

Council – 26 February 2026
Questions Under Standing Order 22

First Questions

Question 1

From Cllr Hilary Brand to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability, Cllr Geoffrey Blunden

We have been informed that the Wheelie bin roll out for Phase 3 has been delayed until May 2026 due to wheelie bin manufacturing schedules. Does this include a delay to the food waste collection?

Question 2

From Cllr Mark Clark to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economy, Cllr Derek Tipp

How many conservation officers did we have five years ago and how many now?

Question 3

From Cllr David Millar to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability, Cllr Derek Tipp

Storm Chandra struck on 26 January, and since then sustained rainfall has left many parts of our district flooded, roads impassable, farmland waterlogged and businesses disrupted. In Fordingbridge, residents have again experienced how vulnerable the town is to prolonged rainfall – for many, this is the fourth or fifth ‘100 year event’ they have lived through in the last 25 years.

At the Local Plan meeting on Friday 13th, around 250 residents braved the conditions hoping to gain assurance as to how this council’s potential allocation of almost 3,000 new homes in and around Fordingbridge would avoid worsening flood risk and bringing more infrastructure pressure.

Given the very real concerns raised by residents, can you confirm that the Council will:

1. Ensure that flood mitigation and infrastructure are designed and delivered in advance of or alongside any future development;
2. Take the lead on identifying projects which will mitigate the impact of building on farmland and flood plains across the Avon valley; and
3. Use NFDC's strategic Community Infrastructure Levy to guarantee that existing and future residents of Fordingbridge are not left living in demonstrably worse conditions just so that this Council might meet Government housing targets?

Question 4

From Cllr Alex Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability, Cllr Geoffrey Blunden

Please can you confirm in the Phase 3 area how many properties have requested assisted collections for the new waste collection service, and what per cent have we rejected? And, what consideration are we giving to Resident challenges on medical waste additional requirements?

Question 5

From Cllr John Haywood to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economy, Cllr Derek Tipp

A number of parishes in the district now have Neighbourhood Plans. Neighbourhood Plans represent the end point of years of effort, a large part of it done by volunteers. People who are passionate about their area freely give their time to shape its development at a very local level, supported by planning professionals.

Neighbourhood plans are the only part of the district's local plan that have a direct democratic basis through a local referendum, and once made, they become an integral part of the local plan itself. Congratulations by the way to Lyminster and Pennington for the clear "Yes" in their Neighbourhood Plan referendum.

In Ringwood we are becoming frustrated by the number of times that neighbourhood plan policies are being over-ridden by this council in planning decisions.

Can I ask the portfolio holder: in how many planning decisions have neighbourhood plan policies been over-ridden by this council in the past year?

Second questions

Question 6

From Cllr Mark Clark to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economy, Cllr Derek Tipp

Can the Council consider issuing a Section 48 Notice to the Owner of the Hythe Pier to effect immediate repairs to the structure given the Ferry business is now up for sale and the public would wish to see the return of the Ferry service to a sound and safe landing stage?

Question 7

From Cllr John Haywood to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability, Cllr Geoffrey Blunden

A number of residents have approached me with concerns about vermin infestations in their gardens and homes being caused by the council's new food waste collection service.

Can I ask the portfolio holder if the council has seen an increase in reports of vermin across the district since the roll-out, and if any investigations into the impact of the new food waste collection service on vermin infestations have been made?