

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 13 February 2020

Questions by Members

Number	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1	Councillor Kulka	Councillor Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Litter
2	Councillor Brown	Councillor Biggs, Executive Member for Planning Policy	Horse Hill
3	Councillor McKenna	Councillor Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Air Pollution
4	Councillor Fenton	Councillor Ashford, Executive Member for Community Partnerships	Arts Funding
5	Councillor Sinden	Councillor Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Recycling
6	Councillor Essex	Councillor Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Tree Planting
7	Councillor Blacker	Councillor Humphreys, Executive Member for Place and Economic Prosperity	Reigate Post Office

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

Question 1: Litter

I am sure that Members would agree that we are fortunate to live in what is normally a very pleasant area. Sadly, it seems that many of our roads, especially those with verges and hedgerows are suffering from an ever-increasing amount of discarded litter. Cans, plastic bottles, takeaway remains and the ever-present problem of bulk fly tipping can often make our environment unpleasant, but also dangerous. I always try to carry a bin bag with me on my walks, a hang over from my dog walking days, but if the Executive Member shares my concerns, could she please advise Members as to whether there are any new council plans to tackle this problem.

Councillor Brown will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy, Councillor Biggs** the following question:

Question 2: Horse Hill

On February 13, a former Reigate and Banstead Green Councillor attended court in connection with her campaign for a judicial review of Surrey County Council's decision to allow massive expansion of oil drilling at Horse Hill. This was not the judicial review itself but a hearing to decide whether to proceed to the full judicial review. Given Reigate & Banstead Council's commitment to tackling climate change (as expressed at previous Council meetings during motions brought by the Green party) and the Council's responsibility to protect the local environment, would the Council like to join me in wishing every success for the court action brought by the activist and former Councillor?

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

Question 3: Air Pollution

Public Health England publish public health profiles which includes the indicator for particulate air pollution at District and Borough Council level. In 2019 Surrey Air Alliance commissioned consultants to carry out county-wide air pollution dispersal modelling, source appointment and local mortality calculations for each Local Authority in Surrey.

Please advise whether these reports have been published across the county including for our borough, and if so how we compare against other districts in Surrey in terms of the three factors, especially mortality and finally what specific measures are recommended to reduce air pollution locally including in Redhill and other town centres in the borough, either at source or by reducing exposure. If the reports have not been published what other evidence is being gathered and analysed concerning air pollution in our borough as a whole or in specific AQMAs?

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

Question 4: Arts Funding

The Council has agreed to subsidise the loss-making Harlequin and Waller Studio for at least the next two years, which would seem to be good news for the Arts. However, the Council has also cut all funding from the Borough of Reigate & Banstead Arts Council, a voluntary body that represents more than 50 local organisations devoted to drama, music, visual and creative arts. This means that the Council – which had previously asked the BRBAC to act as a central point of contact for the distribution of small grants to member groups - will now have to individually assess the numerous grant applications from Arts Council member organisations. Can the Council please explain the inconsistency of funding the Harlequin while removing the Arts Council grant; how having to deal with multiple grant applications separately can possibly save time or money; and whether it considers that the closure of small arts organisations that might result from the loss of funding will be an acceptable outcome, given that Arts activities are well-known for improving community cohesion and mental health?

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

Question 5: Recycling

Most of the litter bins in Reigate and Banstead only have an option to 'throw away' as opposed to recycle things that can be recycled. The government published an aspiration to increase recycling in public places back in 2013. In light of this, and the push to raise standards in this area, will the Council review its number of litter bins in public places and introduce bins that enable separation of recycling and litter as standard in well used public places including Redhill Town Centre, Battlebridge, Memorial Park and Redhill Common. This should both discourage littering and make sure our residents have the opportunity to recycle wherever they are, not just at home. In addition, can the seated planters in Redhill town centre be fixed to the top as many of them seem to trap litter, and cleaned out whenever the bins are emptied in the town centre?

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

Question 6: Tree Planting

Surrey County Council has recently pledged a plan for at least 1.2 million trees to be planted across Surrey. If all borough's and districts were to make commitments to deliver this based on land area, this would equate to an additional 93,000 trees in Reigate and Banstead. At typical planting densities for native trees this would require around 40 to 100 hectares of land. And this is assumed to be in addition to replacement planting associated with development or ash die-back. In light of this, please can you confirm how engaged the Council is with this pledge and what target Reigate and Banstead Borough Council is proposing for planting of new trees in this borough, both in terms of land area and numbers of trees to be planted:

- a) In total.
- b) What land has already been identified to the council's knowledge, including any land that is owned, leased or managed by the council.
- c) Alongside the budget set aside by Surrey County Council what budget and/or other resources has Reigate and Banstead Borough Council allocated to this

Councillor Blacker will ask the **Executive Member for Place and Economic Prosperity, Councillor Humphreys** the following question:

Question 7: Reigate Post Office

As you are aware Reigate High Street has lost three banks in the space of approximately twelve months. First Santander closed and then one of the major banks, the National Westminster, closed in the middle of last year. Then to my surprise, one of the oldest banks in Reigate, Lloyds has shut their doors. I find it extraordinary that a town as vibrant as Reigate should lose three banks.

To make matters worse we are now told that the Post Office will close on March 3rd. My question is therefore, what is the Council doing and what can it do to help reverse this trend and at the very least ensure that none of the two remaining major banks close. I and other Reigate Councillors together with our MP are trying to find a location for a new Post Office.

Can the Council please assist Reigate in finding a new venue for the Post Office?