

Council 24 January 2018: Questions submitted from Members of the Public

Question No.	Question from	Question:	Question to:	Responsible Officer:
1.	Mr Greenhill on behalf of the Swale Seniors Forum	In his Foreword to SBC's glossy document entitled Swale – Your destinations of choice', Cllr Cosgrove states: "Swale is...well placed to offer visitors and residents memorable experiences". How very true those words are and are proving to be – especially now that the Council appears to be pursuing a programme of degeneration. In particular, would he, the leader, other members of the cabinet and the ruling Conservative party, unaccustomed as they are to travelling on public transport buses and shopping in Sittingbourne, care to join ordinary members of the Public to witness and share in the now daily memorable experience that maintains at the back of the Forum as a result of their fatuous decision to close the High Street for what is said to pass as a market on Fridays? Will they share in the memorable experience of chaos, inconvenience, hardship and distress that is caused in particular to the elderly and the disabled as a result of that decision which now means that all buses need to arrive and depart at the Forum, and particularly on a rainy day, to share in the liberal spray of petrol polluted gutter water, rubbish and other detritus and to endure the elements as the result of insufficient sheltering and seating? As the situation does not affect any of them, I suspect not.	Cabinet Member for Regeneration	Emma Wiggins
Response: The Council has been working with local bus operators for four years to see how the wider aspirations of the town centre regeneration scheme can be delivered which includes the relocation of the market to the High Street. The two bus companies took the decision to move out of the High Street on 26 May 2017 and the other 2 January 2018 relocating to the rear of the Forum ahead of the agreed implementation date for the Road Traffic Order. As part of the wider regeneration plans an improved bus hub will be provided, inevitably any significant and successful regeneration scheme will cause some disruption. I can say that I regularly use my bus pass.				