

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 5 December 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 Johns to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)

I understand that the Friends of Oldway offered funds raised via the former tea rooms to help with the upkeep of Oldway, eg the fixing of the roof in the tea rooms. Why was this offer not taken up?

Question 2

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Development provide an update as to progress made to re-open Preston North and Corbyn Head toilets as promised in their 2023 election manifesto?

Question 3

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking please tell us what actions he has taken to get us closer to restoring a full bus service to the Fowey loop in Shiphay?

Question 4

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

Question 5

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

How is Torbay Council working with local advice agencies (such as Disability Support Torbay; Citizens Advice and Age UK Torbay) to help residents apply for benefits they might be entitled to?

Question 6

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

What 'warm spaces' will Torbay Council be providing for residents this winter, and how will the council be working with other organisations to also provide 'warm spaces'?

Question 7

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

When does the Council plan to re-line the parking spaces at the Crown and Anchor car park in Paignton?

Question 8

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

When does the Council plan to re-line the parking spaces at the Shedden Hill car park in Torquay?

Question 9

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

A pedestrian crossing on Lymington Road in Torquay has become very faded on the road. When might this crossing be refreshed?

Question 10

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

A Town Centre Manager in Torquay could help traders coordinate activities, help with promotion of the high street and with many other things - even encourage businesses to take part in the MyBay scheme. Why did the current administration not proceed to give the go ahead with the proposal for a Town Centre Manager as budgeted for by the previous Liberal Democrat/Partnership administration?

Question 11

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

Many residents have been left frustrated, unable to progress applications for Controlled Parking Zones whilst a new CPZ policy is being reviewed. Residents of York, Westbourne, and Rowley Roads have been left in limbo, unable to solve parking problems whilst waiting for over two years for this policy. The new policy was discussed at the Transport and Parking Working Party in February but has still not been ratified, could it be confirmed with a fixed date when this will happen?

Question 12

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

Following the fatal crash on the A379 between St Marychurch and Maidencombe, and several other crashes over recent weeks. What action is the council taking to make-safe this dangerous section of road?

Question 13

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

In light of the recent 500% increase in the bus grant. How does the council plan to consult further with our communities to enhance our bus services across the bay?

Second Round

Question 14

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Culture & Events and Corporate Services please itemise precisely the spend in promoting My Bay and what the full-time equivalent is for officer time in administering/promoting the initiative?

Question 15

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Culture & Events and Corporate Services please provide members with a detailed breakdown of the English Riviera Air Show budget?

Question 16

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

Does the Council have an estimate of how much income it is losing in parking fees and enforcement due to parking spaces in car parks needing to be relined?

Question 17

Councillor Johns to the Leader of the Council (Councillor David Thomas)

It has become clear that important Council decisions have been made in Torbay without sharing with other elected councillors e.g former Crossways Shopping Centre becoming a temporary surface level car park, please can you explain why?

Question 18**Councillor Pentney to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking (Councillor Billings)**

What preventative action is the Council taking to ensure that Christmas trees are not fly-tipped at the coach station in Torquay after Christmas?

Question 19**Councillor Carter to the Leader of the Council (Councillor David Thomas)**

I was shocked to hear the news of the proposed closure of the Paignton town centre main Post Office. This Post Office is crucial to the local businesses and residents. This Post Office can be used for banking, which is increasingly important as the banks that are still in Paignton are not open very long in the week and hardly any on Saturdays. This Post Office is also useful for so many other things such as road tax, passport checks, foreign exchange and sending parcels, to name just a few. It would be inconvenient and tragic to lose this main Post Office.

What engagement with the Post Office has the Council undertaken to try to stop the closure of such a vital asset?

Question 20**Councillor Virdee to the Cabinet Member for Pride in Place, Transport and Parking (Councillor Billings)**

Does the administration agree with the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner that car parking should be free to attract people into our town centres?

Question 21**Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Place Development and Economic Growth (Councillor Chris Lewis)**

Regarding the Sladnor Park pre-application in Maidencombe, developers have suggested they met with the Leader of the Council around the 2nd of October, prior to the all-member briefing on the 17th October. It was implied that the leader was supportive of this development. Could it be confirmed whether support for the Sladnor Park development was given, and that this meeting complied with the LGA guidance, Probity in Planning?

Question 22

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

The benches outside St Margaret's Academy in St Marychurch has fallen into a state of disrepair, with no clear funding to repair or replace it. A new bench policy has been suggested as a solution, could it be advised how close this policy is to being brought into effect and when it is likely to be so?

Question 23

Councillor Steve Darling to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Bye)

"Tired, malnourished and cold" that's how one head teacher at a primary school in Torbay described some of her pupils at a recent visit. What is Torbay Council doing to support youngsters in need in Torbay?

Third Round

Question 24

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

In the Autumn of 2022, the then Leadership of the Council asked that Debenhams be demolished to reduce the business rate liability payable by the Council.

Please can you confirm how much has been paid to date in business rates since October 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and for 2024-25? In addition, any other costs incurred since October 2022 such as security and any other bills?

Question 25

Councillor Long to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance (Councillor Tyerman)

What scrutiny takes place by Torbay Council of Leasehold charges levied by Housing Associations and paid for by Housing Benefit on behalf of Torbay tenants to make sure that such charges are correct thus ensuring that public funds are protected?

Question 26

**Councillor George Darling to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Finance
(Councillor Tyerman)**

Several residents within the St Marychurch Ward have concerns with regards to Next Steps properties being occupied beyond the maximum advised two-year tenancy. Could you kindly advise, across Torbay, what number and proportion of Next Steps tenants have become stuck, staying longer than the two-year period?

Question 27

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

Earlier this summer I was assured that the public open space that is currently fenced off to the rear of Kingsley Avenue and Darwin Crescent would shortly be opened to the public. What clear date does the council have to open this green space?