

Meeting: **Leader's Q&A session**
Date: **27 January 2021**
Time: **4.00 pm**
Place: **Zoom - to be streamed live to Youtube.**

To: Councillors Mrs Ann Berry, Danny Brook, Miss Susan Carey, John Collier, Laura Davison, Ray Field, Gary Fuller, Peter Gane, Clive Goddard, David Godfrey, Anthony Hills, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Nicola Keen, Michelle Keutenius, Jim Martin, Philip Martin, Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Ian Meyers, David Monk, Terence Mullard, Stuart Peall, Tim Prater, Patricia Rolfe, Rebecca Shoob, Georgina Treloar, Douglas Wade, Lesley Whybrow, David Wimble and John Wing

1. Questions from the public

This session is limited to 30 minutes.

1. From Mr C Deane to Councillor Wimble, Cabinet Member for the District Economy

In light of F&HDC's recent acquisitions would the Council consider the purchase the old ALDI store in Hythe for community use as a potential library; IT centre; town offices; Civic centre 'outpost', tourist information, gallery, and more besides? It may add significantly to the wellbeing of the High Street and the cost may be offset by the sale of other premises.

2. Questions from Councillors

This session is limited to 45 minutes.

1. From Councillor Keen to Councillor Peall, Cabinet Member for

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Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste and Building Control

The building in Cheriton High St formally known as the White Lion Public House has been derelict since 2006, 15 years. The building has fallen into a state of disrepair and local residents in the area report issues with rats and are concerned that since the roof was removed that the building is open to the elements and the building is unsafe it is also not secure which could lead to it being broken in to and set on fire.

The Building Act of 1925 sections 77 & 78 states that a Local Authority can take steps and order the owner to make the building safe or take emergency action to make said building safe.

Can this issue please be dealt with as a matter of urgency haven't we as the Local Authority got a duty of care to the residents in the nearby properties/area to take such action?

2. From Councillor Keen to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council

Now that we have finally left the EU and we are in the early stages of what was known as the oven ready deal coupled with the chaos that was caused when France closed its borders to UK traffic due to a new strain of the Covid being discovered. Although freight is now moving freely and COVID testing in place for drivers the stress and anxiety it caused for local people who have to commute out of the district for work was huge and local roads and the motor way were strewn with rubbish left by the freight traffic.

Can I please ask what contingency plans do we have in place is something like the events leading up to the 1 January happen again? Had there been a major incident during that period where the M20 and local roads were impassable the outcome could have had a devastating outcome. A 45-minute trip from Maidstone to Folkestone took over 3 hours. Please advise what will be done to safeguard residents.

3. From Councillor Whybrow to Councillor Wimble, Cabinet Member for the District Economy

Can you please let me know the total cost of the council being represented by a QC at the Examination in Public of the Core Strategy Review?

4. From Councillor Treloar to Councillor Peall, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste and Building Control

Considering the noise pollution and disturbance to people and wildlife that jet skis can cause on our otherwise peaceful shoreline, is there any scope in our bye-laws relating to leisure craft to further reduce the speed limit or distance from the shore at which jet-skiers can operate their craft?

5. From Councillor Meade to Councillor Field, Cabinet Member for Digital Transformation

With the further roll out of Residents parking in the area and also the update of our council website would it be possible to simplify the process for booking resident visitors parking passes please? This has been raised with me by residents several times and I myself had to try five times on Thursday to get the website to accept the information - it took nearly 20 minutes.

6. From Councillor Meade to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council

I have been approached by residents in Seabrook as they are becoming increasingly worried regarding the risk of flooding when the Princes Parade building works commence and that their homes could be classed as in a flood risk area which will affect their home insurance. What assurances can District council offer to residents in Seabrook especially as storms, heavy rains and floods are becoming more frequent due to Climate Change?

7. From Councillor Davison to Councillor Wimble, Cabinet Member for the District Economy

Homes being built on the old Wyevale garden centre site in Folkestone have been built too close to trees along the site boundary with Castle Hill Avenue and Shorncliffe road. This has led to an application from the developer to remove or cut these trees back, including the loss of an imposing Corsican pine. This was

entirely foreseeable. So why was permission given for this development to be built so close to the trees, which are protected by a tree protection order, despite advice at the time, and against the wishes of local residents?

8. From Councillor Davison to Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities

What percentage of the district's Covid winter grant scheme budget has been distributed so far, and how many families have been helped?

9. From Councillor McConville to Councillor Wimble, Cabinet Member for the District Economy

What, if any, amount of funding has been given to businesses in error with regards to the Covid business support grants?

10. From Councillor McConville to Councillor Wimble, Cabinet Member for the District Economy

Could you please offer an update to the residents of East Folkestone regarding the planning proposal for Highview school? The application for 30 much needed social houses was submitted in June of 2019.