

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 18 July 2024

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 Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)

According to information revealed in March by the Lib Dem MP for Somerton and Frome, Sarah Dyke in the House of Commons, Compassion in Care's helpline received 486 reports of homophobic abuse in care homes over the past 4 years, yet 481 of the service providers accounted for in those allegations are still rated as good by the Care Quality Commission.

Over that same time period, how many allegations of homophobia have been made against care homes in Torbay, and how many of those care homes are rated as good by the Care Quality Commission?

What work is being carried out in Torbay to end discrimination against LGBTQ+ residents in care homes to ensure they are safe in the care system?

Answer to Question 1 provided by Councillor Tranter

Question 2

Councillor Steve Darling to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking (Councillor Billings)

Several clocks for a number of months or years have been out of action. These include Mallock Tower Clock, Old Maids Perch, Torquay Town Hall and St John's Parish Church, Paignton. I have been chasing up on a response about some of these for a number of years now. Last autumn a Project Initiation Document and a costings schedule had been sent by a Senior Building Surveyor at the TDA to a senior officer for his consideration. Can you advise when we can expect these clocks to be working again?

Answer to Question 2 provided by Councillor Billings

Question 3

Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Events & Culture and Corporate Services (Councillor Jackie Thomas)

The Chilcote Memorial in St Marychurch has fallen into a poor state, in need of cleaning and repair. What is being done by this council to protect and maintain our statues and memorials?

Answer to Question 3 provided by Councillor Jackie Thomas:

Question 4

Councillor Cowell to the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Events & Culture and Corporate Services (Councillor Jackie Thomas)

Can you please confirm that the £100,000 identified during the budget process has now been fully allocated to support the Events Team and what has the full-time equivalent increase of staffing in the Events Team been following the increase in budget, to include job titles and contracted weekly hours?

Answer to Question 4 provided by Councillor Jackie Thomas:

Question 5

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

Many residents are concerned that the Victoria Skate Park won't be replaced please can you clarify if the skate park will be restored?

Answer to Question 5 provided by Councillor Billings

Question 6

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

The Council press release on 'National Go Skateboarding Day' that the skate park at Victoria Park in Paignton will close has come as devastating news to many young people.

Please could the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking advise what consultation was carried out before the closure decision was made; and given that Victoria Park was designed to help tackle anti-social behaviour what effect does the administration think this closure will have on anti-social behaviour in the area?

Answer to Question 6 provided by Councillor Billings

Second Round

Question 7

Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities (Councillor Tranter)

A recent epidemic of graffiti has been seen across Torbay, what is the council doing to support the police in tackling this issue?

Answer to Question 7 provided by Councillor Tranter

Question 8

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

Residents of Plantation Way (and surrounding roads) on the Willows have expressed concerns for child safety regarding a play area which has been placed on a significant bend in the road. Residents' concerns are that children crossing the road to access the play area may not see a car coming, and that car drivers may also not see a child crossing the road due to the bend and that the situation is an accident waiting to happen.

Residents would like to see (1) the gate at the entrance to the play park (which is situated right onto the road) moved to the rear of the play park so that children are not immediately stepping onto the road when exiting; and (2) increased signage advising cars to slow down when approaching the play park and also advising children to be aware of cars as they cross the road.

The developer (Cavanna) has been approached regarding these requests by both Councillors and residents, sadly to no avail.

Will the Council insist on these perfectly reasonable measures being put in place by the developer before the land is transferred to the Council?"

Answer to Question 8 provided by Councillor Chris Lewis

Question 9**Councillor Johns to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Development (Councillor Chris Lewis)**

At the Council meeting on 22 February 2024 Councillor Chris Lewis responded to my supplementary question about the Crossways project and that he would let me know who the end user would be at the end of spring. I am yet to be advised who the end user will be, so ask again for this information?

Answer to Question 9 provided by Councillor Chris Lewis

Third Round

Question 10**Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking (Councillor Billings)**

Within the last year the 65 bus route was reduced from 3 to 2 days a week due to a lack of volunteer drivers. With the route becoming a commercial operation rather than voluntary, will the Cabinet be reviewing its subsidy to return the 65 bus route back to 3 days a week?

Answer to Question 10 provided by Councillor Billings

Question 11**Councillor Johns to the Leader of the Council (Councillor David Thomas)**

Why were the Oldway Working Party Group meetings disbanded?

Answer to Question 11 provided by Councillor David Thomas