

Questions pursuant to Council Procedure 10.1

The following questions have been received, on notice, from members of the public:

Question One

From Tom Howard to Councillor Michael Talbot, Environment and Public Space Portfolio Holder:

“As the portfolio holder for the Environment and Open Spaces should be aware, there is a high level of discontent amongst the residents of Tendring regarding the collection of refuse, recycling and garden waste.

Since the recent service changes, the service provided by Veolia on behalf of Tendring District Council has been nothing short of shambolic and implementing penalty charges would seem in order, as would public acknowledgement of the problems and the implementation of an appropriate action plan to bring the service on track.

In the case of the garden waste collection service, this is an add-on paid for service equating to a service charge of £2 per contracted collection. Where these collections have been repeatedly missed, the Council is in breach of its contract with its residents for this paid for service, and the Council should be refunding residents pro rata for the missed collections and services not rendered.

Please will the Portfolio Holder advise what action he is taking regarding the above?”

Question Two

From James Burfoot to Councillor Neil Stock OBE, Leader of the Council:

“During December 2014 the Council removed parts of ornate cast iron lampposts situated along Clacton seafront. These structures were erected circa. 1912 and have been Grade II listed since July 4 1986. Naturally, due to this history, they form an important part of Clacton’s heritage. A media article dated 24 December 2014 (Gazette: p37) states that these parts were removed on the grounds of health and safety. The Council of course has a duty of care to ensure its property is safe.

However, it can also be a criminal offence to carry out demolition or alteration works on listed buildings without obtaining proper permissions. When work is carried out on an emergency basis this must be proved to be necessary and temporary.

Within the article Cabinet Member for Coast Protection at the time of the removal, Cllr Nick Turner states “we have dismantled these listed structures and will be storing everything carefully until we can decide the best way forward to repair and restore them”.

I have recently made contact with Cllr Nick Turner through email correspondence and, despite him no longer having authority over this matter, would like to thank him for his efforts in responding and for forwarding my concerns to the Council. This is greatly appreciated.

I assume that, at the time of the removal, the Council complied with all relevant legislation and obtained all necessary legal permissions and that they have indeed been stored "carefully".

We are fast approaching the fifth anniversary of these "temporary emergency works". Therefore could the Leader of the Council please explain the Council's plans to restore these lampposts either to a cosmetic or ideally full working condition in order that these priceless features of our town's history can once again form a paramount role in the ongoing regeneration of our Town Centre and seafront?"