

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 21 September 2023

Questions by Members

Verbal responses to be given at the meeting			
	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1.	Councillor Ritter	Councillor Biggs, the Leader of the Council	Community Development Team
2.	Councillor Chester	Councillor Biggs, the Leader of the Council	Gatwick Airport Planning Application
3.	Councillor Smith	Councillor Ashford, Executive Member for Communities, Leisure & Culture	Anti-Social Behaviour in Redhill Town Centre
4.	Councillor Essex	Councillor Ashford, Executive Member for Communities, Leisure & Culture	Anti-Social Behaviour
5.	Councillor Khan	Councillor Ashford, Executive Member for Communities, Leisure & Culture	Community Transport Service
6.	Councillor Tary	Councillor Ashford, Executive Member for Communities, Leisure & Culture	Household Support Fund
7.	Councillor Sinden	Councillor Ashford, Executive Member for Communities, Leisure & Culture	Support for charities
8.	Councillor Sachdeva	Councillor Moses, the Executive Member for Environment & Sustainability	Woodlands at Wray Common
9.	Councillor Dwight	Councillor Lewanski, Deputy Leader and the Executive Member for Finance, Governance & Organisation	The Council's finances
10.	Councillor Booton	Councillor Lewanski, Deputy Leader and the Executive Member for	Voluntary and Community Sector Reserve Fund

		Finance, Governance & Organisation	
11.	Councillor Fairhurst	Councillor Neame, Executive Member for Housing & Support	Temporary Accommodation
12.	Councillor Buttironi	Councillor Michalowski, Executive Member for Place, Planning & Regulatory Services	The Local Plan
13.	Councillor McKenna	Councillor Michalowski, Executive Member for Place, Planning & Regulatory Services	Section 106 Monies
Written responses to be given after the meeting			
14.	Councillor Khan	Councillor Ashford, Executive Member for Communities, Leisure & Culture	Merstham Mix

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

Question 1: Community Development Team

This council takes great pride in its community development team and the increasing collaborative work with health partners in the new Integrated Care Systems and Place based Partnerships within the NHS, as shared in the Leader's update at Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6th September. Can the Leader of the Council share the Council's level of ambition going forwards for the community development team, including securing funding to keep existing posts and whether it is planned to be expanded to work across our whole Borough to align to the NHS's new Place-based partnerships of East Surrey and Surrey Downs, so that all residents and communities might benefit from the preventative healthcare/ community development and support work that they do so effectively?

Councillor Chester will ask **Leader of the Council, Councillor Biggs**, the following question:

Question 2: Gatwick Airport Planning Application

Now Gatwick Airport's planning application for a second runway has been accepted by government, ignoring the Adequacy of Consultation call, from this and other councils, showing that Gatwick Airport's Consultation was inadequate, how will Councillors be briefed, and how will the Council engage with the residents to ensure they are correctly informed and supported to register before the 29 October deadline so they are able their say in this extremely important planning consultation?

Councillor Smith will ask the **Executive Member for Communities, Leisure & Culture, Councillor Ashford**, the following question:

Question 3: Anti-Social Behaviour in Redhill Town Centre

There is a growing problem of Anti-Social Behaviour in Redhill Town Centre. Our local businesses, residents and visitors report threats, bottle throwing and general low-level harassment during the day and night.

The Redhill Development Plan, published in 2009, states that there is a 20-year plan for turning around Redhill Town Centre and developing it to become “a safe, people-friendly, desirable place to be...”. At present we are a long way from realising that aspiration the situation in Redhill Town Centre and Memorial Park is deteriorating and affecting everyone in the Borough. Redhill should, by 2029, be “the focal point for East Surrey’s, and one of the regions, major towns.”

I was surprised to hear from a JET member a few weeks ago where he explained that RBBC were unable to gather evidence of anti-social behaviour , to target resources and assist in prosecution, as the majority of cameras in Redhill Town Centre were not working. He informed me that when CCTV stopped working they weren't fixed and more worryingly hadn't been monitored for a very long time.

As the local councillor I've not seen a regular light touch policing presence in Redhill for many years, the lack of both regular neighbourhood policing and effective and monitored CCTV are at odds to the Town Centre Plan about creating a safe, people-friendly, desirable place to be which has just 6 years left to run.

