

Questions from members of the Council

For Full Council on 06 October 2021

Question 1

From Councillor Rutland

“In June of this year, you told the Courier newspaper that you were pushing for a meeting with the owners of the former cinema site in the middle of Tunbridge Wells.

In the latest edition of the council’s Local magazine, you stated that you wished ‘to see if there is anything we can do about the cinema site’.

What actions, meetings and conversations have taken place with the owners or other relevant parties since you were elected leader of the council in June?”

Question 2

From Councillor Hayward

“The Black bins were purchased via ESPO which is a public sector owned professional buying organisation. The cheapest on the price list was taken and the Craemer bins with no virgin material purchased. The price quoted on ESPO and paid was that for a single order of 780 bins. About 44,000 were actually purchased.

There is no option for suppliers to offer reduced pricing for larger quantities on the ESPO platform. Given the scale of the order and the need to demonstrate Value for Money, did the administration seek a reduced rate which, under the framework and required by procurement rules, reopens the competition to all suppliers?”

Question 3

From Councillor Patterson

“Does the Leader of the Council realise the offence and hurt caused by his article, on page 7 of the Local Magazine entitled 'Local Plan', to residents of Capel Parish? Why does he regard the historic countryside and infrastructure of Capel Parish as less valuable and less worthy of protection than other parishes in the Borough?”

Question 4

From Councillor Pope

“An increasing number of residents are complaining about the suspension of the garden waste collections and asking what they are expected to do with the garden waste that has been building up for 10 weeks.

As the suspension of this paid-for service appears to be indefinite, what response can you provide for residents?”

Question 5

From Councillor Rutland

“We are justifiably proud of the many creative businesses in Tunbridge Wells. However, in June, the contract for the redesign of the Amelia Scott website was awarded to Stunn Ltd, an agency based in Birmingham. Are steps being taken to review our procurement policy in order to create opportunities for local firms and suppliers?”

Question 6

From Councillor Patterson

“Is Councillor McDermott aware of the recent report by eminent academics published by the Royal Academy of Engineering and supported by the Architects Journal, reported recently in the BBC on 24th September that says: ‘Cement production alone causes 8% of global emissions. The construction industry should re-use existing buildings and foundations, to recycle their embodied emissions, instead of building new ones. 51% of the lifecycle of carbon from residential development is emitted before the building is first used.’

With this in mind would he consider how the Pre-Submission Local Plan can be adapted to reuse existing buildings and reduce new build to further the Council's objective to be carbon neutral by 2030?”