

Questions Raised on Notice by Members of the Public

(a) To the Executive

In accordance with Rule 11 of the Council Procedure Rules, notice was given by a member of the public to ask the following question:

(1) Sarah Gleave-Waite will ask the Leader of the Council:

“DDC cllrs unanimously in Jan 2020 agreed to make the whole district zero carbon by 2050 and the DDC estate zero carbon by 2030 to limit the extent of the climate crisis. And this was wholly in line with the recommendations of our late much-loved Queen at the start of the UN Climate summit on 1st Nov 2021. In line with those commitments, Will the council now a) Oppose as a matter of council policy any initiatives to develop fracking for shale gas as this will perpetuate our reliance on fossil fuels whilst failing to provide relief to those struggling with fuel bills (as the tiny contribution such activity would make to the world market would not effect prices), and b) Endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, a global initiative to phase out fossil fuels and support a just transition, and write to ministers and our local MPs to urge the UK government to support this initiative?”

(2) Peter Findley will ask the Leader of the Council:

“The public wants to support the work to reverse wildlife declines as evidence provided to the Wildlife Trusts and our own Kent Wildlife Trust shows. (ref. <https://kentnature.org.uk/state-of-nature/>) The trusts warn that parts of the government’s agenda, such as weakening habitat regulations that protect wildlife and weakening planning rules, threaten to undermine work to restore nature that is urgently needed. The UK Parliament alongside many Unitary and District authorities have declared climate and nature crises – recent government announcements around policy changes, including getting rid of the Habitats Directive demonstrably conflict with the need to address these crises. The pandemic showed how much free access to a flourishing wildlife-friendly Dover district brings benefits to all ages in our district. As the Dover District Council (DDC) new Local Plan goes for public consultation will DDC councillors and planners commit to heeding the many East Kent voices calling for extra protection and restoration of wildlife habitats in the final text of new Local Plan, and amend the DDC plan accordingly?”

(3) Graham Wanstall will ask the Leader of the Council:

“Now that Her Majesty the Queen has passed away I ask that DDC commemorate her long reign with vision and seriousness.

As an example I ask you to consider naming the path through Connaught Park from the Park Avenue entrance to the top near the castle “QUEEN ELIZABETH II Way”. This would help in promoting an alternative walk to and from the town to the castle and would mark forever her late majesty’s historic reign as our Elizabeth the great. Do you support this proposal?”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.7, the Chairman will invite the questioner to put the question exactly as submitted to the Member named in the notice. If a questioner who has submitted a written question is unable to be present, they may ask the Chairman to put the question on their behalf. The Chairman may ask the question on the questioner's behalf, indicate that a written reply will be given or decide, in the absence of the questioner, that the question will not be dealt with.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.8, a questioner who has put a question in person may also put one supplementary question without notice to the member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.

A maximum of three minutes shall be allowed for the question to be read. The period for questions by the public shall be limited so that no further question shall be put after the elapse of 15 minutes from the commencement of the first question.

Any questions which cannot be dealt with during public question time, either because of lack of time or because of the non-attendance of the member to whom it was to be put, will be dealt with by a written answer.