

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 2 December 2021

Questions by Members

| | Question by | To be answered by | Subject |
|---|---------------|---|---|
| 1 | Cllr Sinden | Executive Member for Corporate Policy and Resources, Cllr Lewanski | Electric Car Charging Points |
| 2 | Cllr Essex | Executive Member for Housing and Support, Cllr Neame | Household Support Grant |
| 3 | Cllr Stevens | Executive Member for Leisure and Culture, Cllr Sachdeva | The Harlequin |
| 4 | Cllr Chandler | Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Bramhall | New Pond Farm |
| 5 | Cllr Chandler | Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Bramhall | Allotments at New Pond Farm <i>(to be answered in writing)</i> |
| 6 | Cllr McKenna | Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery, Cllr Biggs | Marketfield Way |
| 7 | Cllr Ritter | Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery, Cllr Biggs | Job Creation from New Developments |

Councillor Sinden will ask the **Executive Member for Corporate Policy and Resources, Cllr Lewanski** the following question:

Question 1: Electric Car Charging Points

Please can you provide details of the accessibility of the borough's current electric car charging points to those with disability, including those in council car parks, and overall plans for increasing charging points in the future?

Councillor Essex will ask the **Executive Member for Housing and Support, Cllr Neame**, the following question:

Question 2: Household Support Grant

The loss of the £20 Universal Credit uplift will have negatively affected around 9,000 people in Reigate and Banstead (source www.surreyi.org.uk). Instead the government allocated the Household Support Grant to county councils to provide financial support for vulnerable households. Surrey County Council allocated £2.8 million of this to borough and district councils and most of the rest will be used to provide free school meals through the school holidays. Please can you confirm the amount received by Reigate and Banstead and how this is planned to support those most in need, including those with less income due to the cut in Universal Credit.

Councillor Stevens will ask the **Executive Member for Leisure and Culture, Cllr Sachdeva** the following question:

Question 3: The Harlequin

Almost 20 years ago, the Harlequin theatre hosted regular Metal and Punk gigs under the name of the "Redhill Takeover". These events proved extremely popular and if I recall, nearly always had a full house on the night. It was great for the local economy and also supported many young up and coming acts and attracted well known British acts of the day. For a short while, the Harlequin was almost on a par with other small but very well-known venues on the British touring circuit for the south east, such as the Tunbridge Wells Forum and the Brighton Concord 2.

Whilst the Harlequin still continues to put on successful theatre productions, comedy gigs and tribute acts, I do feel it is a shame that the Harlequin's viable potential as a thriving music venue, as proved from those excellent shows I attended in my teenage years, was ultimately never fully realised. Would the executive member look into promoting the Harlequin as a suitable venue for promoters of touring acts? As I feel this can only be a positive move in putting the Harlequin and Redhill on the touring map of this country.

Councillor Chandler will ask the **Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Bramhall** the following question:

Question 4: New Pond Farm

Having spent a considerable sum of money to understand the flora, fauna and natural environment of the New Pond Farm area and potential improvements (and it would be interesting to know exactly how much) will the council be capitalising upon this position by bringing forward a proposal for its better use and enjoyment by the residents for consultation?

Councillor Chandler will ask the **Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Bramhall** the following question:

Question 5: Allotments at New Pond Farm

The opportunity to grow your own produce is well recognised as having huge social benefit as well as supporting residents to achieve sustainability and self-reliance. Rising food costs are impacting local families and increasing the use of food banks. New Pond farm allotments have not been let whilst the planning proposal was being considered depriving many of an opportunity. Please can the council confirm the current waiting list for allotments across the borough and that the temporary halt to letting allotments at New Pond Farm is now being reviewed and vacant plots now offered to residents who have been waiting patiently on the waiting list?

A written answer is to be provided.

Councillor McKenna will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery, Cllr Biggs** the following question:

Question 6: Marketfield Way

At a time when the Council is failing to deliver a decent amount of social housing to those of our residents in need, isn't it right that we scrutinise ever more carefully the decisions this Council has made on housing. The Council's flagship mixed residential and commercial scheme at Marketfield Way in the town centre includes 150 luxury flats with concierge service, gym and other features all pre-sold to private rented specialist Kookie, with no social housing at all, on this publicly owned site. Taking into account this forward sale, plus the fact the Council is left with a lot of high value retail/leisure space in the town centre, and most importantly subsidy to the Council of £2m grant from Coast to Capital LEP can the Council advise us of the impact of all this good news on viability of the scheme in terms of surplus over and above the normal developers return (Usually 15% profit on cost) and what this would equate to in affordable housing units if we were considering the scheme today?

Councillor Ritter will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery, Cllr Biggs** the following question:

Question 7: Job Creation from New Developments

Policy EMP5 in Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's Development management plan (DMP) states that this council will seek to secure a minimum of 20% of total jobs created by the construction of new development (of 25 or more homes) for local residents or apprenticeships. Opportunities for training and placement schemes targeted at local residents in respect of any jobs created through the end use of any non-residential development will also be explored. In light of this, could the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery please give an update on what percentage of jobs have been created in this way for local residents, since the start of the plan, what percentage of new developments have been assessed on this requirement, and whether the training and placement opportunities being explored include developing the skills needed for retrofitting homes in the Borough or other 'Green' jobs.