

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Meeting of Council 30 March 2023
Public Questions

	Question by	Answered by	Subject
1.	10 th Redhill Guides	Councillor Mrs Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Litter bins
2.	10 th Redhill Guides	Councillor Biggs, Executive Member for Planning Policy & Place Delivery	Public Toilets
3.	Mr Edward (Jed) Dwight	Councillor Biggs, Executive Member for Planning Policy & Place Delivery	Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

A representative of the 10th Redhill Guides asked the **Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Mrs Bramhall**, the following question:

Question 1: Litter bins

Could the council provide more litter bins to help keep Redhill tidier?

Response

Thank you for your very thoughtful question Hayley.

All of the litter bins in Redhill were upgraded in 2021, we installed slightly larger bins, to offer more capacity for litter disposal.

The council's Cleansing team visit Redhill every-day and the bins are emptied at least twice daily. We have a Redhill 'Beat Man' who's name is John, and it's his responsibility it is to keep Redhill looking as tidy as possible.

In line with the completion of The Rise leisure complex, we will, this year, be undertaking a full-scale review of bin placement in Redhill.

We have been successful in an application for funding to purchase and install 80 Big Belly Bins, these bins are solar panelled and have a mechanism in the bin, that squashes all of the rubbish, which means it takes much longer to fill up and can hold a lot more rubbish.

In the coming months, we will be looking at the whole borough to consider the best place to install these bins and you are very likely to see some installed in Redhill at some point in the near future.

Our 'no rubbish excuses' anti-littering campaign promoted on the existing bins in Redhill will be revisited for spring as the main challenge we face is the unwillingness of some to use the bins for litter as they are intended.

Any support the Guides can offer in getting the message across to residents to dispose of their rubbish responsibly, would be greatly received.

No supplementary question was forthcoming.

A representative of the 10th Redhill Guides asked the **Executive Member for Planning Policy & Place Delivery, Councillor Biggs**, the following question:

Question 2: Public Toilets

As there are no public toilets in Redhill open 24-hours would it be possible to have some either in the memorial park or in Gloucester Road car park?

Response

Thank you for your question Hayley – it's great to see that our local guides are looking for opportunities to improve the facilities provided for our local community. We hope you are finding it interesting to join us tonight.

One of our biggest challenges each year as Councillors is deciding how to spend the council's budget; this means making difficult choices about priorities for investment.

Providing public toilets is an important community facility and we are always looking at ways to improve how they operate.

For example, we have recently received £35k to invest in a much-needed changing places toilet for adults with disabilities.

Our current priority is to make sure that clean and safe facilities are available when the majority of people need them, however, it is not possible to provide a 24-hour facility within current budgets.

But thank you for the suggestion and we'll bear it in mind for the future.

No supplementary question was forthcoming.

Mr Edward (Jed) Dwight asked the **Executive Member for Planning Policy & Place Delivery, Councillor Biggs**, the following question:

Question 3: Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Many will be aware that the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (or AONB) passes through the Borough of Reigate & Banstead, along the North Downs escarpment, and that Natural England has been tasked with the first review of the AONB's boundary since the AONB was designated in 1958.

Running between 7th March and 13th June, Natural England re now holding a "Public Consultation" on the proposed AONB boundary extensions and, noting that those proposals include areas such as Reigate Heath, Chipstead, Banstead and Netherne-on-the-Hill; I would like to ask the following questions:

- Does the Council fully support the currently proposed Surrey Hills AONB boundary extensions within the Borough of Reigate & Banstead?
- Arising from the "Public Consultation", if any amendments were proposed to include parts of the original "Areas of Search" that are presently excluded, would the Council fully support those amendments?
- What steps are the Council taking to notify individual homeowners or land owners whose properties are situated within the currently proposed AONB boundary extensions?

Response:

Thank you Mister Mayor and thank you for your question Mr Dwight, I'm pleased that you're taking an active interest in the consultation and would take the opportunity to encourage Members and other residents to do likewise.

The Council has been actively involved in the processes that have led to the current consultation on the Surrey Hills AONB extension. We are of course supportive of any proposals which seek to extend the protection offered to our cherished landscapes and help increase people's awareness of them.

The Council will be responding to the consultation, just as many others have been asked to do and so it is a little too early in the process for us to be able to advise on the detail of the areas for proposed for inclusion, or indeed exclusion.

We will assess the proposals in detail and seek to ensure that the highest quality landscapes are included within the AONB designation. Therefore, whilst we may request further extensions or indeed support further extensions arising from the public consultation, we will seek to do so only where we feel these are merited.

It is DEFRA/Natural England's consultation undertaken in accordance with section 82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It is not for this Council to notify individual homeowners, however, we are seeking to publicise the consultation as far as possible to seek to maximise engagement from our residents and so you will have seen and will continue to see various social media or articles in our written literature on it over the coming weeks.

The Surrey Hills are a much valued and cherished feature of the Borough and its surroundings, and I had intended to draw attention to the consultation through a statement in tonight's agenda to maximise engagement from local Members and residents. However, I think your question and my answer to it has allowed us the opportunity to cover the issue here rather than in a separate statement, so I thank you for that and encourage everyone to look at the Consultations proposals and get involved.

Supplementary Question

Do you think there is a future role for the Council to make sure that local residents, particularly those within the proposed extended area, to be made fully aware of the impact this might have on them and to ensure they are given the opportunity to respond?

Response to Supplementary Question

It is the responsibility of Members and the Council to ensure that residents are aware of this consultation and to get a many responses as possible so that Natural England will make a good and wise decision on protecting areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.