

**Council 21 February 2018: Questions submitted from Members of the Public**

Question No.	Question from	Question:	Question to:	Responsible Officer:
1.	Stephen Palmer	<p>I would like to ask a question concerning S106 payments received by the council covering the period 2008-2017.</p> <p>The council received £3.732m and spent £2.172m as advised from an FOI request.</p> <p>I would to ask what has happened to the balance and what plans are in place to spend the balance of £1.56m. In particular the following areas:                      Play Areas - received £1.1m, spent £0.296m, balance £804k                      Open Spaces - received £296k, spent £71k, balance £225k</p>	Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs, Cllr David Simmons	Martyn Cassell

**Response:**

The Council's Open Spaces and Play Strategy, which is at the final consultation stage, will provide a clear way forward for future investment and the priorities throughout the Borough.

A record of all funds received is kept with Section 106 contributions individually identified and deposited within a specific cost centre allowing monitoring of appropriate spend. Deadlines are often identified in the Section 106 agreement and officers have regular update meetings to help prioritise the projects that will be undertaken. Different factors such as ownership/transfer of the land and the current condition of the existing/nearest provision can also affect the timescale of delivery with some taking several years to complete. We also factor in liaison with other organisations such as town and parish councils and public consultation on larger schemes.

The FOI requested details of spend up until the end of the 2016/17 financial year. This is a constantly changing position as projects are completed and new ones come on board.

The Council has completed a number of large schemes since the request such as Thistle Hill Village Centre Play Area (£180,000), Iwade Village Park (£146,000) and has the Faversham Recreation Ground project in an advanced planning stage (with various S106

agreements totalling £260,000). In addition a number of other smaller sites are also in the process of being completed having been procured through a tender process.

There are a total of 12 schemes making up the remaining play area element of the funding and 9 allocations making up the open spaces balance. These are being built into officer work programmes as per the above process.

2.	Eddie Thomas	<p>Regarding Ospringe Street car park in Faversham.</p> <p>Local residents have raised concerns that there are fewer spaces painted out than there could be in this car park.</p> <p>Subsequently any vehicle, even if it is not causing an obstruction, is issued with a parking ticket for not being within a marked bay.</p> <p>Will the cabinet member please ensure that the space in this car park is marked out to ensure the maximum number of spaces are made available for local residents, and could he take action to ensure that maintenance of the car park is improved as the shrubs encroach on the parking areas?</p>	Cabinet Member for Safer Families and Communities, Cllr Alan Horton	Martyn Cassell
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**Response:**

The Council has received previous requests on this location and undertook a review last year. The survey by our technical officers suggested that additional bays would further restrict the movement of vehicles in the car park and create potential safety issues. The shrubs are maintained as part of our grounds maintenance contract and we have requested that the contractor visits the site to carry out additional works to ensure they do not add further restrictions.

3.	Helen Martins	<p>The government's Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) is bound to have a profound impact on health care in Swale, where there are so many people in need of care and treatment. Are you satisfied that local people are being properly engaged and that the consultation procedures are genuinely inclusive?</p>	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Cllr Ken Pugh	Emma Wiggins
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**Response:**

I agree the STP will have a profound impact on health care in Swale but I am satisfied we are doing all we can to ensure that primary local care is a priority within Swale CCG and that they are fully consulting the residents of Sittingbourne and Sheppey through online consultation, their widely advertised "listen post" and the patient liaison groups. In addition KCC HOSC (which can be watched by the public) and I am a member of, holds all Clinical Commissioning Groups to account.

4.	Myra Beast	<p>As per section 3.3.1 of Swale Borough Council Constitution dated March 2016. It's a delegated Cabinet Responsibility "to lead the formulation of the policy framework and preparation of the budget, including the setting of fees and charges."</p> <p>As no revised fees and charges booklet or summary was referenced or published with the 2018/19 draft budget and the medium term financial plan discussed at the 7 February 2018 Cabinet meeting nor published with the full Council meeting agenda pack, that all fees and charges from April 2018 will remain at their current rates? This includes but not limited to parking, waste, local land charges and fixed penalty notices. I don't include Council as the new proposed rates for 18/19 have been published with the Full Council's agenda pack.</p> <p>As no revised proposed charges have been published for approval and in line with the Council's own Constitution how will the additional income streams mentioned in the draft budget such as local land charges of £55,000, fixed penalty notices of £30,000 ( and pay and display fees of £125,000 (to name three) be generated? Its misleading if the Council is proposing to increase Council fees and charges but not publish the proposals with the draft budget.</p>	Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, Cllr Duncan Dewar- Whalley	Nick Vickers
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**Response:**

The Fees and Charges report was agreed by Council on 22 November 2017, having previously been considered by Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee, and the budget proposals reflect the previously agreed increases in fees and charges.