

**FULL COUNCIL – 10 OCTOBER 2022 – QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS
UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A**

First Questions

Question 1

From Cllr David Harrison to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Investment and Corporate Services, Cllr Jeremy Heron

The cost of living crisis, particularly the huge increase in energy bills, represents a very serious threat to many people on low incomes living in the New Forest District. Please will you outline and publish a full list of help that is available via the District Council and through our partners?

Question 2

From Cllr Philip Dowd to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services, Cllr Steve Davies

Would the Portfolio Holder consider implementing a “Community Skips” scheme to reduce fly-tipping, like the scheme currently being operated by Gosport Borough Council?

Question 3

From Cllr Hilary Brand to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness Services, Cllr Jill Cleary

The housing crisis is worse than it has ever been in the New Forest. Young people growing up in the New Forest, whose families have lived here for hundreds of years, are being forced to move away. This is a situation made much worse by Right to Buy which reduces our supply of social housing and widens the gap between those who own their own home and those who rent. Will the Portfolio Holder write to the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities asking them to scrap the previous Prime Minister’s plan to extend this damaging policy to Housing Associations?

Question 4

From Cllr Malcolm Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services, Cllr Steve Davies

Charity shops perform a significant role in our communities and for the charities themselves, without which many deserving causes would be unfunded. However they do not run themselves, charity shop volunteers are absolutely necessary in order that Charity shops may function. They are unpaid and many are pensioners on low income, who give their time freely to help the charity shop.

As these shops are in our towns and villages and charities cannot function without their volunteers and need every penny raised in order to be able to fulfil their obligations and commitments to the local residents.

Therefore in this time of a cost of living crisis would the council provide a free parking pass for charity shop workers, so they are not charged to park, whilst they are working in the shops for nothing?

Question 5

From Cllr Mark Clark to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Edward Heron

I am aware from colleagues in Scotland various warm banks are now open in kirks and other buildings across the Highlands and Islands. As the cooler weather arrives, Councils elsewhere have also been looking to identify places where residents unable to keep up with the cost of energy will be invited to spend the day to keep warm. This is out with the partnership with Citizens Advice already identified to Councillors.

What plans have this Council to follow likewise and what measure of emergency funding or partnership arrangements have been put in place for activating these 'cosy spaces' (as named by Dundee Council). Can the Leader provide some estimated costs for this?

Question 6

From Cllr Caroline Rackham to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services, Cllr Steve Davies

I wonder if the portfolio holder can supply income figures for parking in Totton Town centre and explain how these compare with targets?

Question 7

From Cllr Jack Davies to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coastal Services, Cllr Steve Davies

For many months now, the people of Pennington have been subject to multiple missed residual waste collections, delays to glass and green waste collections, and cancelled bulky household waste collections. It simply isn't good enough. Does the portfolio holder agree with me that the money this Council plans to give to Freedom Leisure would be better spent on fixing the crisis in our bin collection service?

Second Questions

Question 8

From Cllr Mark Clark to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Investment and Corporate Services, Cllr Jeremy Heron

Can the Finance Portfolio lead please list out any loans made by this Council to any other Council in the last five years and how much those amounts are and whether they have yet to be repaid?

Question 9

From Cllr Caroline Rackham to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Edward Heron

The additional work as part of the mapped free port will be much further towards the estuary of the Test than the current docks and will almost certainly contribute to additional flooding for parts of Totton and Eling. Could the Leader of the Council please consider using some of any revenue from the forthcoming free port to build additional flood defences, including a flood barrier?

Third Questions

Question 10

From Caroline Rackham to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure, Cllr Diane Andrews

Apart from a bus war that is happening in the North of the town, Totton is very poorly served by public transport and its being cut back even further. Residents frequently tell me that they find it easier to catch a bus to Hythe than their own town centre and can't work in Lyndhurst or other New Forest towns because of the lack of transport. What is the intention of the Council to help solve this conundrum?