

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority at each ordinary meeting of the Council.

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

The following four written questions have been received from members of the public.

(a) Mr Ian Elkin

“Why have I been told by an employee of the Environment Directorate that the trees around Hove are only looked at every two years? This is wrong as the branches get lower and lower over the pavement. And yet the trees around the Town Hall are trimmed properly? This smacks of I am ok, blow the rest.

I was told by the same person that the trees in Vallance Road will be looked at but will they be? People are having to cross the road to avoid the trees, can you confirm when action will be taken to address this problem.”

Councillor Geoffrey Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment, will reply.

(b) Mr Christopher Hawtree

“In view of the national Coalition's manifesto clause that will allow councils to bring back the committee system, would Councillor Mears please tell us what steps she is taking to further this?”

Councillor Mary Mears, Leader of the Council, will reply.

(c) Mr Patrick Lowe

The barns at Stanmer Park which are owned by the council have huge historical value both locally and nationally. If restored they would greatly increase the number of visitors to the area and would provide local people and children with a living example of their heritage.

Villagers were promised a progress report and restoration plan for the barns, so could the Cabinet Member for Central Services tell us when this plan could come together, how much the restoration would cost and whether the council would be prepared to work with the various groups of Stanmer Park to find the money to do this?

Councillor Trevor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services, will reply.

(d) Mr Trevor Scoble

“I note that there is to be a Village Street Party in St James’ Street and yet residents and businesses alike in and around St James’ Street have not been consulted on the proposed closure of the street in accordance with the Council Local Policy; ‘Demonstration, parades & street parties’ local residents or community groups can apply to close the road to hold a street party in their locality. The most important factor in arranging the party is that all frontages in the proposed road both residents and businesses are canvassed for their opinion and a signed petition must be produced to submit to the Council when requesting the road closure.

It would appear that the Council and the Police have agreed to the closure of St James’ Street and 15 residential side streets by accepting the request of a few people to hold the event.

Can I ask what right do these people have to achieve the closure of St James’ Street and all 15 residential side streets over the weekend at the detriment to residents and businesses alike without taking into account the views of said residents and businesses?”

Councillor Geoffrey Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment, will reply.

(e) Ms Valerie Paynter

“The historic formation of our new Coalition Government brings to mind questions in relation to how or whether local government is now expected to mirror this arrangement.

In Brighton & Hove, the Liberal Democrats rarely vote with the Conservatives, more usually aligning themselves with Labour and/or the Greens. To what extent are the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats required by convention or central government to now collaborate and form policy together in Brighton & Hove?”

Councillor Mary Mears, Leader of the Council, and Councillor Paul Elgood, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group will reply.