

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 6 February 2025

Members' Questions Under Standing Order A12

A member may only submit three questions for consideration at each Council Meeting. Each member will present their first question in turn, when all the first questions have been dealt with the second and third questions may be asked in turn. The time for Member's questions will be limited to a total of 30 minutes.

First Round

Question 1

Councillor Long to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)

Further to my question at the 18 July 2024 Full Council Meeting, please can the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth confirm if Cavanna Homes have responded to the letter from the Divisional Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure regarding residents' concerns about the playpark on Plantation Way in Torquay?

Response to Question 1 provided by Councillor Chris Lewis

The Divisional Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure wrote to Cavanna Homes to request the gate access is moved. A response was received stating that Cavanna Homes would address the issue and would be seeking quotes for the works. Since that time no further correspondence has been received. The Divisional Director has recently written again to Cavanna Homes for an update.

Question 2

Councillor Douglas-Dunbar to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking (Councillor Billings)

In principle the double yellow lines have been agreed on Marldon Road. The parking issue on corners of junctions continues to be dangerous. Exiting junctions is at times hazardous and often done blindly. Could you please give some idea when these lines will be painted.

Response to Question 2 provided by Councillor Billings

The proposed parking restrictions have been subject to three consultation exercises, involving considerable Council resources, in order to find an acceptable solution and overcome the concerns of residents. It is important to note that this process continued because initial design solutions did not gain the support of residents. The

final scheme has now been advertised and objections considered and the Traffic Regulation Order is now in the process of being legally sealed. The markings will now be programmed within SWISCo's ongoing line marking programme and whilst they are unable to provide a specific timescale, they anticipate that this work will be completed within the next three months.

I am delighted that since our new administration was elected in May 2023 we have been able to deliver on our manifesto commitments and improve road safety through the Brighter Bay initiative.

Our administration's investment has allowed SWISCo to: (i.) purchase a new 12.5 tonne line-marking lorry; (ii.) recommission the original line-marking trailer which had been mothballed due to mechanical failure; and (iii.) recruit a highly skilled and experienced line-marking team. The new SWISCo team have been working hard to address the inherited backlog as well as taking on additional order works such as these additional lines on Marldon Road.

Our administration also recommended to the Full Council and the Full Council endorsed the approach of prioritising the delivery of 20mph zones around schools. We are on course to deliver 6 new zones by the end of the 2024/25 financial year. And we are planning a further 6 new zones for the 2025/26 financial year. The delivery of these schemes at this fast pace is a credit to the hard work by the team, but all these new zones involve line-marking works.

Given the scale of line-marking works across the bay, works are coordinated and grouped by our Highways team to create a work programme that prioritises road safety evidence and also delivers best value in terms of the resources available yet is also reactive and flexible to accommodate urgent works and disruption caused to the programme through unforeseen circumstances such as 3rd party road works. I am confident this is the best approach. For example, using latest available Department for Transport figures measuring to the 5 years 31 December 2023 there have been no recorded crashes at the Marldon Road junctions asked about. In comparison, at the junction of Barton Road, Torquay with Woodland Road, a similar speed and hierarchy of road which is encompassed in our Torquay Academy 20mph road safety scheme in the same period 3 incidents have occurred.
