

**Council 25 July 2018: Questions submitted from Members of the Public**

Question No.	Question from	Question:	Question to:	Responsible Officer:
1.	Stephen Palmer	<p>I would like to ask if the council would fund the replacement of, I believe, 21 missing memorial plaques in the Avenue of Remembrance that are missing or have been overgrown in the trees, along the section from Borden School to the cemetery, and also make the plaque on the corner of Central Avenue more prominent as it is currently buried in the bushes?</p> <p>It is especially poignant in this centenary year that we continue to remember the sacrifice these young men made. If the plaques cannot be replaced individually then can consideration be made to the creation of a single plaque with the missing names, similar to the one on the corner of Central Avenue, which was created when a number of trees were removed several years ago. I am aware there is budget within the parks section and I know from a freedom of information request that there is a large unspent sum of S106 payments.</p>	Leader	<p>Charlotte Hudson, Head of Economy and Communities and</p> <p>Martyn Cassell, Head of Commissioning and Customer Contact</p>
<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Thank you for your question Mr Palmer. As we approach the centenary, SBC has had a focus on ways to commemorate those lost. We facilitate a World War One steering group and have issued a number of grants to community groups.</p> <p>The matter of the plaques at Avenue of Remembrance is a difficult one. Some of the plaques as you say are connected to grilles around the trees and have been overgrown by the trees. Others, we understand were fixed to the kerbing on the pathway and some of these have been lost or removed during maintenance repairs by KCC.</p> <p>Our parks team, who also look after War Memorials, have been liaising with our KCC Highways colleagues as remedial work is needed and it is likely that most of the tree grilles will need to be removed or reconfigured. However it was felt that it would be better to leave</p>				

this work until after November 2018 so as not to impact those plaques remaining.

I have asked for a meeting with our officers to look at potential ways to replace those that are missing ahead of November and will be looking to work with KCC and the Royal British Legion on this. We have also arranged for work to be done to make the existing plaque on the corner more prominent.

We would welcome a further conversation with yourself to ensure that we have all of the relevant names and have asked the officers to contact you.

2.	Paul Otto	<p>As the first stage of Sittingbourne Town Centre Regeneration nears completion what Success Criteria has the Cabinet of Swale Borough Council under Councilor Andrew Bowles leadership set itself for the Regeneration project?          With particular reference to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The timing and value of financial returns</li> <li>2. The timing of project completion</li> <li>3. Expenditure budget targets</li> <li>3. Unit occupancy percentage</li> <li>4. Footfall level changes day and night</li> <li>5. Existing shopkeeper satisfaction level targets</li> </ol> <p>And most importantly</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Sittingbourne residents' satisfaction level targets</li> </ol>	Leader	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration
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**Response:**

I am very pleased to have opened Princes Street retail park on 9th July as the first step towards regenerating Sittingbourne Town Centre. The successful implementation of this project is paramount and we need to be satisfied that the scheme has delivered the outcomes that we set out to achieve. The main focus behind regenerating Sittingbourne Town Centre was to ensure that we reduced the 70% of resident spend that went out of the borough. Thus helping local businesses prosper and importantly creating jobs.

The cabinet report of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 forecast an average annual yield of 7.8% following the initial rent free periods, this will be monitored through our budgetary and scrutiny processes at the relevant time. I am delighted to say that 100% of the retail space is occupied and operating and 72% of the leisure is currently let, with negotiations on-going with other restaurant operators. The Spirit of Sittingbourne Consortium has undertaken to deliver the project at a fixed cost and therefore project or cost overrun is wholly a risk for

them to manage, including covering any initial rent if any restaurant units are unlet at the time of opening.

3.	Pat Sandle, Leysdown Parish Council	<p>For many years now Leysdown Parish Council has brought to Officer's attention the problem of Camper Vans and Tourers that park adjacent to the sea wall in Wing Road, Leysdown. They completely obstruct the footway so that walkers have to walk in a very busy road. They leave their rubbish and excrement in the ditch opposite or over the sea wall.</p> <p>Weekend of the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018, there were 47 units parked there and three tents; and weekend of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 29 units were parked there and one tent.</p> <p>Officers did erect signs of NO Camping but they were taken down by the visitors.</p> <p>We would like the Borough Council in conjunction with Highways to take some positive action to stop this. This situation would not be allowed in other areas of Swale.</p> <p>How long will we retain our Blue Flag status if this is not tackled and enforced?</p>	Leader	<p>Martyn Cassell, Head of Commissioning and Customer Contact</p> <p>Charlotte Hudson, Head of Economy and Communities</p>
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**Response:**

We are aware of the issue of camper and touring vans in Leysdown, particularly on Shellness Road. We want to encourage visitors as much as possible to the Island but with the issues these vehicles bring for local residents and the impact they have on our services we need to ensure a suitable solution is found.

As you rightly say we have previously installed signage and undertaken visits with our enforcement team. The signage is vandalised and removed and whilst our enforcement team have been effective in moving them on, the level of resource needed to have a consistent presence is unfeasible.

We have just approved some funding to try and resolve this issue on Shellness Road and our officers have been liaising with the Ward

member in recent weeks. Our Environment and Traffic regulation officers will be visiting the site again to formulate an action plan so will include Wing Road on this and would be keen to work with the Parish Council on the solutions.

4.	John Greenhill	The leader of the council has recently expressed his view on littering and has opined that the newly increased fixed penalty of £150 should have two further noughts added to it (£1500). In the circumstances would he and his cabinet now seek to have the new penalty applied to the KCC and or its agents for all the (now hay) grass cuttings left in Sittingbourne's streets and would they also apply it to persons such as the cabinet member who was recently witnessed spitting something from his mouth into the street. Or is it a case as Selden said "Preachers say, Do as I say, not as I do"?	Leader	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Economy and Communities
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**Response:**

Indeed, it was agreed at the last Council meeting to increase the penalty for littering to the maximum available fine of £150. At present we have no intention to issue Fixed Penalties Notices to KCC for incidental debris after grass cutting. However, we will remind KCC of the need to tidy up after cutting verges. FPN's can be issued to anyone over the age of 18 and our contractors will issue FPN's to anyone seen deliberately littering our streets

5.	Richard Palmer	Can the Cabinet member confirm the scope of any future Strategic Transport Modelling that has been agreed to date, and with whom the agreement has been made?	Cabinet Member for Planning Services	James Freeman, Head of Planning Services  Gill Harris, Spatial Planning Manager
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**Response:**

Responses to previous Council questions of 21 March 2018 on this matter were that the Council has shared preparation and cost of the base modelling stage of a Strategic Transport Model with Kent County Council Highways and developers under a Memorandum of Understanding. The base model is still being finalised and signed off by Highways England and Kent County Council Highways as fit for purpose.

The base model will then be available for anyone to use as the platform to test alternative future development scenarios. The number and scope of the latter Transport Models to inform the local plan review are still being discussed. The Council is pursuing joint procurement of this stage of the work with Kent County Council Highways only. A further detailed stage of modelling will then be needed at a future point to inform the version of the local plan and supporting local transport strategy which is submitted for Examination in Public.