

Council 15 February 2017 - Questions submitted by Members

Question No.	Question from:	Question:	Question to:	Service area:
1	Cllr John Wright	<p>Having been out and about in South Sittingbourne, many people amongst other issues, have raised the issue of the inability of first time buyers being able to afford to get onto the property ladder, as well as the shortage of affordable housing. I know I and others have raised this question and now through that lobbying in part, Gavin Barwell MP Minister for State for Housing and Planning has announced for this financial year 16/17 a sum for Swale of £341,232.00 to help those to find a first time property in Swale.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member For Housing or the Leader detail how this excellent initiative will be rolled out and spent within this financial year as next years allocation is dependant on the success of this years .It is also important to publicise this so that people who qualify maybe able to access these affordable homes?</p>	Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing/The Leader	Amber Christou/Head of Housing Services
2.	Cllr Roger Truelove	<p>Apart from a period in the 2000s when Derek Wyatt was MP and the funding gap was closed, primary care health services in Swale have always been severely under resourced. We now read that the Swale NHS Clinical Commissioning Group is facing a £6 million deficit and we do not have adequate GP coverage. The explanation that we have had "a particularly deep and cold winter" is not credible. The CCG talks about "transformation of services" and a cold shiver goes down my</p>	Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing	Amber Christou/Head of Housing Services

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		<p>spine. May be there are savings to be made on pharmaceuticals but isn't it a fact that we need more money, we have always needed more money and in an area of exceptional need this should be the top of all locally elected politicians' agendas?"</p>		
3.	Cllr Ghlin Whelan	<p>I am sure that most members will have heard of the death earlier this week of Chris Ewell of Milton Regis who for the last 25 years has spent much of his time cycling around Sittingbourne collecting discarded cans and recycling them for the benefit of Neuroblastoma UK which supports Children with Cancer.</p> <p>Could the finance portfolio holder agree to this council funding a bench in memory of Chris Ewell to be placed somewhere prominent in Sittingbourne or Milton Regis such as perhaps Milton Recreation Ground or the Countryside Park or similar? I would allocate funds from my own localism grant but they are exhausted for this year. This would I suggest be an appropriate gesture from this council on behalf of the residents in memory of someone who will be sorely missed.</p>	Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance	Nick Vickers – Head of Finance