

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions – Council 23rd July 2015

Question 1 from Councillor Hadley to the Executive Councillor for Children and Learning

Question

Come September four of the five Shoebury Primary schools will be full and the only one with any available places is Thorpedene. In all other areas of the town schools are being expanded to meet the rising numbers. Can the portfolio holder please tell me what the plans are to provide more places for our Shoebury children?

Answer

I am aware of the increase for pupil numbers in reception for September 2015 in the Shoebury area. Officers have put in place additional reception places at Friars Primary School to ensure that there are sufficient places in the area for this year group now and into the future.

The live births in the area do not indicate a need for additional permanent places in Shoebury. Officers are investigating the uptake of places in relation to birth numbers and any specific increases in pre-school pupils' numbers from new residential developments.

Should there be a need for additional places in Shoebury either temporarily or permanently then a report will be made to School Places Working Party in due course about any proposed expansions.

Question 2 from Councillor Aylen to the Executive Councillor for Housing, Planning & Regulatory Control

Question

Decision of Licensing Sub Committee A on 25th June – Greenhouse Restaurant

More than one hundred and fifty residents, who live in the vicinity of the Greenhouse, objected to the granting of a premises licence in respect of

the Greenhouse Restaurant because they feared operations under the new licence would create a public nuisance.

Can the portfolio holder explain the basis of the Committees decision?

Answer

The reasons for the decision are fully set out in the minutes at page 99 of the Council book.

While I understand that no appeal to the Magistrates' Court has been lodged by any objectors, the period for doing so does not expire until 27 July.

Question 3 from Councillor Aylen to the Leader of the Council

Question

A number of reports in the local press attributed to Cabinet holders appear to give no credit to ward Councillors who have created and promoted the initiatives.

Would the leader of the council address this point?

Answer

When the media team issue press releases it is appropriate to refer to statements from the relevant Cabinet Member who acts as official Council spokespeople and as an expression of Council policy. If a Cabinet Member wishes to recognise the contribution of a Ward Member in respect of a particular matter then they are able to do so if appropriate.

Question 4 from Councillor Assenheim to the Executive Councillor for Public Protection, Waste & Transport

Question

Given the amount of weeds and wild flowers which are growing in many of the gutters and on the pavements around the Borough especially in my ward in Shoeburyness, will the Portfolio please state as to when this situation will be dealt with and give assurances that the situation will then be continued to be kept under control, with not just the use of ineffective weed killer spray?

Answer

The weed killers that are used are effective. However, it has already been noted that there is a weed growth spurt in some areas of the Borough. To react to this, I can advise that the Parks Team, who do an excellent job in dealing with this matter, have already undertaken two full weed treatments so far across the Borough this year and have now scheduled in a further two treatments to target the areas where weed growth is apparent. The areas around Shoeburyness were sprayed at the end of last week.

The first of these additional treatments has already commenced. Cory will continue to remove the dead weeds as part of their scheduled Borough wide cleansing programme. This will ensure that the street scene is maintained in the best order over the coming months. Weed spraying and management will be an integral part of the new contract with Veolia from the 5th October 2015.

Question 5 from Councillor Buckley to the Executive Councillor for Health & Adult Social Care

Question

Will the Portfolio Holder advise me when the scheme for data sharing between GP's and social workers is going live?

Answer

The data sharing scheme which will link and share data between health and social care service users within the borough of Southend will go live on 27th July 2015. There is a period of time allocated to downloading the data from the respective systems and integrated data will be available for review mid / late August.

This is an innovative new scheme that is intended to improve the health and wellbeing of service users and patients of Southend. Southend is the first area of the country to receive permission from the Secretary of State for Health to share and link data in this way.

Question 6 from Councillor McMahon to the Executive Councillor for Enterprise, Tourism and Economic Development

Please can you confirm that the current administration will fully commit to ensure that the Saxon King/Prittlewell Prince returns to Southend, by the construction of a new and permanent home, by making this an action item rather than as it seemed under the former administration, a vague aspiration?

Answer

The Council is currently undertaking a project, with Capital Investment agreed by the current Administration, to provide the correct environmental conditions within which to safely and securely store the artefacts from the Prittlewell Prince finds. The project will be completed by the end of this financial year. This will ensure that the Prittlewell Prince artefacts can be returned in their entirety from the Museum of London to Southend. In 2016 we will be exhibiting a selection of the artefacts from the finds in the Central Museum in a 6 month long exhibition, "Saxon Warriors & the Prittlewell Prince".

The delivery of the new museum has been made a key priority for the Council. The aim is for the new museum to become a major international attraction in the town which will be a year-round visitor destination housing the Prittlewell Prince finds as well as the artefacts from the London Shipwreck and other elements of the Museums' collections.

Question 7 from Councillor McMahon to the Executive Councillor for Enterprise, Tourism and Economic Development

Please can you share with me how I and others can donate monies towards funding a new building to house the Prittlewell Prince?

Answer

As part of the fundraising aspect of the project, the Council is in the process of establishing a fundraising trust for the new Museum. Once established, there will be a range of mechanisms to enable people and organisations to contribute.

This will include on-line giving, as well as the more traditional routes such as cheques. The fundraising campaign is planned to be launched during the autumn.