COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 MAY 2023

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 16.1.1

First Questions

1. From Councillor Prad Bains to Councillor Steve Forster, Executive Member for Education

On 30 March 2022, the Education Advisory Panel received an update on the departments actions to promote racial equality in schools.

This presentation referenced the findings of Maria Miller's BAME Enquiry, respondents to this pro-active enquiry described some Hampshire based schools as being weak in handling racist abuse, sometimes dismissed abuse as being insignificant and enquiry participants also felt that schools had differing expectations of BAME pupils and could lack ambition for them as a result.

What steps has the department taken in the past fourteen months to address how Hampshire schools are handling racist abuse towards BAME pupils, and what additional support is being made available to school leaders to ensure they are able to meet the needs of every child from every background?

2. From Councillor Louise Parker-Jones to Councillor Nick Adams-King, Executive Lead Member for Universal Services

In 2018, Zuidhoek-Nieuwkoop, in the Netherlands became the first area in the world to introduce red street lighting. In a paper published by the Royal Society Spoelstra et al (2017) 'Response of bats to light with different spectra: light-shy and agile bat presence is affected by white and green, but not red light' reported that scientists had discovered white street lighting had been negatively affecting bats, which are an important part of biodiversity including as a pollinator. I will not go into full details here, but you are welcome to read the article.

This small change has significantly improved the prospects for Bats and has not adversely impacted upon people using the light to walk home or to drive by.

Since its introduction in the Netherlands other areas have adopted the policy. Most recently Worcestershire County Council, which rolled out red streets over the last few years.

Will Hampshire County Council adopt such a policy and help our bats and nocturnal wildlife?

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3. From Councillor Tim Groves to Councillor Nick Adams-King, Executive Lead Member for Universal Services

Test Valley Borough Council has stated that next year it will be able to recycle plastic pots, tubs and trays, plastic wrapping, tetrapaks and cartons in their bins next year. Will Hampshire dispose and recycle these, and have infrastructure to deal with any of these next year; and if not when will the Hampshire authorities have such facilities available for this type and mix of recycling?

4. From Councillor Jackie Porter to Councillor Nick Adams-King, Executive Lead Member for Universal Services

How many motorists and cyclists have made claims (whether successfully and unsuccessfully) for damaged vehicles and accidents due to potholes in the first three months of 2023?

Second Questions

5. From Councillor Jackie Porter to Councillor Nick Adams-King, Executive Lead Member for Universal Services

If it is considered safe for a member of the public to cross a road when the busy traffic is travelling at 30mph, why is it considered unsafe for a pedestrian to enter an HWRC where the traffic speeds are much lower and users of the site are already on foot depositing their own recycling there?

Third Questions

6. From Councillor Jackie Porter to Councillor Nick Adams-King, Executive Lead Member for Universal Services

How many children and young people are going to be paying 27% more for their school transport from September 2023?