

**Council 27 January 2016 - Questions submitted by Members**

Question No.	Question from:	Question:	Question to:	Service area:
1.	Cllr Alan Horton	<p>Clean for The Queen, is a campaign launched by Country Life magazine in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to clear up Britain in time for The Queen’s official 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in June this year.</p> <p>It is intended that the campaign will rally an army of volunteers (there are currently 1.5 million participants) across the country to clean up their local areas, the primary focus of the campaign is a special clean-up weekend on March 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. I am aware that a number of our constituents have registered to participate and intend clean up operations in their local part of Swale on that weekend.</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that it would be a strong show of support and highly beneficial to our communities if SBC were to support this national campaign by agreeing to collect and dispose of the rubbish collected by organised clean up participants that weekend?</p>	Cabinet Member for the Environment and Rural Affairs	Emma Wiggins – Head of Economy and Community Services
<p><b>Response:</b> The Cabinet member agrees wholeheartedly that Swale BC should support this occasion and provide assistance to the numerous community events that will be taking place throughout the Borough. Swale BC will ensure that all sacks are collected and disposed of correctly and free of charge, while providing logistical support to the various events.</p>				
2.	Cllr Roger Truelove	<p>Are you alarmed, as I am, by the Government’s intention to limit New Homes Bonus to sites where the Local Planning Authority has granted planning permission, rather than if permission were granted on appeal? The financial burden on councils coming from new developments will be the same whatever the path to planning permission.</p>	Cabinet Member for Planning	James Freeman – Head of Planning Services

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		Is this not another example of this Government putting undue pressure on councils to grant consent, and does it not run counter to any rhetoric about localism?		
<p><b>Response:</b> For clarification, the proposals to withhold New Homes Bonus from sites granted permission on appeal is already in place. I am also concerned about the approach taken by the Government on this issue, and believe they should not be putting undue pressure on Local Planning Authorities to grant permission for housing sites: such decisions should be taken at the local level based on the evidence before it, and in accordance with the local development strategy and provisions set out in their Local Plan.</p>				
3.	Cllr Mike Henderson	In view of the sale of the Science Park and that, as I understand it, there is not a valid planning application for housing as no payment has been made, will the Cabinet Member explain Swale BC's present policy towards development in and around the Science Park?	Cabinet Member for Planning	James Freeman – Head of Planning Services
<p><b>Response:</b> Consultants (LaSalle Management Investment) representing Kent Science Park (KSP) appeared at the recent Local Plan Examination in Public (EIP). They sought to establish that the reference to the KSP at paragraphs 6.10.5-9 as an area for longer term opportunity were unsound, and that the KSP could make a significant contribution to both housing land supply and employment needs within the Plan period. They made reference to the recent (invalid) planning application in support of their case. They informed the EIP verbally that they were no longer seeking large scale expansion of the KSP linked to a Sittingbourne Southern Relief Road and a new junction with the M2, due to the impending sale of the site. The expansion proposed would be within KSP land ownership.</p> <p>The local Plan Inspector asked officers to draft, with input from the KSP consultant, a policy which would recognise KSP as one of the existing strategic employment locations already identified by Policy CP1 of the Plan, which could enable a short and longer term framework for the site to be established.</p> <p>A policy and supporting text has been duly drafted for the Inspector's consideration. This modification will be considered by the Council's LDF Panel, taking into account any comments made by the Local Plan Inspector, in advance of any further public consultation.</p>				

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<p>The draft Policy is supportive of KSP's role as a business cluster of regional significance, specialising in technology- and knowledge-based businesses. Any development proposals should be for uses compatible or complementary with the use of the site as a Science Park, as defined by the UK Science Park Association. This is defined as a business support environment that encourages and supports the start-up, incubation and development of innovation-led, high growth, knowledge-based businesses.</p> <p>KSP development proposals will also need to focus on using capacity within the existing boundary of the site first; avoid significant adverse impact on the environment of this sensitive location; and demonstrate that the capacity of the transport network is adequate (including delivery of any necessary improvements).</p> <p>The draft policy can be viewed at Schedule A of the draft Main Modifications to the Plan, pages 76-79 of the Local Plan Examination Document Library page on the Council's website.</p> <p>Subject to the Inspector's Interim Findings and Recommendations for Main Modifications to the Plan, we expect to be running public consultation on the Main Modifications in the summer of 2016.</p>				
4.	Cllr Mike Henderson	After repeated delays we were last told at full Council in December that a contract for cinema provision in Sittingbourne was expected to be signed and announced within "a week or so". Over a month has now passed. When does the Cabinet Member now expect an announcement of this fundamental part of the Sittingbourne regeneration?	Cabinet Member for Regeneration	Kathryn Carr – Director of Regeneration
<p><b>Response:</b> I am pleased that Councillor Mike Henderson agrees that the cinema is fundamental to the regeneration of Sittingbourne Town Centre. Given his own experience of planning and knowledge of development, I am sure he understands that these processes seldom follow a simple timeline.</p> <p>My view is that he is somewhat hasty in requiring immediate results only a few weeks after the previous statement . I am happy to confirm that I am pleased with progress to date, and I share his excitement that we will soon be in a position to make an announcement.</p>				