

Council – 24 January 2024**Public Questions:****1. From Sarah Hitchcock to Councillor P Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control**

In light of the recent death of a 7-year-old as a result of a road traffic accident in Sandgate, will the council review the issue of road safety in the district, in particular street lighting during the winter months and traffic flow/pedestrian safeguarding along Risborough Lane (given heightened congestion as a result of the nearby new housing estates)? Note: the pavement on Risborough Lane leading up to the junction with Cheriton High Street is extremely narrow in places and poorly paved. Many school children use this route to and from several primary and secondary schools. With the increase in traffic - including heavy goods traffic - this is now a particularly hazardous stretch of road.

ANSWER:

We were all shocked and shaken by the death of William Brown and moved by the response of people in the district to his tragic death. I know many residents are concerned about the speed of traffic and would point people in the direction of the petition for a 20 mph speed limit through Sandgate on the Kent County Council website. KCC is the Highway Authority but, as a ward councillor for Cheriton, I am familiar with the issues along the stretch of road you raise concerns about. We have passed your concerns to the County Council's highways improvement team and will ask them to update us on any plans to improve the area in a future Joint Transportation Board Meeting. It would also be beneficial to contact your County Councillor who will be able to further assist with this matter.

(As Ms Hitchcock was not present at the meeting, the Chair read out the question on her behalf as requested, and there was no supplementary question).

2. From Glyn Williams to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council, and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

Could I ask the Council Leader for his position on the proposed development of private land between the western end of the Council owned Princes Parade site and the Imperial Hotel? This land has been a feature of local life as a golf course since 1906, and is currently designated Open Space in the Core Strategy of the current Local Plan.

ANSWER:

Thank you Mr Williams for your question, I think it is very pertinent question and indeed Councillor Godfrey has submitted a question on the same site, which I will answer later.

Everyone is aware, I am sure of my historical involvement with the Save Prince's Parade Campaign. I am hopelessly predetermined on all things associated with Prince's Parade.

I have always felt that the length of Prince's Parade is a valuable asset to Hythe and to the wider district. I am not the only one, when rejecting a planning application in 2004 the planning inspector said the site had "the finest vistas in the District". I agreed with her then and I agree with her now. My email inbox has recently been inundated with local people who also seem to agree!

We as a Council and Planning Authority will follow the procedure set out for us by primary legislation and if there is a forthcoming application, it will be dealt with correctly, my personal views will play no part in the decision-making process.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

None.