

# Questions from members of the Public

For Ordinary Full Council on Wednesday 1 March 2023

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## Question 1

From: Mr Robert Banks

To: Cllr Everitt

“The Household Recycling and Waste Collection Service provider (Urbaser) has asked this Council to contribute a maximum of £150,00 towards the early lease termination costs associated with a number of the existing fleet, in order to lease circa 44 vehicles new vehicles on a 8 year lease which will extend beyond the end of the existing service contract. If this proposal is accepted, what will the Council's additional annual financial liability be for the initial 4 years, the subsequent 4 years after the existing contract has expired and the estimated cost of converting the vehicles to use biofuel rather than diesel”

## Question 2

From: Mr Charlie Keeling

To: Cllr Pound

“How much will the preparation of 'Suggested Changes' to the local plan cost - itemised by consultant/other 3rd party, given that all Councils currently appear cash-strapped?”

## Question 3

From: Mr Sarah Hamilton

To: Cllr Hall

“I am KCC Member for Tunbridge Wells Rural Division, Chairman of Heritage Paddock Wood and Member of Paddock Wood Town Council.

In line with my letter to the Times of Tunbridge Wells, and presentation to Cabinet I express grave concern about the Wesley Centre in Paddock Wood

It is surprising the Wesley Centre faces the risk of potential disposal in the current times, and many are rightly very concerned. It is protected in the Towns Neighbourhood Plan which the Borough Council has not challenged.

Paddock Wood Town Council supports the Wesley Centre is retained. The Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan supports it is retained and so do all four of the Borough Cllrs for Paddock Wood.

There no heritage based facility in an area with a substantial amount of housing development. Needs are evolving. The value of Green space for emotional health & wellbeing becomes even more important. Heritage and the arts deliver on that for social value.

Now the Amelia can serve as inspiration and direction will this Council be open to constructive discussions about the potential of this valuable facility.

Are you willing to remove the Wesley Centre from any risk of disposal at this time, or the near future. Using some words from your documents will you 'explore develop and exploit opportunities for collaborative working with bodies such as KCC and partner agencies' to build on existing relationships and facilitate a viable opportunity.

To be outgoing and enabling in line with your own aspirations and the strategic direction of both authorities.

## Question 4

From: Mr Robert Banks

To: Cllr Everitt

"Has this council,

1. consulted other Councils, who have contracted Urbaser for House Recycling and Waste Collection Services, to ascertain their level of satisfaction with this provider and whether they have received similar requests for further funding?
2. approached other providers of council refuse services, to determine whether any of them could provide a similar or improved service without the requirement for this Council to be obligated to provide further funding to assist in leasing new vehicles?"