

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Council Meeting – 20th October 2016

Question 1 from Mr Garne to the Executive Councillor for Health and Adult Social Care

Question

What actions, in cooperation with other relevant agencies, is the Administration undertaking to maintain and enhance the provision of primary healthcare in Shoeburyness and West Shoebury?

Answer

The responsibility for the commissioning of primary care in Shoeburyness and West Shoebury rests with NHS England. From 1st April 2016, NHS Southend Clinical Commissioning Group assumed greater powers to jointly commission primary care services with NHS England.

The Council's Director of Public Health and the joint Associate Director of Integrated Commissioning are both members of the NHS Southend Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body and the Clinical Executive Committee, and are able to input into discussions and decision making about the various aspects of primary care across the whole of the borough.

The development of a Shoeburyness Primary Care Centre is key part of Southend Clinical Commissioning Group's strategic vision for primary care in the east of the borough and locality model of service delivery. Both the Director of Public Health and the joint Associate Director of Integrated Commissioning have been involved from the outset with this project. In addition the Ward councillors and other council officers meet regularly with the Clinical Commissioning Group and local residents as part of a Shoeburyness Primary Care Centre task and finish group.

Question 2 from Mr Webb to the Executive Councillor for Transport, Waste and Cleansing

Question

I asked this question through an email to Southend Council at the beginning of September and have had no reply. Due to the increase drinking outside Westcliff library, smoking and general litter increased since July 2016 to present day. Who is responsible to keep the area outside Westcliff library clean by the benches and in the bushes and how often are they cleaned?

Answer

The area immediately outside the library is the responsibility of the Council and is cleared regularly by contractors and additionally on instruction by the Library team. Unfortunately despite these cleansing arrangements, as quickly as it is cleared, it quickly attracts more litter which is blown along London Rd.

Volunteers from the Council initiative 'Make Southend Sparkle' have also been involved in cleaning the area recently. Local community groups are taking an active interest in the area and the Council is supporting them on this.

Question 3 from Mr Webb to the Executive Councillor for Transport, Waste and Cleansing

Question

When someone puts a planning application to change of use, house into flats and builds a drive way. Why can there not be a clause in the planning to put a drop kerb onto the driveway prior to the occupation as many in Westborough have built a driveway but not applied for a drop kerb and council tax money is repeated being used to fix kerbs where the vehicles bump over it to go onto their own driveway?

Answer

In cases where a planning permission is required to develop a site for flats, the Council can impose a condition on the grant of planning permission which requires suitable arrangements for access and parking to be provided. Where hard standings are installed in dwelling houses they may not require planning. If permission is not required it is not possible to impose a planning condition.

Separate to the need for planning permission permanent vehicle crossovers (known as PVX's) require the consent of the Council as the Highway Authority - this is distinct from and separate to planning permission. The Council has a policy and application process for PVX's.

Question 4 from Mr Miller to the Executive Councillor for Housing, Planning and Public Protection Services

Are Council members satisfied that the technical work on parking capacity is adequate, given the serious concerns already raised by seafront traders? It is important to be satisfied that this is right because it will have far-reaching consequences on the future of the seafront as a tourism destination and seafront traders have raised serious flaws in the technical work undertaken.

Answer

The parking survey work was undertaken by Steer Davies Gleave, a nationally respected company specialising in this aspect of research and policy development. The report on parking is informed by actual survey data (surveys using video cameras). These surveys were carried out on the 13th and 15th August 2015 and the 23rd, 25th and 26th March 2016 and the 30th May 2016. Steer Davies Gleave are confident their research is robust and the data is perfectly adequate to inform the preparation of the SCAAP.

Question 5 from Mr Miller to the Executive Councillor for Housing, Planning and Public Protection Services

Are Council members satisfied that the proposed policies are going to be effective in ensuring that the seafront remains an attractive destination for visitors, as they would seem to allow for a reduction in accessible spaces in favour of comparatively remote spaces that may not be attractive to visitors of the town, and do not appear to take into account the trip generation of the developments proposed on the car parks?

Answer

It is not correct to say that the policies in the SCAAP would allow the reduction in accessible spaces. The relevant section of the SCAAP says this:

There are currently around 2,600 publicly available car parking spaces south of the railway line serving the seafront and southern parts of Southend Central Area. As a result of the peak capacity issues, as identified by the Parking Study, and to support the vitality and viability of the central seafront area, it is expected that there will be no net loss of public car parking south of the railway line, and where viable and feasible, the Council will seek further provision in association with development (pages 44/45).