

## **Council – 21 July 2021**

### **Councillor questions:**

#### **1. From Councillor Prater to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council**

The decision of the Government to remove the ‘temporary’ uplift in Universal Credit on 1st October is going to hurt the poorest households in Folkestone and Hythe.

The architect of Universal Credit, Sir Iain Duncan Smith, and five of his successors - Stephen Crabb, Damian Green, David Gauke, Esther McVey and Amber Rudd - have said that a failure to keep the uplift in place would 'damage living standards, health and opportunities for some of the families that need our support most as we emerge from the pandemic. The extra £20 [...] has been essential in allowing people to live with dignity'.

Will the Leader of the Council join with me in writing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to request that the uplift be incorporated permanently into Universal Credit?"

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

Will the future residents at the Princes Parade development be subject to a management service charge to cover the maintenance of the public open spaces, the surface water drainage system etc?

#### **3. From Councillor Gane to Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and Special Projects**

With regard to the KCC consultation on cycle lane, could the Cabinet Member assure the shop owners in Cheriton High Street and Cheriton Road that the matter will be discussed at the next Joint Transportation Board meeting and that the views of the residents and shop keepers will be heard?

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

Following the site investigations at Prince's Parade carried out in April this year, the Idom Merebrook Factual Report dated May 2021, the report says they found:

PAH – this means Carbon: coal, oil, gas etc. TPH – Total Petroleum hydrocarbon: crude oil. Asbestos: white and brown, Medical odours detected with lots of needles found, Strong Hydro carbon odours detected, Ground Gas detected, Heavy Metals Discovered: Arsenic, cadmium, cyanide, mercury, Lots of decomposing organic material, Many obstructions preventing trial holes being drilled, Trial pit collapses due to unstable ground, Standing Ground water 3.8M below ground level, Ground Water generally 5-8M, Ground Water detected at 24M in one trial hole, Weald Clay, base not proven at 16.6M.

We know that the leisure centre at Prince's Parade is costing approximately £9 million pounds more than the equivalent leisure centre at Martello Lakes, in light of the Trial Pit report, my question therefore is the enormous budget enough given the ground investigations?

**5. From Councillor J Martin to Councillor Peall, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste & Building Control**

Like every Councillor my inbox is full of complaints from resident regarding the problems with waste and recycling collections. I know that many people are working very hard to resolve the problems. I am also sure that every Councillor has heard a variety of rumours regarding the cause of the problems. Can Councillor Peall give us his understand of how we ended up in this sorry situation?

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

Please could we have an update on the progress of the draft Place plan including the number of responses to the second public survey?

**7. From Councillor Davison to Councillor Collier, Cabinet Member for Property Management and Grounds Maintenance**

Section 69 of the Planning (Listed buildings and conservation areas) Act 1990 requires local planning authorities to designate areas for conservation which are of special architectural or historical interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. FHDC has designated Priory Gardens as part of a conservation area because of the "character of its topography; in other words, the coastline; the sea; the beach; the steep cliff face; the panoramic views down towards the beach and out to sea." Why then has F-HDC allowed the unchecked growth and proliferation of sycamore trees on its land between Priory Gardens and the Road of Remembrance to obscure those views?

**8. From Councillor Davison to Councillor Goddard, Chairman of the Planning and Licensing Committee**

Recently I had to raise an issue where planning permission for development had been given too close to trees on Shorncliffe road, meaning trees had to be removed or cut back, when this could have been avoided at the planning stage. Why was permission given for a development footprint for the Leas pavilion the scale of which means that pavements on all four sides around the site are now lost to local residents until 2023?

**9. From Councillor Meade to Councillor Peall, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste & Building Control**

We are all aware of the chaotic service provided over the last two months by Veolia in collecting residents waste / rubbish. I am still receiving complaints regarding missed pick-ups etc. As this service is paid for by residents through their council tax can you please advise whether a rebate, discount or refund will be given for this lack of service that many have paid for, but not received?

**10. From Councillor Meade to Councillor Collier, Cabinet Member for Property Management and Grounds Maintenance**

With school holidays now upon us and self-distancing restrictions being lifted, can you please confirm that all the play park equipment that was removed to ensure distancing, has now been reinstated and that the children's play areas have had the necessary maintenance such as grass areas cut and fencing and equipment checked, to ensure it is safe and ready for the extra usage over the summer months?

**11. From Councillor Keen to Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities**

With the onset of summer and the additional footfall that we will see in Folkestone, with people visiting our beaches what provision are we going to put in place in order to keep residents and visitors safe while they enjoy our town and coast line?

**12. From Councillor Keen to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council**

Our lifeguards who service the area rely solely on charitable donation which were greatly reduced last year. As a District council we have a duty of care to make sure that resident and visitors to the district are safe from harm. Can I ask that as a council, we find some funding to help the lifeguards with the service they provide, and that we supply them with a base to work from which I understand has been in the making for over two years, and not the shipping container that they use at present?

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

Why is there no foot Street Sweepers cleaning the Harbour area? I understand there are now only three across the district and the area that has possibly the highest number of visitors in the summer relies solely on the Veolia trucks that come along and empty the bins. The first one arriving at just after 9am. After an event like PRIDE we could have made special arrangements. I was embarrassed as their local councillor to see residents having to go out on to Lower Sandgate Road to pick up rubbish. This was at 7.30am and the first Veolia truck arrived just after 9am.

**14. From Councillor Keen to Councillor Collier, Cabinet Member for Property Management and Grounds Maintenance**

There appears around the district to be a lack of ground maintenance. Hedges and verges are overgrown and weeds are flourishing along our curbs. Grass in and around social housing estates and open spaces are left uncut. In view of this can I ask why our ground maintenance budget has been cut?

**15. From Councillor Keutenius to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council**

Could the council please outline the procurement process regarding the contract to carry out works to the Connect 38 building, including number of tenders received and an explanation of the scoring processes?

**16. From Councillor McConville to Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and Special Projects**

Could the Cabinet Member for housing provide the latest figures for homelessness approaches to the council since the eviction ban came to an end on the 1st June of this year?

**17. From Councillor McConville to Councillor Prater, Cabinet Member Cabinet Member for Revenues and Benefits, Anti-Fraud and Corruption**

Could the Cabinet Member provide the total numbers for the past year of those residents who have applied for council tax relief or support?