

QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE 10

The following question has been received, on notice, from a member of the public:

From Paul Townend to Councillor Gina Placey, Portfolio Holder for Partnerships:

“Residents in this District who have sensory, or mobility issues can find it very difficult to do such basic tasks like shopping. With a growing elderly population and mobility issues on the rise I, in association with the local Frinton Macular & Essex sight group feel things need to be put in place to assist all such residents and holiday makers alike.

We are fully aware that the design of many of our shops and business are of an old design but rather than just say nothing can be done to reasonably assist, as per the law, we believe that things can be improved.

Our plan is to initially supply 50 shops and businesses to get a wireless doorbell to assist those who maybe can't get up a step to get in their premises, assist to open a heavy door or even enable staff to serve them at the door with a longer-term aim to extend this throughout the District. We can provide examples of how great these have worked in St Neots with the local council fully behind the scheme.

As a group that cares about raising awareness, improving access & the experiences of people with Sensory or Mobility issues we would also like to be involved in any other areas we can improve locally, and we would be more than happy to arrange a meeting to discuss this matter further.

Our question to the Partnerships Portfolio Holder is would you and your officers be prepared to engage with us and assist and support us to get a grant and bring this project to fruition?”