

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 29 July 2021

Questions by Members

Nos.	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1	Cllr Torra	Executive Member for Finance, Cllr Tony Schofield	Cutting of Hedges and Trees
2	Cllr Harrison	Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery, Cllr Biggs	Build Back Better High Streets
3	Cllr Essex	The Leader of the Council, Cllr Brunt	Nuclear Non-Proliferation
4	Cllr Booton	The Leader of the Council, Cllr Brunt	Engaging with residents on Greenspaces
5	Cllr Sinden	Executive Member for Community Partnerships, Cllr Ashford	Support for Long Covid Sufferers
6	Cllr Harp	Executive Member for Finance, Cllr Tony Schofield	Mowing of Grass Verges
7	Cllr Chandler	Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery, Cllr Biggs	Surrey County Council Local Transport Plan LTP4 for Consultation
8	Cllr Ritter	The Leader of the Council, Cllr Brunt	Review of Redhill and Earlswood Common Management Plans

Councillor Torra will ask the **Executive Member for Finance, Councillor Schofield**, the following question:

Question 1: Cutting of Hedges and Trees

What is the Council doing to ensure that all of the hedges and trees next to paths and public roads, particularly on walking routes to schools, that Reigate and Banstead Borough Council is responsible for are cut sufficiently – noting the specified non-cutting season of May-October - to ensure, alongside efforts by Surrey County Council, the full width of pavements, paths and associated sight lines (for vehicles and pedestrians at junctions and visibility of road signs) are maintained?

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

Question 2: Build Back Better High Streets

The government has unveiled their long-term plan to support the evolution and regeneration of high streets, with a commitment to breathe new life into town centres, with the 'Build Back Better High Streets' strategy.

We are told that it will transform derelict buildings, clean up streets and support a renewed sense of community. Councils are to be given new powers, and are encouraged to use existing powers to upgrade towns.

On a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor), how does the Council evaluate the situation in each of its 4 towns - Banstead, Horley, Redhill and Reigate? What are the Councils top priorities in each of these towns?

Councillor Essex will ask **The Leader of the Council, Councillor Brunt**, the following question:

Question 3: Nuclear Non-Proliferation

I would like to ask this question on behalf of Reigate and Redhill CND group who are concerned the government is planning to increase nuclear weapons by 40% and that our borough council area should recognise that this is against the Nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which the UK government is signed up to. Would the Leader join me in writing to our MPs to challenge the increase of Nuclear Arsenal by 40%, which is against the spirit of the non-proliferation treaty, which the UK has committed to, and will the Council formally recognise this being the 40th anniversary of the non-proliferation treaty in some way?

Councillor Booton will ask **The Leader of the Council, Councillor Brunt**, the following question:

Question 4: Engaging with residents on Greenspaces

What can the Council do to ensure resident's views are collected and considered in respect of improvements and ideas in relation to the Borough's Greenspaces? This is in addition to online provisions that are already in place however are often overlooked or simply not accessible to resident's who don't have internet access.

Councillor Sinden will ask the **Executive Member for Community Partnerships, Councillor Ashford**, the following question:

Question 5: Support for Long Covid Sufferers

This question is about what support sufferers from Long Covid can receive in Reigate and Banstead. I understand that there is a Long Covid Clinic at East Surrey Hospital, but it has a long waiting list. Can you confirm how many Long Covid clinics are operating in the Borough and what else is being provided, including specifically things being done by this Council, such as through our community centres and leisure services?

Councillor Harp will ask the **Executive Member for Finance, Councillor Schofield**, the following question:

Question 6 Mowing of Grass Verges

To provide clarity for our residents, could the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services explain the council's current policy and practice relating to the mowing of grass verges for both residential roads and larger highways?

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

Question 7 Surrey County Council Local Transport Plan LTP4 for Consultation

Following the progressive proposals set out in the Surrey County Council Local Transport Plan LTP4 for Consultation, will Reigate and Banstead Borough Council confirm how they will take a lead on the measures set out by the County Council, and in particular how this could be applied to manage demand down for fossil fuel powered transport to Reigate Town Hall?

Councillor Ritter will ask **The Leader of the Council, Councillor Brunt**, the following question:

Question 8 Review of Redhill and Earlswood Common Management Plans

Many residents have been commenting and asking questions about the way in which our Greenspaces are managed, perhaps since the lockdowns over the past year have brought many more people into contact with their local outdoor areas but also as there is a growing awareness of the need to turn the tide on biodiversity loss by managing our green spaces to enable insects, pollinators, butterflies, birds and other wildlife to thrive, alongside our enjoyment of them.

As a member of the Earlswood Common Management steering group I am aware that there has been a discussion about public consultation on the Management plan that is currently under review. However, it would appear to the public, from the RBBC website, that the last time this group met was in February 2020 (as Nov 2020 and June 2021 meeting minutes are not yet posted on the website) and there is no mention about the Management Plan review or how residents will be able to feed into this.

Given the strong public interest can you give assurance that the review of Redhill and Earlswood Commons Management plans are being given the urgency they deserve (particularly as the last Earlswood Common plan expired in 2013 and the golf course closed in March 2019) and that a date will soon be set for a public consultation to enable the plan to be agreed and in the public domain this year and in time for winter tree planting?