residential demand, it is often extremely difficult to find a space after 6pm, despite holding a valid residents' G permit and contributing to local parking schemes.

While searching for parking in the evenings, I regularly observe that both the Littlewoods Car Park and the Jeffery Street Car Park remain almost entirely empty. This seems a missed opportunity to support local residents who already contribute to parking schemes. Both car parks display signage stating that charges apply between 7am and 1am, yet observations suggest that very few tickets are purchased after 6pm.

I understand that Britton Farm Car Park, just up the road, operates chargeable hours only until 6pm, which better reflects actual usage patterns. However, it is barrier locked overnight, meaning vehicles parked there cannot be accessed until 7am the following morning. This makes it unsuitable for many residents who may need to retrieve their cars earlier.

I understand that under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and associated statutory guidance, councils are encouraged to review parking policies regularly to ensure they reflect local needs and make effective use of public assets. Given the low evening usage of the Littlewoods and Jeffery Street Car Parks, and the increasing difficulty residents face in finding parking, I believe this is an ideal opportunity to apply those principles.

Would the Cabinet consider reviewing the evening policy for the Littlewoods and Jeffery Street car parks, with a view to allowing resident permit holders to park free of charge after 6pm, without overnight access restrictions? This change would make better use of existing infrastructure, improve resident satisfaction, and likely have minimal impact on council revenue.

Question B – Daniel Broom, of Chatham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Simon Curry, the following:

My name is Daniel Broom from the Q-Ship Society. We have expressed an interest in a plot of waste land in which current planning permission expires in 2026; one site, known as Collier Wharf, is part of the 2nd phase of development of Chatham Docks and is mostly disused.

Dating back to 1874, many historic features exist at the site such as a World War One Admiralty Pattern Pill Box, original mooring bollards and mooring fittings, flood walls and branch line spur, of which all are of significant historic importance to the area. Most importantly, underneath the concrete are the remains of Gillingham Fort, a historic listed monument; with this in mind and the backing of local residents and

Heritage England listing in progress, the Q-Ship Society are appealing the decision to build on this site, and kindly request the consideration for the Q-Ship Society to be granted care of the site to protect its entirety, and preserve as a potential future home for the vessel we are aiming to save (HMS Saxifrage), currently stranded in a legal battle within Chatham Docks.

Our hopes are for this to be considered in the regeneration of Gillingham Pier as a Heritage Harbour.

Question C – Onyx Rist, of Rainham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Simon Curry, the following:

While the new bus service running to and from Otterham Park, the 3A and 3C's are welcome, residents found the bus service really useful when it was extended to 5.30pm in the Summer Holidays and residents will find it useful, having a bus service at weekends too. Is there any chance of extending the times on a permanent basis and having a bus service during the weekends, using Section 106 Money to do this?

Question D – Vivienne Parker, of Chatham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness, Councillor Louwella Prenter, the following:

Do the tower blocks on Chatham Riverside have their approval from the Buildings Safety Regulator that they are safe to live in so they can now be got ready for occupation?

Member Question

Question E – Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Turpin, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement, Councillor Alex Paterson, the following:

The recent Rochester High Street traffic improvement consultation proposed to introduce 'no vehicle' restrictions on Sundays and bank holidays, operating between 10am to 4pm, repeating what is already in place on Saturdays.

For the majority of time these restrictions have been in place, a chain has been used to physically stop drivers from passing through. Most people will not deliberately ignore restrictions, but will just miss signs, especially when they already know the area and are instead concentrating on actually driving safely!

If this is truly about safety can the Portfolio Holder explain why a physical restriction has been removed and replaced with a money making camera, which now allows motorists to unintentionally drive through and get fined?