



Agenda

Meeting: **Leader's Q&A session**
Date: **29 July 2020**
Time: **4.00 pm**
Place: **Zoom - to be streamed live to Youtube.**

To: All Members of the Council

1. **Questions from the public**

The session for public questions will be limited to 30 minutes.

2. **Questions from Councillors**

The session for Councillor questions will be limited to 45 minutes.

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

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Leaders Q&A Session – 29 July 2020

Public questions:

1. From Mr and Mrs R and E Jarvis

The town public toilets - Folkestone and Hythe have closed this vital human need. Could these places please consider a coin or card operated "tardis" style that self-clean once used?

Car parks have a mobile phone or "app" payment:
Guildhall Street. Tontine Street. The Leas West End. Harbour/Sunny sands?

2. From Mr Peter Rogers

It has been highlighted by the council that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to enforce the 2 hour parking restrictions on Radnor Cliff and Radnor Crescent.

1. Why should the residents pay for a permit?
2. The Council should repay ALL the payments to the residents since the scheme was introduced.

3. From Ms C Abbott

How can the Council justify a pay rise of £40 k to the chief executive in these exceptional economic downturn times?

4. From Mrs R Severn (Litter Picking Watch)

We are a volunteer charity group who remove so much litter from our streets and countryside in Kent, despite this FHDC will not allow us any bags for litter picking.

We used to have them but they were stopped. I would like to know why this is, as we are doing a volunteer service for the FHDC by collecting the waste. Other county councils gladly supply their litter pickers with bags.

We are organised, health and safety aware at all times, risk assessments are carried out before doing any area, hi viz is worn and signs put out.

As head of FHDC can you tell us why bags are not available to us and what are you able to do to change this for us and resolve this problem?

5. From Ms M Burgon-Miller

Why am I, and my neighbours carefully sorting all the recyclable rubbish into separate bins? Every week when the collectors come from Veolia, the men just tip all the newspapers into the bins containing plastic and metal waste. All the operatives do the same thing and it has happened now for more than a year. It is pointless for the public to follow the guidelines when the collectors don't

seem to care and consistently mix it all into one container. Perhaps an undercover view of these practices would reveal the extent of this charade.

6. From Ms C Cooper

What will happen to the Community Hubs after the end of July and how will vulnerable older people on the Romney Marsh access help with collecting prescriptions and shopping.

7. From Ms I Yerburgh

Given that on 11/12 July there were several lit BBQs in the Lower Leas Coastal Park, and the one park warden stated that he had no powers to intervene, who has the authority and responsibility to issue fines for any antisocial misdemeanours in the Park?

8. From Mr M Hamilton

Under your leadership we have seen huge investment in land and property including the gas works site, Debenhams and Westenhanger Castle.

The spend is in excess of £5.5 million.

Yet East Folkestone is one of the most deprived areas in the South East and now Covid has exaggerated this.

What plans have you to regenerate East Folkestone and over what time scale?

9. From Ms J Spain

When will the work start on the café development beside the lower Leas lift and how are local disabled people of all ages or elderly residents who live here all year round and who do not have their own transport, going to be able to access this facility once completed? The disabled of all ages and elderly have no Councillor that I am aware of, to monitor services which are vital to their physical/ mental wellbeing and inclusion and as such, the council appears to contravene the DDA.

10. From Ms J Darling

"Levelling up" has featured prominently in Conservative Party policy proposals. Inequalities in our country have been further exposed during the pandemic.

These inequalities are embodied by the differences in the prospects and resources of the residents of our borough.

What are the council's plans to alleviate this unacceptably immoral, divisive and disabling situation?

11. From Ms H Jones

Since the Pride flag was not flown during June, despite a democratic vote, will the council arrange mandatory LGBTQ+ training as a matter of urgency for all councillors so that they may represent their marginalised constituents more fully?

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Councillor questions:

1. From Councillor Meyers

Will this council support the calls for a statue to be erected in the honour & memory of Dame Vera Lynn, preferably on the white cliffs of Dover and hopefully on or close to the Battle of Britain memorial?

2. From Councillor Treloar

In a month where the Folkestone Pride march would have otherwise taken place, will you as leader, on behalf of the district council, please provide a statement of support for our LGBTQIA+ community, including a broad condemnation of any act that undermines the fairness, equality and compassion that the community deserves?

3. From Councillor Prater

A number of other councils are looking at merging district and county councils into large unitary authorities. For example, in Surrey there is a proposal to scrap the county council and all the district/borough councils and replace them with a single 'unitary authority' for all of Surrey covering over 1.2 million voters, starting in 2022.

Although there are hugely increased financial pressures on councils due to Covid, it should be for Government to help support councils through that shortfall, not use it as a way of forcing through council mergers.

Many feel that a Unitary authority covering Kent would be massively too big and remote from local people.

What is the Leader's view on a single Kent Unitary authority?

4. From Councillor Keen

I have been asked by a number of residents when will the business plan of Otterpool Park be in the public domain. They are aware that the council are planning the development and that the district now owns a racecourse and a castle but as rate payers of the district they feel that they are being kept in the dark and would like to be informed as to what benefits this development will have for residents and how the loan of 100 million that has been borrowed by F&HDC will be paid back.

5. From Councillor Keutenius

Black Bull Rd has the worst air quality in the district according to a report from July 2019. What actions have been taken over the past 12 months to reduce the amount of

NO2 affecting the residents of Black Bull Rd and the pupils of Mundella Primary School?

6. From Councillor Meade

As it has been reported on the news that land has been procured near Ashford to be use as a clearance area for 4000 lorries, (which would appear to be 2000 spaces short which means again Operation Stack or Brock as it is now called will have to be implemented), for use once the Brexit negotiations have concluded on December 31st 2020 and the proposed re-opening of Manston Airport as an airfreight hub. Does the leader have any information about our District and East Kent becoming a Free Port area and if so what does he believe the pros and cons to our residents could be?

7. From Councillor Davison

The council has, in the past, supported local events as part of Black History Month. Given current events surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement, are there any plans to support similar projects this October?

8. From Councillor McConville

Can you please tell me how many people have approached the council since the start of lockdown on March 23rd who are struggling to pay their council tax and require support?

9. From Councillor Keen

What are the tangible measurements that the council use to determine that The Coastal Park is being managed in line with the charitable aims and objectives, these specify the park is for the use of residents of the district?

10. From Councillor McConville

Given the changes announced to local planning law, which will come into effect in September, has the council submitted any formal correspondence with Robert Jenrick MP Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, either directly or through the LGA?

11. From Councillor Meade

The old Debenhams store was bought quite some time ago by District Council and any news of public consultation as to its proposed future use seems to have gone quiet. Could the leader please give us an update and timings regarding this going forward?