

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**Council 3 April 2019 - Questions submitted by Members**

Question No.	Question from:	Question:	Question to:	Service area:
1.	Councillor Mike Baldock	Given that all the Transport Modelling shown to Members at a recent Members Briefing assumed a widening of the M2 in order to provide any feasibility of the local area being able to cope with increased housebuilding in Swale, when does the Leader expect such widening to take place, and how does he expect Swale to cope with the current planned expansion of housing in the absence of such a scheme?	The Leader	James Freeman, Head of Planning Services
2.	Councillor Mike Baldock	Given the recent expose of Quinn Estate's fabrication of evidence for Planning Applications, what steps has the Cabinet Member for Planning taken to ensure that such malpractice was not employed in the Wises Lane planning application, or indeed in other schemes that Quinn Estates have applied to Swale for Planning permission?	Cabinet Member for Planning	James Freeman, Head of Planning Services
3.	Councillor Monique Bonney	In recent weeks the Council has been in the national news headlines because of the actions of Council Leader Andrew Bowles and a highly inappropriate post in social media. This lead to his suspension from the Conservative Party. Less than 2 weeks later he was reinstated however the damage to the Council's reputation has been incalculable. Does the Leader agree he has brought this Council into disrepute?	The Leader	David Clifford, Head of Planning Policy
4.	Councillor Monique	This Council held a public consultation on Garden Communities and the overwhelming response from the public	Cabinet Member for	James Freeman, Head of Planning Services

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	Bonney	was that they were not supported. Why then is this Council ignoring the public consultation on Garden Communities and ploughing on regardless and giving the developers unlimited bites at the cherry to get their schemes advanced?	Planning	
5.	Councillor Roger Truelove	Can you confirm that at the most recent meeting of the Council's Local Plan Panel (LPP) you instructed members to confine themselves to discussing the principle of meeting housing allocation targets through large rural developments (Garden settlements) and not to try to evaluate prematurely the arguments for any of the four promotions, in particular. If you can confirm that, can you explain why you allowed one visiting member to the panel to speak at great length about the four options, dismissing three and strongly supporting the fantasy option in Highsted Valley.	Cabinet Member for Planning	James Freeman, Head of Planning Services
6.	Councillor Roger Truelove	You may have read the well informed report by the Kent Messenger group on the Elwick Place project in Ashford. The project includes a Travelodge Hotel, a 6 screen cinema and 8 restaurants. It opened in December with capital investment from Council taxpayers and initial amnesties on rent. You may well recognise this off the shelf uninspiring and commercially out of date model of regeneration. It is in trouble and has been accurately described by a Ashford Labour Councillor as "ghost town". None of the 8 restaurants are occupied because as the market reports, the kind of companies involved are experiencing difficulties in these sorts of investment plans. Can	Cabinet Member for Regeneration	Emma Wiggins, Head of Regeneration

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		<p>you help this Council by telling us how many of the Sittingbourne Town centre restaurants are firmly committed by contract, what are the renting arrangements and whether you have a plan B, as Ashford now have, if the Sittingbourne restaurants prove unpopular with big chain companies over a period of time?</p>		