

Meeting: **Leader's Q&A session**
Date: **24 March 2021**
Time: **4.00 pm**
Place: **Zoom - to be streamed live to Youtube.**

To: Councillors Mrs Ann Berry, Danny Brook, Miss Susan Carey, John Collier, Laura Davison, Ray Field, Gary Fuller, Peter Gane, Clive Goddard, David Godfrey, Anthony Hills, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Nicola Keen, Michelle Keutenius, Jim Martin, Philip Martin, Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Ian Meyers, David Monk, Terence Mullard, Stuart Peall, Tim Prater, Patricia Rolfe, Rebecca Shoob, Georgina Treloar, Douglas Wade, Lesley Whybrow, David Wimble and John Wing

1. **Questions from the public**

This session is limited to 30 minutes.

1. **From Ms A Dakin to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council**

Why was ground clearance work, including the removal of trees and shrubs, undertaken at Princes Parade during nesting season, in clear contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and who was responsible for this decision?

2. **From Ms M Lawes to Councillor Peall, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste & Building control**

What planning and preparedness has this council put in place to address the issues that occurred last spring/summer (to include damage to coastal park, parking issues, insufficient toilets in beach areas of the district, lack of bins, residents blocked from getting in & out of The Stade, lack of bin collections, harm to the Warren, coach loads turning up to party on our beaches etc), to ensure this does not harm

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our coastal areas this spring/summer?

2. **Questions from Councillors**

This session is limited to 45 minutes.

1. **From Councillor J Martin to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council**

You recently told us that you anticipate building work to begin on Princes Parade in 2022 but there are millions of pounds of costs missing from the financial viability assessment report published by Savills, on the 13th July 2017. The missing costs are caveated by in the third paragraph under Section 1.6 "Background" (page 4). Can the Leader tell me why he has prevented the Council's consultants meeting with me, as previously arranged, to discuss their financial viability assessment?

2. **From Councillor Whybrow to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council**

Does the council now have permission to stop up and realign the road at Princes Parade?

3. **From Councillor Whybrow to Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and special projects**

The funding for the Princes Parade project includes £1.4m from the off-site s106 affordable housing contribution from the Imperial development. Can you please confirm that this means that there will be additional affordable housing over and above the 30% due from the Princes Parade development itself?

4. **From Councillor Treloar to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council**

How many trees have been cut down on the north side of the canal in the recent Princes Parade mitigation work, including live and dead trees?

5. **From Councillor Treloar to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council**

Where does the council propose to site the artificial badger sett that the badgers from Princes Parade are going to be moved to?

6. **From Councillor J Martin to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council**

Prior to the felling of over 100 trees, during the first couple of weeks of this month, on the North Bank of the Royal Military Canal at

Seabrook, was an ecological survey carried out to establish how many birds had begun nesting in the trees along the Canal Bank?

7. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council

Were you aware that according to the Lloyd Bore report published on 3rd July, 2018, the realigned road at Prince's Parade will be as close as 13.32 metres from the Royal Military Canal?

8. From Councillor McConville to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council

In the recent budget, it was announced that a new levelling up fund would be available to local councils. Folkestone and Hythe are in the priority 1 list of councils. What are the council's plans, both in terms of confirming an application and how would an application propose the use of £20 million.

9. From Councillor McConville to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council

With the recent news of the opening of a new Job Centre in Folkestone and records showing an increase in over 2000 unemployed in the last 12 months across the district, on the back of poor retail and hospitality sectors, what strategic plans do the council have to play an active role in increasing employment for the district's residents?

10. From Councillor Meade to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council

It was noted in the last election that larger text instruction posters and voting forms should have been provided and that all polling stations should have at least one wheelchair access and a lower level voting booth. Can you please inform me what plans / strategies / mitigations are being put into place at Polling Stations for the coming May 6th Kent County Elections to ensure that residents with visual impairment or wheelchair users have the same ease of access to vote?

11. From Councillor Meade to Councillor Peall, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste & Building control

This council some time ago passed a motion to ban the use of Glyphosates (which are known to cause danger to humans and wildlife, especially when they find their way into the food chain) from our parks, roadsides and other grounds management. As spring is now approaching can you please confirm how much less Glyphosate has been used over the past year and the areas where it is still considered the only option?

12. From Councillor Meade to Councillor Peall, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste & Building control

With fly-Tipping in the East and Harbour wards reaching pandemic levels is there not something we can provide as a council that will deter residents and local business from fly tipping?

13. From Councillor Keen to Councillor Peall, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste & Building control

Other authorities have bulk item vehicles that go out in their areas once or twice a month which give their residents opportunity to dispose of large bulk items easily and without cost. Could this council not offer a similar scheme to those people either on reduced incomes or in receipt of government financial support?

14. From Councillor Keen to Councillor Wimble, Cabinet Member for the District Economy

Could you please inform us what the plans are for the Folca Building (aka Debenhams)? Residents are asking me on a daily basis what it's eventually going to be used for and if the district is going to go out to consultation in order to get the views and wishes of the people.

15. From Councillor Davison to Councillor Wimble, Cabinet Member for the District Economy

An application has been lodged to convert a former office building in my ward to accommodation comprising 49 flats. The application is strongly opposed by local residents who fear the kind of rabbit hutch housing that has been widely condemned in other parts of the country. Does the leader share my concerns about accelerating permitted development rights which mean that elected councillors have no say in planning applications of this kind?

16. From Councillor Keutenius to Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and special projects

With eviction notices allowed to go ahead now, will the council ensure local families are given appropriate support for remaining in our district rather than having to move up to 300 miles away in order to be rehoused?

17. From Councillor Keutenius to Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and special projects

With announced changes on freedoms for Local governments, will this council agree to keep it's Right to Buy receipts ring fenced to support future council house building rather than allowing it to be used to finance new houses for public sale?

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