

WRITTEN QUESTIONS**(i) Trip-wires across cycle paths- Councillor West**

I note with increasing concern a number of local reports of dangerous trip wires being strung across cycle paths. Recently cyclist Darren Gibson was dragged from his bike by a near invisible trip wire while cycling in woodland near East Brighton Golf Course, breaking his collar bone. I understand Police are also investigating at least two other local instances where riders have been injured by trip wires in Coldean Woods. This is not however just an isolated local problem but part of an alarming national picture: neck high wires have also been found strung across cycle paths in Suffolk and spikes have been found deliberately scattered on a hairpin bend in Wales. In 2008 a 17 year old was killed by a trip wire strung across a path in Merseyside.

What urgent action is being taken by Council officers and Police to identify the culprits of the trip-wires in the City? What security measures are being employed to deter other anti-cyclists from creating similar hazards? And, what education will be offered to help combat anti-cycling sentiment that leads to some extremists taking life threatening action?

(ii) Horsdean traveller site- Councillor Wares

We are aware of serious environment and sustainable issues relating to the proposed project to extend Horsdean to provide 12 permanent pitches, namely but not limited to:-

- 1. The site is now acknowledged as prone to flooding evidence by the Council's plans to mitigate this.*
- 2. Surface water from the proposed 21 transit pitches and 12 permanent pitches is discharged to ground via a drainage system with treatment components and soakaway. This risks contaminants entering the ground and eventually to the drinking water supply. The site is directly above a man-made adit that collects the City's drinking water that is pumped through Waterhall.*
- 3. The risks of contaminants causing pollution are considered high by the Environment Agency evidenced by their letter dated 17th June 2015 that it lists prohibited chemicals and liquids banned for use and storage on site as for example oils, fuels, bleaches, white spirits, paints. All commonly associated with the travelling community.*
- 4. The Council's management plan is to evict if such pollutants are stored or used. That prevents a repeat but not an initial accidental or deliberate spillage causing contamination.*
- 5. If access to the site means not bringing pollutants on then a significant number of travelling families could not enter the site rendering it useless.*

6. *The 21 transit pitches will be served by four toilets. 21 transit pitches could accommodate 100-150 people. This is a wholly inadequate standard to provide a reasonable amenity for any community.*

Will the Administration therefore agree to suspend the project to enable a fuller environmental study and to revisit the designs and amenity for the transit pitches?