

Council 28 June 2017 - Questions with responses submitted by Members

Question No.	Question from:	Question:	Question to:	Service area:
1.	Councillor Paul Fleming	<p>At the full Council meeting on the 14th December I asked a question about cleaning up Sittingbourne High Street . I have been informed there is a Deep Clean going to happen in the High Street. But that leaves the remove of Budleia from the walls and roofs and the gap next to which was Mothercare, gutters cleaned of weeds, and moss removed from roofs,as this creates more work for the street cleaning operative.</p> <p>There should be no cost to the Council Tax payer's to remove the Budleia because we don't own these Buildings involved do we?</p> <p>So I am asking the same Question again, or will the Budleia be entered into Sittingbourne in Bloom Competition?</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs/Cabinet Member for Planning</p>	<p>Martyn Cassell – Head of Commissioning & Customer Contact/James Freeman – Head of Planning Services</p>
<p>Response:</p> <p>I am pleased to confirm the order for the town centre deep cleans has been raised and works will start imminently. The Council also works with businesses through our Swale In Bloom project to help encourage their involvement in improving the public realm and are pleased to say we get a good response with many receiving awards during the judging process.</p> <p>The Council do not own the buildings or land you refer to. The gap next to Mothercare has a planning decision notice approved in 2015 and valid for a three year period. This application will resolve the issue and compliments the buildings either side. In terms of the buildings with Buddleia growth, planning legislation can be used to target untidy properties but this needs to be proportionately and reasonably used. In the first instance we will contact the owners requesting their support to resolve the issue.</p>				

Question No.	Question from:	Question:	Question to:	Service area:
2	Councillor Cameron Beart	Given the recent vote of confidence in Queenborough by central government, awarding £500,000 to the Queenborough Harbour Trust to increase the number of moorings, would the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Cabinet Member for Finance now consider revisiting the Queenborough & Rushenden Masterplan with the Homes and Communities Agency and look at reintroducing the much needed and much desired marina? And would they further look at this with a view of this council financially investing in the scheme to bring it to fruition for the benefit of our local community and vital tourism industry?	Cabinet Member for Regeneration/ Cabinet Member for Finance	Emma Wiggins/Interim Director of Regeneration Nick Vickers/Chief Financial Officer
<p>Response:</p> <p>The investment strategy agreed by Council is that investments need to generate a return which covers the costs of borrowing and gives a positive financial return to the Council and has broader regeneration outcomes.</p> <p>The Council has already given QHT a £50k loan which shows our commitment to supporting the excellent work they are doing.</p> <p>The Council also continues to work with the HCA to bring forward the revised masterplan at Q&R. Options for Creekside leisure remains a priority that developers will need to address.</p> <p>Revisiting a marina as set out in the original plan would be welcomed if a developer or other stakeholders can show it is viable. The masterplan addendum purposely zones the creek area as “area safeguarded for future creekside leisure, commercial, open space uses” to allow flexibility in the future for any marina operators to come forward. Meanwhile, we continue to work with QHT, supporting them with their funding bid and to promote the existing offer at the harbour, with a future investor event in the planning stages. The Council supports the development of the harbour and the regeneration that this could bring.</p>				