

Meeting of the Council

Thursday, 18 July 2013

Questions Under Standing Order A13

<b>Question (1) by Councillor Stringer to the Executive Lead for Highways, Transport and Environment</b>	<b>The problem of dog fouling in Hele and Barton. How many people have had prosecutions, or fixed penalty notices served. How many dog bins do we have in Barton, Hele and Watcombe area?</b>
<b>Question (2) by Councillor James to the Executive Lead for Highways, Transport and Environment</b>	<b>How many non-native trees have been planted in Torbay in the last year, what types are they and do any pose a threat to native species?</b>
<b>Question (3) by Councillor J Faulkner to the Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration, Finance and Audit.</b>	<b>Has the Council made any progress on retrieving the £50000 outstanding in rent from the Balloon on Torre Abbey meadows and has the Council started to make provision for this bad debt? If provision is being made, from which budget is it coming from?</b>
<b>Question (4) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration, Finance and Audit</b>	<b>On 17 April 2013 Torbay Council hosted the Local Government Association officers to conduct a work shop in which Councillors and Senior officers considered what financial pressures would be facing Torbay Council beyond 2015 and how cross party solutions could be developed in the interests of protecting our community from Government cuts. At the meeting there was an assurance that there would be a follow up meeting to develop such a way forward. At the time of submitting this question three months have passed and no meeting has been arranged. I would welcome an explanation?</b>
<b>Question (5) by Councillor Cowell to the Executive Lead for Highways,</b>	<b>Can you confirm exactly what the decision making process was for the service cuts as part of the Tor2 budget reduction. Who agreed the final menu of cuts and when was the decision taken?</b>

<p><b>Transport and Environment</b></p>	
<p><b>Question (6) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Highways, Transport and Environment</b></p>	<p>The removal of 160 dog and litter bins across the bay have left many residents outraged. This exercise has been very poorly executed. Why no notice on the effected bins of immanent removal and where the next nearest bin is? Why do some dog walking areas have no bins and yet a nearby coach station has a dog bin? Is the remaining bin network more designed for the convenience of collection, rather than to tackle litter and dog fowling problems?</p>
<p><b>Question (7) by Councillor J Faulkner to the Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration, Finance and Audit</b></p>	<p>Please can you let us know how much finance has been spent on agency staff especially where schools are concerned since the moratorium was set on permanent staff?</p>
<p><b>Question (8) by Councillor A Faulkner to the Executive Lead for Children', Schools and Families</b></p>	<p>Changing Places. I have been given to understand that in the past money was allocated to provide Changing Places facilities in Torquay. This has not happened could you please advise when this will take place, as it is of great concern.</p>
<p><b>Question (9) by Councillor Pentney to the Executive Lead for Strategic Planning, Housing and Energy</b></p>	<p>Please can you explain why due process was not carried out with regard to Torre Valley North where land was taken over by Cockington Primary School and turned into hard standing?</p>
<p><b>Question (10) by Councillor Stocks to the Executive Lead for Highways, Transport and Environment</b></p>	<p>Could you please explain the reasoning behind the removal of two litter bins from Ellacombe Road during the recent cull? The council gave assurances that no bin would be removed unless there was another one close by but this is not the case in this area.</p> <p>There are no doggy bins in the immediate vicinity for dog users to dispose of the pets waste so these bins have been used for that purpose as well as the disposal of general waste. The residents of Ellacombe Road planned to have these bins included in the street scene when Ellacombe Road was a pilot scheme for DIY streets in 2008 to combat the amount of take away litter dropped by people walking up from the town and to support the dog walkers.</p>

The closest bin is in Ellacombe Park but cannot be seen from the road nor will people divert into the park to use it, Ellacombe Park is a no dog park therefore dog users cannot go in there to use the bin anyway. Residents have shown a social responsibility and picked up rubbish from the street and the planters and disposed of it in the bins. The bins were emptied daily and I know through experience that they were full everyday, where are two bin full's of rubbish going now?

The road has already taken on an aura of shabbiness and decline as the general rubbish and small bags of doggy poo piles up.

By contrast when I visited Coronation Park (located in front of All saints Church, Babbacombe) on the afternoon of Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, I noted that there were two doggy bins, each by a separate entrance and a double litter bin within 12 strides of a doggy bin,. On inspection the litter bin was not even a quarter full despite it being a hot afternoon with a play park full of children and parents and a higher than average footfall due to the Flower Festival that was running in All Saints Church next to the park. Please explain the reasoning of such a contrast of support to these two communities when both have residents and both have dog walkers.

**Question (11) by Councillor Davies to the Executive Lead for Highways, Transport and Environment**

I understand that contractors from North Somerset are currently undertaking maintenance works of lamp posts in Paignton town centre. Can you please explain why, when commissioning these works a clause was not included to promote local employment?

**Question (12) by Councillor Pountney to the Executive Lead for Employment and Regeneration, Finance and Audit**

With the effects of the recent reduction to departmental budgets only now being to impact on the general public, has the Executive lead for Finance considered reviewing the £170,000 paid to 20 members of the Council over and above their basic allowance? Does he consider this value for money?

Position	Amount (£)	Councillor
Elected Mayor	52,747	Gordon Oliver
Deputy Mayor	19,596	David Thomas
Executive Members	6,532	Chris Lewis Dave Butt Ray Hill Christine Scouler Ken Pritchard Dave Thomas Jeanette Richards

			Robert Excell Derek Mills
	Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator	9,798	John Thomas
	Scrutiny Lead Members	2,265	Neil Bent Mark Kingscote Ruth Pentney Bobbie Davies
	Chairman Development Management Committee	6,534	Beryl McPhail
	Chairman Licensing Committee	3,265	Pete Addis
	Chairman of Council	3,265	Julien Parrott
	Chairman of Harbour Committee	3,265	Nicole Amil
	Chairman of Audit Committee	3,265	Alan Tyerman
	Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board	3,265	Chris Lewis
	Leaders of Political Groups	317 per member	Gordon Oliver Steve Darling Mike Morey
	Police		Councillor Excell
	Fire	2,500 basic (link to allowance scheme: <a href="#">Fire Allowances</a> )	Councillor Brooksbank and Ellery
<b>Question (13) by Councillor Cowell to the Executive Lead for Safer Communities, Parking and Sport</b>	<b>Are you aware that a 40 year lease is about to be signed by the Council and the sports clubs at Torquay Recreation Ground ? Can you explain why these leases are not in the public domain?</b>		
<b>Question (14) by Councillor Cowell to the Executive Lead for Safer Communities, Parking and Sport</b>	<b>Can you explain why a strip of land at Torre Valley North has been taken by Cockington School with the lightest level of consultation, and can you assure me, on behalf of Torbay Sports Council, that any further transfer of sports pitches, such as White Rock, will not proceed unless there has been full consultation that includes ward members, the community partnership and Torbay Sports Council.</b>		