

**Council – 21 September 2023**

**Public Questions and answers:**

**1. From Mr D Turner to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Portfolio holder for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

How will the new boundary changes effect the council in particular with regards Otterpool? Westenhanger and the old race course now fall into Ashford Parliamentary constituency.

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for your question.

The parliamentary boundary changes will not have any effect on the district council with regards to Otterpool Park.

Parliamentary boundaries concern constituencies and the balance of members of Parliament. District and parish boundary lines were not part of this boundary review, therefore District and Parish Councils and the work they are doing remain unchanged. This would mean there would effectively be two MPs in the district.

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

None.

**2. From Mr P Gane to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Portfolio holder for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

The White Lion Public House building on Cheriton High Street has long been an iconic part of Cheriton's street scene. However, over the last 15 years it has been unused and fallen into disrepair and is now seemingly at risk of collapse. Most residents would like to see any development keep the previously impressive frontage of the building. The Cheriton Town Ward Councillors believes that any such redevelopment should retain the historic frontage if technically feasible, be of an appropriate scale, utilise the ground floor for a community or retail use and the upper parts for social housing to help the community at large.

Cheriton West Town Councillors on behalf of Local residents therefore ask will Folkestone and Hythe District Council use compulsory purchase powers, or any other powers available and appropriate, to buy the building and redevelop the site?

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for your question.

In answering your question, I must first pay personal tribute to the three Ward Councillors for Cheriton, who have worked tirelessly to try and get this issue resolved. I know from the work the Ward Councillors have done that this building is considered as a real and significant problem in Cheriton. The people of Cheriton want something done. I can confirm that the Council is currently in contact with the owners of the building through our Planning Enforcement team seeking to remedy the current situation.

The use of compulsory purchase powers would need careful thought. Before exploring the option of compulsory purchase it is important that the Council first exhausts other options via planning enforcement. After this it may then be appropriate to explore whether compulsory purchase is appropriate, but we are determined to have this matter resolved.

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

None.

**3. From Mrs M Lawes to Councillor P Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control**

Please can all 1 hour parking be reduced or removed in Burrow Road (none), Southbourne Road (none), Dudley Road (bottom of road), East Cliff (none) Penfold (2 spaces top and 2 spaces bottom of road) and Warren Road (none), with 1 hour to remain in other roads and enforced?

**ANSWER:**

Many thanks for your question, Mrs Lawes. Before answering the detail I'd like to say that I do understand the horrendous situation faced by residents of The Stade and the surrounding roads particularly on summer weekends. I am aware that Ward Councillors have been working hard to seek a solution and that meetings have been held with the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council as well as with senior officers and the police.

With regard to this particular scheme, I have been advised by officers that during the consultation, some residents and businesses had requested shared use parking, which included the free 1-hour limited waiting. As you know, this allows residents' visitors to park for short periods without having to purchase visitor permits. In Warren Road, a small section of the road has free limited waiting mainly outside the convenience store. In Southbourne Road, the shared use, free limited waiting applies to one side of the road.

I understand that not all residents are supportive of this approach and prefer 'permit holders only' restrictions. However, as a council, we have to balance competing requirements. If you can provide us with a petition, in support of removing the free 1-hour waiting, signed by a majority of residents, we will be happy to look at this element of the scheme again.

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

If the one hour restriction remained, would this be enforced, and could figures be provided?

**ANSWER:**

I can certainly provide those figures in the next couple of days, and I will pass your comments onto the enforcement team to ask that this be done as well.