

**Council – 23 July 2025****Cllr Questions:****1. From Cllr Cooper to Councillor P Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control**

The residents of Dymchurch are sick and tired of having their driveways blocked by parked cars or cars ignoring yellow lines. As well as parents with pushchairs, disabled people in wheelchairs and mobility scooters and pedestrians having to walk on the road due to vehicles parked on the pavement especially at busy weekends and on bank holidays. They feel the district council has forgotten them especially when it comes to the noticeable absence of Civil Enforcement Officers in the village at these times. Will this council please ensure and confirm that the private contractor has sufficient staff to attend Dymchurch and plans are put in place so they have a presence, and are seen on bank holidays and busy weekends (and at other times)?

**2. From Councillor Walker to Councillor McConville, Cabinet Member for Assets and Local Government Reorganisation**

The statue of St Eanswythe which sits at the entrance to Radnor Park by the water fountains and play area has been without her head for the past year. Investigations were started as to what happened to the head, and for a replacement to be ordered so that the statue could be restored to its former glory. Is there any news on this? With the Triennial here, visitors who arrive via train may choose to enjoy a cup of tea in Radnor Park and it would be a shame if our Saint was not there to greet them with a smile, or any other facial expression, for that matter. Having this complete statue again would help restore a sense of pride in place for our lovely park, popular with locals and visitors alike.

**3. From Councillor Hills to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

At meetings of my Parish Councils concerns have been expressed over Local Government Reorganisation, over the lack of information and regular updates from Folkestone & Hythe District Council. I appreciate this is a voyage of discovery for us all, but could you commit to giving regular updates to Parishes and residents alike?

**4. From Councillor Cooper to Councillor McConville, Cabinet Member for Assets and Local Government Reorganisation**

In light of the recent press release regarding the Green Flag Awards in Folkestone and Hythe, which also included mention of a £750,000 spend for the Lower Leas Play Park. A number of residents have approached me asking why the district council is seemingly ignoring the play needs of Marsh children and families and why isn't it putting in the same or similar amount of

investment into play areas for the Marsh, or don't children and families on the Marsh count?

**5. From Councillor Hills to Councillor Fuller, Cabinet Member for Resident Engagement and Accountability**

I was very pleased to have an email from the Director of Strategy and Resources, Ewan Green, relating to the information now available on the Folkestone & Hythe website, setting out information relating to the planned Solar Farms for Romney Marsh. Can the Cabinet Member confirm that this is the way forward to engage with residents and keep them informed? (the information can be found at: [Solar projects in the Folkestone & Hythe district | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#))

**6. From Councillor Chapman to Councillor Polly Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control**

I have been contacted by residents concerned about businesses that are using the beach for commercial purposes. There seems to have been an increase in the amount of commercial activity happening, particularly around fitness classes. While many of these, such as yoga classes, are low impact, concern has been raised around 'boot camp' style exercise classes which often seem to use amplified music. This means that the rest of the beach users, many of which rely on the quiet of the beach early in the day for their mental health, are unable to enjoy this local facility fully. What can be done to ensure that commercial businesses are not encroaching in this way?

**7. From Councillor Chapman to Councillor Mike Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Community and Collaboration**

With Folkestone Pride due to take place this Saturday would you join me in affirming this council's full support of the local LGBTQ+ community and our particular support for the trans members of our community who have been badly affected by the recent posturing from the Reform cabinet at KCC who threatened to remove trans literature from our libraries?

**8. From Councillor Paul Thomas to Councillor McConville, Cabinet Member for Assets and Local Government Reorganisation**

With the Coastal Destination Project at the Coast Drive Car Park on track for completion in October, local residents have asked how these facilities will fit in with similar facilities across the District. Consequently, they would like to know how these existing facilities are being utilised, with regard to the current occupation rates, hire costs and waiting lists?

**9. From Councillor Paul Thomas to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

With the agreement of the new Corporate Plan and the recent rationalisation of the Outside Bodies list that has been carried out and approved by

Council. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm that the subscriptions for two of these bodies, namely the New Nuclear Local Authority Group (NNLAG) and the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF) will not be subject to any cuts following the budget setting process later in the year? These bodies provide the District Council representatives with an input into the proposed siting for New Nuclear facilities (including Dungeness). It also gives us a voice on the management of the nuclear legacy at Dungeness A, which in 2029/30 is due to be joined by the facility at Dungeness B, when defueling is complete and Dungeness B is managed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency (NDA).

**10. From Councillor Paul Thomas to Councillor Polly Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control**

Local residents have voiced their concerns about the growing number of Recreational Vehicles (RVs) and Campervans that are parking overnight along Coast Road, Littlestone, mainly near the junction with Madeira Road. Many of these vehicles are in place for weeks at a time without moving and concerns have been raised about fly-tipping, smoking of illegal substances and the unlawful dumping of chemical toilet contents. Residents have also had to contend with visitors using their gardens as a toilet. When will the PSPO signage be erected in this area, to alert visitors that "overnight parking is not allowed", allowing our enforcement teams to take action, particularly against repeat offenders?

**11. From Councillor Liz McShane to Councillor Tim Prater, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance**

Has Folkestone and Hythe District Council received any communication from Kent County Council about the £40 million in savings which the leader of KCC claimed to have identified on 10 July, and is it in a position to assess the implications for Folkestone and Hythe residents?

**12. From Councillor Liz McShane to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

Does the council share my concern about the comments of Reform's former KCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport that the new council 'has rushed to make an impression because it is all about soundbite politics.'

**13. From Councillor Keen to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

Given that the Section 106 agreement for Stoneleigh House required over £1.7 million in financial and affordable housing contributions — and that the administrators have confirmed the agreed trigger points were reached — can the Cabinet Member explain how Folkestone & Hythe District Council failed to collect this legally secured funding, and who within the Council was accountable for monitoring and enforcing compliance at the time this public money was lost?

**14. From Councillor Keen to Councillor Polly Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control**

The recent PSPO that has been put into place that restricts where residents can walk their dogs off leads, can you please confirm who, apart from local residents, were consulted?

**15. From Councillor Keen to Councillor James Butcher, Cabinet Member for Place Plan, Heritage, Tourism and District Economy**

The amount of road works we have in Folkestone is becoming stifling and dangerous. When the project A Brighter Future became a reality why was the work scheduled to start at the beginning of the summer, when local roads are busy with tourists who want to visit our town/district & spend money in the local economy. We have major road works all over the town, the air is filled with petrol fumes and local residents are finding travelling around the district to work etc difficult. Can we please be informed what the rationale behind this was?

**16. From Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

I understand from the informal survey on Princes Parade that keeping it as an open space was the preferred option. Can we have an update on the outcome of the recent public drop in sessions to "chat" about Princes Parade?