

Council – 30 November 2022

Public Questions:

1. From Mrs M Lawes to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council

Has Folkestone & Hythe District Council's approach and policy, as laid out as per Part 4.5. Petitions, of the council's constitution, been update this year or is it about to be updated?

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question.

The petition scheme has not been updated this year, nor is there a requirement for it to be updated. However, the scheme is in line with other local authority schemes, and I believe it is fair, which is demonstrated by the fact that a petition is being presented today, and another was presented at the September meeting of Full Council.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Considering this councils constitution does not ask for a full address, and a postcode is considered as part of the address, I ask Councillor Monk to overturn the decision to reject my petition handed in on 31 August (relating to a destination play area at Jocks Pitch), and allow the petition through on the grounds I have stated.

ANSWER:

If you would like to send in your proposition, I will consider it. I am not an autocrat, but I do have to work within the system.

2. From Ms A Jones to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council

Now that Princes Parade work has paused and BAM have left, I would like to ask what the council are planning to do about the exposed landfill waste next to the first bridge, as it is clearly a public health and safety issue.?

ANSWER:

Thank you Ms Jones for highlighting this particular area.

An Officer from the Council has visited the Princes Parade site on 16/11/2022 and inspected the area to which you refer and the waste material that you have identified in your question. Some of the waste material appears to be of considerable age due to the style of the packaging and prices printed on it.

Officers have carried out internal and external enquiries and can confirm that no excavation works have been carried out in this location by contractors, only flailing of the vegetation on the bank. It does appear to have only become uncovered following the flail cutting of the site.

Officers revisited the site on the 17/11/2022 and as a precautionary measure installed Heras fencing around the exposed bank to prevent direct contact with the area by members of the public.

Options for the project are currently being reviewed and will be presented to the Council's Cabinet as soon as possible. Any further works to this area will be informed by the outcome of this process.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Are the council monitoring the air quality, as they promised to do throughout the project?

ANSWER:

As far as I'm aware, the monitoring is still continuing, but I will confirm that after tonight.

*Following on from the meeting, the following response was provided:
BAM, who were organising and overseeing the air monitoring through a sub-contractor have been directed to stop operations and no longer have a site presence. We are currently directed not to incur any expenditure so no air-monitoring is taking place*

Whilst there are no operations on site, little or no disturbance of material is taking place, that might be airborne. Testing carried out prior to suspension of the works did not detect any reportable levels of adverse air quality.