

Council 17 February 2016 - Questions submitted by Members

Question No.	Question from:	Question:	Question to:	Service area:
1.	Cllr Mark Ellen	Is The cabinet member for the environment aware of the situation at the former steel works at Sheerness regarding the pollution at the site? Dangerous materials such as zinc, lead and various other toxics were just dumped in shallow pits over the years. A children's playground is situated nearby. Is SBC monitoring the area?	Cabinet Member for the Environment and Rural Affairs	Tracey Beattie – Mid Kent Environmental Health Manager
<p>Response:</p> <p>Cllr. Ellen's keen interest in environmental issues is welcomed. This matter has been recognised by officers in the Environmental Protection Team, who are aware of the potential for historic contamination present on/under the former steelworks site. The playground is close to the former steel works but not on the site itself.</p> <p>When the former steel works were operating the Environment Agency issued the permit to operate the site and controlled such operations as the depositing/burying of waste on the site to prevent uncontrolled deposits of contaminants.</p> <p>The former steel works are one of our prioritised sites on a list of brownfield sites to be investigated under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The extent of any potential contamination can only be established by visiting and researching the history of the site, and if necessary, taking samples. A site visit is planned in the near future and I will provide Cllr. Ellen with a written assessment of the outcome.</p>				