

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by Members.

The question will be answered without discussion. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion. The person to whom a question, or supplementary question, has been put may decline to answer it.

The following written questions have been received from Members:

(1) Councillor Yates – Traffic Survey

In the last few weeks Hillside in Moulsecomb and Bevendean ward has seen two serious vehicle accidents. One involving two cars and a motor cycle nears its junction with the Lewes Road that highlighted the problems caused by parking near that junction and a two-car collision near Hillside Way where residents have been warning for years about the impact of a sharp bend and inconsiderate parking on road safety.

Can the Chair please consider a traffic survey along to full length of Hillside and additional parking restrictions to ensure the safety of road users, residents and pedestrians?

(2) Councillor Wares- Cityclean

On the 29th January 2020 (and on other dates) the press reported on what they headlined as the “Bin Crisis”. In reporting about the missed collections and the £1m bill for agency staff, they highlight the cause of the problems. It seems that the Administration’s reasons were down to staff shortages due to sickness, but the unions disputed this and said it was down to defective vehicles. Please could the Chair confirm who was telling the truth?

(3) Councillor Wares- Valley Gardens

Recently the council obtained an extension to the funding deadline for Valley Gardens Phase 3. This being something that last year was expressed as being virtually impossible to force through the decision on preferred option 1. To secure the extension only a verbal presentation was given by officers to the LEP. This happened in December last year. Officers’ actions were not brought to the attention of Audit & Standards when the audit report was presented. Their actions were not briefed to ETS Committee, there is no paperwork or report to be able to check and scrutinise what was said. In a press release a council spokeswoman was quoted as saying the council had no duty to inform councillors. Unless the Chair of ETS has lost control of her brief she must have sanctioned this. Please could the Chair confirm that she sanctioned this approach designed to keep Councillors out of the loop and prevent open and transparent scrutiny of this Administration?

(4) Councillor Wares- Flyposting

We note the recent prosecution of a fly-poster and applaud the strong words issued by the Chair and in particular when she said, “flyposting is illegal for a very good reason and we (the council) will have hesitation in taking them to court”. The Chair went on to say, “they all help ruin the appearance of the city”. It felt very “Mayor Giuliani” with his successful zero tolerance stance for New York. Please could the Chair assure us that prior to the next Labour Party Conference being held in the city, she will write to them and their fringe organisations and make it clear that fly-posting is illegal, will not be tolerated and that those who intend to will not be welcome in Brighton and Hove. We would be encouraged if the Chair would show the same courage of conviction as her previous colleague and former Leader of the Council namely, Cllr. Warren Morgan.

(5) Councillor Heley- COP26

COP26 is being held in Glasgow later this year and has the potential to be a turning point in the international struggle for climate justice. As we have pledged to become net-zero by 2030, How can we as a council participate in these crucial climate talks?

(6) Councillor Davis- 20mph speed limits

The 20mph speed limit has been an emotive subject but nobody can deny that slower moving vehicles lead to less serious injuries and a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

This month TfL have introduced a blanket 20mph speed limit to their central streets alongside an enforcement team to further enhance city centres and so my question is, would this administration consider following suit and rolling out a city wide 20mph speed limit?

(7) Councillor Davis- Refuse and recycling

After my election in May I could never have imagined just how many recycling and rubbish related emails I would have from my residents. My inbox groans under their weight on a daily basis and the situation is getting worse week by week and while I fully understand the strains put on our hard-working colleagues at City Clean by a decade of Conservative party austerity, and its attacks on all wonderful public services, the administration needs to be providing a much better service. I absolutely appreciate that my main role as a councillor is to represent my residents with their interactions to this council, but I firmly believe they would prefer the majority of my time not to be taken up with these enquires.

My question is, in 2015 the Labour party were elected on a manifesto to “get the basics right” and this quite clearly isn’t happening so can the administration please tell me what plans they have for improving this unsatisfactory service?