

Questions pursuant to Council Procedure 11.2

The following questions have been received, on notice, from Members:

Question One

From Councillor Andrew Pemberton to **Councillor Michael Talbot, Portfolio Holder for the Environment:**

“What are we doing about our OPEN SPACES that you keep leaving open year on, year off?

This doesn't only affect the area that I live in but all our area. There needs to be some sort of sign saying “no overnight camping” or “no motorised vehicles” like the ones up at Holland-on-Sea. As it's Tendring that has to foot the bill, can we enforce this or would it have to go to Essex County Council?”

Question Two

From Councillor Garry Calver to **Councillor Michael Talbot, Portfolio Holder for the Environment:**

“There is a growing sense of annoyance amongst the residents of Harwich and Dovercourt with the poor state of cleanliness of the roads, gutters and pavements within the town.

In order to confirm to residents that TDC is meeting its obligation to clean the streets and in order to allow residents to monitor the frequency of the work would the Portfolio Holder agree to publish the TDC schedule for street, gutter and pavement cleaning for Harwich and Dovercourt?”

Question Three

From Councillor Lis Bennison to **Councillor Tanya Ferguson, Portfolio Holder for Tourism and Culture:**

“I used to own a small hotel in Clacton town centre when the Tourist Information Centre was located at the junction with West Avenue, Pier Avenue and Station Street in what is now the Vodaphone shop. I visited the office several times a week for information and to advise of any vacancies. The office was always busy with tourists, people here on business, those looking for places to stay, residents, people buying theatre tickets and air show programmes and those just picking up brochures. I found the centre invaluable in helping to promote my business, as did many of my colleagues in the tourism trade.

The building was subsequently disposed of about fifteen years ago and the office moved into the town hall. I occasionally visit the office now but the through traffic appears vastly reduced. By comparison, when I'm in the town centre I am often approached by visitors to the town asking for directions and information, which I am only too happy to give to the best of my ability. If I give directions to the Tourist Information Centre, the response is invariably ‘I'm not walking all that way’.

Has the Portfolio Holder for Tourism and Culture, Councillor Tanya Ferguson, given any thought to the possibility of either using one of the empty shops in Clacton town centre or the prospect of providing a kiosk close to the seafront, preferably in Christmas Tree Island, to

enable a Tourist Information Centre to be located where one is needed rather than where there is available space?

It appears to work on Walton seafront. I understand that money is tight, but as the old saying goes, you have to speculate to accumulate. There is currently an empty premises in Pier Avenue available at £6,750 pa or £563 per calendar month, not a lot when you consider what business could be generated for the town.”

Question Four

From Councillor Maria Fowler to **Councillor Nick Turner, Portfolio Holder for Commercialisation:**

“There are a growing number of complaints from visitors and residents about the condition of the TDC operated toilets on Harwich Quay.

Will the Portfolio Holder please confirm where these toilets are on the list for refurbishment and when it is likely to take place?

Will he further ensure that additional support is given to the routine maintenance of TDC operated toilets in the vicinity of major community events on the occasions when such events are taking place?”

Question Five

From Councillor Jack Parsons to **Councillor Neil Stock, Leader of the Council:**

“It is not right that temporary traffic lights are erected in the middle of the day in the height of the summer season.

We are a District that relies on its tourist footfall and the disruption caused by temporary traffic lights at peak times has completely decimated the potential trade flowing through our District.

I completely support the comments made by, among others, Cllr Nick Turner. Essex County Council should be supporting and working with us but instead, seem to be sending us up the river without a paddle.

Is there anything that we as a Council can do to ensure that pressure is applied to ensure that the interests of this District are put in a higher regard within Essex County Council than current activities suggest?”

Question Six

From Councillor Roy Raby to **Councillor Michael Talbot, Portfolio Holder for the Environment:**

“Can I ask Cllr. Talbot, the Portfolio Holder for Environment, for his response to the announcement from Essex County Council (ECC), who plan from 31st October to ban trade waste from three sites in Tendring, namely Kirby-le-Soken, Lawford and Dovercourt and place restrictions on Clacton?

All three sites are part of an Essex-wide crack down on illegal waste left at recycling centres for household waste (RCHWs). Whilst I agree that a problem exists and ECC needs to find a solution I was wondering if the Portfolio Holder agrees with me that this is the wrong way to go about it. There are many different solutions ranging from payment-to-throw-away

schemes to the setting up of licensed specialist sites at a cost to the trader, both of which are already in action in other counties.

I understand that there is no duty on local authorities to accept or dispose of DIY and construction waste but the lines become blurred when some sites won't accept a van or pick-up truck with normal household waste whilst others will accept a car with what could be considered trade waste.

This also does not take into account those residents whose only form of transport is a van or pick up truck. If these residents are willing to travel further to dispose of their waste they will only be able to go the Clacton RCHW on Rush Green Road as this is the only site able to allow entry to such vehicles in the whole of Tendring.

Is the Portfolio Holder in agreement with me that despite ECC promises that this will not lead to increased fly-tipping that this will be contrary to what will actually happen and that it will be an extra financial burden on this Council passed on indirectly from ECC?"