Would Councillor Ashford please confirm for me and the residents, businesses and visitors how many working CCTV cameras there are in Redhill Town Centre now and if they are monitored 24hrs a day and 7 days a week.

Councillor Essex will ask **Executive Member for Communities, Leisure & Culture, Councillor Ashford**, the following question:

Question 4: Anti-Social Behaviour

What more can the Council do, including through its joint enforcement team and its support to youth services and the voluntary sector to better tackle ASB, including Redhill, Merstham and elsewhere across the borough.

Councillor Khan will ask the **Leader of the Council, Councillor Biggs**, the following question:

Question 5: Community Transport Service

Earlier this month, following the success of a service launched in Mole Valley, Surrey County Council's Digital Demand Responsive Transport service expanded to cover Tandridge. This community transport service aims to, "improve access to services where there are fewer buses." Please provide an update as to what engagement this Council has had with Surrey County Council to extend this to our borough, to better support those with disability and serve those living in places that are inadequately served by public transport, such as Netherne On The Hill?

Councillor Tary will ask the **Executive Member for Communities, Leisure & Culture, Councillor Ashford**, the following question:

Question 6: Household Support Fund

There have previously been 3 rounds of the government's Household Support Fund distributed to our most vulnerable residents. As we approach the winter months, can the portfolio holder for Communities, Leisure & Culture please outline the council's plans to distribute the 4th round of funding and confirm when this funding will be available to residents.

Councillor Sinden will ask the **Executive Member for Communities, Leisure & Culture, Councillor Ashford**, the following question:

Question 7: Support for charities

How is the Council increasing its support to our local charities as winter is fast approaching to those most in need, including winter night shelters across the Borough.

Councillor Sachdeva will ask the **Executive Member for Environment & Sustainability, Councillor Moses**, the following question:

Question 8: Woodlands at Wray Common

I would like to draw attention to the concerning state of the woodlands at Wray Common, which serve as a crucial path used by pupils of Wray Common Primary School and local residents. As the environment Portfolio Holder, can you please provide insights into the specific challenges leading to the decline of these woodlands, and what steps the Council intends to take to safeguard and revitalize this essential pathway and its surrounding ecosystem for the benefit of both the school children and the local community?

Councillor Dwight will ask the **Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance, Governance and Organisation, Councillor Lewanski**, the following question:

Question 9: The Council's finances

In terms of the recent financial difficulties experienced by a number of local authorities, what assurance can you give us that our Council is financially robust?

Councillor Booton will ask the **Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance, Governance and Organisation, Councillor Lewanski**, the following question:

Question 10: Voluntary and Community Sector Reserve Fund

In February, the Council established a £150,000 reserve fund to support the local voluntary and community sector this year. How much of this has been spent to date and what plans are there in place to use it to increase support to local charities in the coming months?

Councillor Fairhurst will ask the **Executive Member for Housing & Support, Councillor Neame**, the following question:

Question 11: Temporary Accommodation

Can an update please be provided on the Council's progress with regard to obtaining more temporary accommodation to assist local people who find themselves unavoidably homeless?

Councillor Buttironi will ask the **Executive Member for Place, Planning & Regulatory Services, Councillor Michalowski**, the following question:

Question 12: The Local Plan

Can the Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regulatory Services, Cllr Michalowski, inform members on the progress of the Local Plan and if the Government's proposed changes to the style of plan will impact this Borough?

Councillor McKenna will ask the **Executive Member for Place, Planning & Regulatory Services, Councillor Michalowski**, the following question:

Question 13: Section 106 Monies

Please confirm total amount of section 106 unspent, held by the borough council. And provide a breakdown of this including a) affordable housing, b) transport and c) other.

WRITTEN RESPONSES TO BE PROVIDED AFTER THE MEETING

Councillor Khan will ask the **Executive Member for Communities, Leisure & Culture, Councillor Ashford**, the following question:

Question 14: Merstham Mix

How is the Council working with Surrey County Council to enable the reopening of the Merstham Mix café in the Merstham Hub as quickly as possible?