

COUNTY COUNCIL – 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 16.1.1

First Questions:

1. From Councillor Andy Tree to Councillor Rob Humby, Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

What is happening in the next twelve months in terms of any changes to the existing bus service that serves my electoral division of Whitehill, Bordon and Lindford?

2. From Councillor Jackie Porter to Councillor Rob Humby, Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

The impact of the limit to one visit a week to the HWRC's and the booking system seems to have resulted in many gaps of time where smaller sites at least have been devoid of users. Can you provide me with details of the waste tonnage collected, and the percentages recycled over two months of the pre-pandemic system and the comparator month in 2021, (eg: June/July 2019 and 2021) at both Alresford and Winchester HWRC's in Hampshire as an example?

3. From Councillor Chris Donnelly to Councillor Ros Chadd, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services:

Lockdown and social distancing have been a traumatic and harmful experience for many of our young people across Hampshire. As a school governor I have seen first-hand the impact on children who have been denied socialisation at a key point in their development and teenagers who couldn't sit exams, couldn't see their friends, were sent home without any proper rite of passage to end their schooldays and then missed Freshers Week and first year of university. This is going to manifest itself in long lasting mental health problems for so many county residents.

Would the Lead Member reassure the council that this issue has been identified across our departments and that appropriate support will be put in place to respond to the need in schools and youth services?

4. From Councillor Phil North to Councillor Rob Humby, Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

The booking system for HWRCs divides opinion. Whilst many people appreciate the certainty of not having to queue - others find it difficult to find their desired timeslot or face the prospect of having to store DIY waste for a number of weeks because of the one visit per 7-day rule. Now most of the Covid restrictions have come to an end - can the Executive Member inform the council what measures have been taken to increase booking capacity and what he's doing to find a solution for those who need multiple trips on the same day?

5. From Councillor Adrian Collett to Councillor Keith Mans, Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Policy and Resources:

The Balancing the Budget Consultation, which took place several months ago, included a wide range of options for people to comment on.

At the previous Council meeting, which was rightly cancelled due to Covid safety concerns regarding use of the Council Chamber, I tabled a question to the Leader asking why residents of Hampshire were not also asked for their views on whether they felt that the Government, and Hampshire MPs in particular, should be lobbied more vigorously for a better financial settlement for Hampshire to allow more important local services to be protected.

The Leader kindly responded to my question in writing but did not really answer the fundamental question of why this option was not included for comment by our residents. I would be grateful if he would please do so now.

6. From Councillor Zoe Huggins to Councillor Jan Warwick, Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability:

With COP26 Just over a month away can we have an update on how HCC is progressing its climate change strategy, with consideration of recent climate emergencies such as flooding across the County and HCC's ability to prepare for, recover from, and adapt, our climate resilience.

7. From Councillor Rupert Kyrle to Councillor Rob Humby, Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

Government has recently approved new Badger Culling licences for Hampshire, as well as other new areas and extensions to existing culling licences, despite committing to phasing out Badger Culling in favour of vaccination of cattle and badgers, including other measures, to help reduce the spread of Bovine TB. In September 2013, I tabled a motion to this Council, which was overwhelmingly supported by members, stating that, if Badger Culling was to be rolled out in the future to areas including Hampshire, that Hampshire County Council would not allow Badger Culling to take place on any of its County owned or leased land, given that the science is not proven or conclusive that the culling of badgers is the answer to eradicating Bovine TB from the countryside. Will the Cabinet Member for Environment reaffirm this Councils policy, as agreed overwhelmingly by this Council in 2013, that no Badger Culling will be allowed to take place on any County owned or leased land, now or in the future?

8. From Councillor Martin Tod to Councillor Liz Fairhurst, Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health:

What benefits to Hampshire County Council's social care funding and provision does the Executive Member expect from the government's recently announced introduction of a 1.25% Health and Social Care Levy based on National Insurance?

Second Questions:

9. From Councillor Andy Tree to Councillor Rob Humby, Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment:

How does Hampshire County Council ensure that towns/urban areas that are the size of Whitehill & Bordon with Lindford are given a larger share of bus subsidies than those equivalent-sized and smaller towns/villages that have a railway station, where unlike us in Whitehill, Bordon and Lindford, those communities separately benefit from having railway stations?

10. From Councillor Jackie Porter to Councillor Russell Oppenheimer, Executive Member for Highways Operations:

In the light of the slow roll out of Kings Barton and the uncertain future use of Andover Road south of Wellhouse Lane, there is no cycle route into college, or Winchester itself.

Would the council consider the use of the footway south of the Well House junction into Winchester as a permissive cycle path too, at least until it reaches the 40mph zone, and as a TRO -possibly time limited until the Kings Barton cycle network is complete?

Third Questions:

11. From Councillor Jackie Porter to Councillor Stephen Reid, Executive Member for Performance, Human Resources and Partnerships:

HCC is a significant employer in the care sector in both children and adult services. What do you estimate will be the additional cost of employing our staff at HCC when the additional National Insurance charge comes in, and how will HCC compensate our staff, many on the lower pay grades, for their loss in take home pay?