
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING 13 October 2015

Order Paper

Public Question Time

After prayers and prior to the start of the Council meeting, the following questions will be asked by members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 16.12.10.

Ms Cathie Joyce, resident of Coggeshall.

‘The new proposals contained within ESS/34/15/BTE include an increase of 65% in the use of an Incinerator at Rivenhall airfield compared with the plans approved in 2010 following a Public Inquiry.

Given that the radical changes now set out clearly constitute a fundamentally different proposition to that originally considered and approved, why is Essex County Council not insisting that the Company involved, Gent Fairhead, submit a new planning application for full and proper scrutiny rather than allowing it to short –circuit the process and avoid detailed examination of the potential impact on the local community?

– I also wish to present a petition on this matter’

Ms Jill Warnes, resident of Chelmsford.

‘May I respectfully bring to your attention the issue of the cancellation of the 47 bus from the end of this month? Local people asked First Buses to attend a public meeting to explain what was happening but they refused. They also refused to meet three of us to accept a petition signed by 647 people directly affected by loss of the service. These people use the bus for travel to work, school, the hospital [Broomfield], the town centre, the station and supermarkets and people outside the area use the 47 to visit friends and relations.

As there is a great deal of local concern, may I ask if there is any further news on the tenders from alternative providers and what plans the County Council has if the tendering process is unsuccessful?’

Summary of Procedure:

- The person must be present to ask their question.
- The Chairman will invite the person to speak.
- The person may not speak for more than three minutes in order to ask their question and/or submit a petition.
- There shall be a reply from the Chairman or other nominated Member.
- Save for the Member replying to the question no other Member shall be permitted to respond.
- There is no opportunity for supplementary questions nor for debate.
- Thirty minutes overall is allocated for public questions.

Agenda Item 14 (a)

1. By Councillor I Henderson of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Healthy Living

‘During discussion of a performance report titled ‘Children and Young Persons’ Strategy’ at the Cabinet meeting of Tendring District Council held on Friday 4th September it was reported that Essex County Council funding was no longer available to support the Public Health Specialist post operating in the Tendring District. As the remit of this post is to deliver in the areas of child poverty and fuel poverty as outlined in the Health Inequalities Strategy will the portfolio holder please explain why the funding for this vital role has been withdrawn?’

2. By Councillor M Danvers of the Leader of the Council

‘Will the Leader make a statement on the possibility of a new nuclear power station at Bradwell and the effect it will have on the Essex community?’

3. By Councillor M Danvers of the Cabinet Member for Adults and Children

‘To ensure that care workers have time to do their job without being rushed or compromising the dignity or well- being of the person who uses social service care:

Will the Portfolio Holder for Social Service accept the recent findings by National Institute for Care Excellence (NICE) for vulnerable people who rely on their care workers? Will he

incorporate it into contracts that Essex has with social care providers?

Also will the contracts reflect the recent judgement made by the European court that care workers will be properly paid for travelling time between clients?’

4. By Councillor D Harris of the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Small Schemes Delivery

‘I study every week the plans that are issued for up and coming works.

On the list since June has been the proposed works to remedy defect kerbs and paths in Queen Mary Avenue, a project I had proposed and followed through the correct process, the plan said anytime between June 2015 and Sept 2015.

Now that September is over, can I be assured that the budget will be left tagged to this work, and an early date be allocated for this non-delivery of plan’

5. By Councillor D Harris of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Planning and the Environment

‘Would the portfolio holder in charge of representing ECC on police matters agree with myself and members of my community who are expressing concern over the fact that hundreds and hundreds of police officers have been cut from the front line meaning that our poor dedicated police officers are struggling to attend community problems.’

6. By Councillor A Bayley of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

‘Due to the South Essex Parking Partnership now having to be self- funding, what assurances can we be given that the issuing and collecting of fines will not become the partnership’s priority, to work only in high dividend areas, whilst not concentrating so on less profitable areas.’

7. By Councillor A Bayley of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

‘Can the Cabinet Member for Highways please explain the procedure for residents, living in unmade, un-adopted roads for fixing their street lights, as ECC no longer take responsibility for them, and who is liable should an accident happen, while they try to fix them themselves.’

8. By Councillor J Young of the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning

‘Will the Cabinet Member offer a public apology to the children and parents over the impact the home to school policy changes are having and will he reassure parents that no fines will be levied against parents for lateness as a result of these changes?’

9. By Councillor I Henderson of the Cabinet Member for Adults and Children

‘Can the Cabinet Member provide me with the latest figures on meals on wheels recipients in the areas affected by the closure of the Colchester depot. Can he also provide an update on the alternative provision put in place since Sodexo pulled out of this area of Essex?’

10. By Councillor J Young of the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning

‘Can the Cabinet Member please indicate whether he supports the continuation of the current free hot meal provision for young school children in Essex and if so what contingency plans are being put in place if Government decide to cease funding this provision?’

11. By Councillor N Le Gresley of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

'A constituent is having a problem with light pollution from a streetlamp by his house, directly outside his young children's bedroom, keeping them awake during the late evenings when they have school the following day. Essex Highways have attended the address and say that they have done all that they can do to alleviate the problem, including fitting a light shield. The shield fitted is relatively small and only provides limited relief but is the only type that it is their policy to fit.

Given that there are a number of different types of shields on the market, many of which are of larger dimensions and could provide better relief would the Cabinet Member for Highways look into this policy so that a range of different shields can be made available for use by Essex Highways? In this way one can be chosen that is best calculated to relieve the specific problem as reported?'

12. By Councillor K Smith of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

'As a Member who represents a division which includes a hospital and the southern end of Basildon's town centre, car parking spaces are an issue of concern to my constituents. With more and more young adults still living with their parents because of long-standing issues in the housing market, this has made the issue of the lack of parking spaces in Westley Heights far worse than in other divisions.

I have a constituent who can't have a dropped kerb because the house they live in is located on a corner plot. As a result, members of this household have to park on the bend in a narrow road. I also have another constituent who can't have a dropped kerb because they are nine inches short of five metres. This resident lives several doors away from a local school.

It is right, that vehicles don't overhang the pavement blocking the path of pedestrians.

Will the Cabinet Member for Highways look into both cases at his next Highway's Surgery and consider the approval of both these cases providing parked vehicles never overhang the pavement?'

13. By Councillor K Smith of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Planning and the Environment

'New Labour's legacy, the Carbon Reduction Commitment was signed into law back in 2007. This tax is slowly becoming a burden to the taxpayers of Essex. It is the hallmark of this present administration to use common sense to spend every penny of taxes wisely.

With this being the case, should the developers of all new housing estates in Essex, install LED lampposts as standard?'

14. By Councillor J Deakin of the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Small Schemes Delivery

'What is the average time taken to respond to a request for a dropped kerb and carry out an inspection?'

15. By Councillor M Mackrory of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

'Regarding Broomfield Hospital Chelmer Valley Bus Shuttle Service:

(a) How many spaces is it anticipated will be taken up by this service at the Chelmer Valley Park and Ride?

(b) What is the proposed route?'

16. By Councillor M Mackrory of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

'Regarding the A130 PFI:

(a). What was the total cost to this Council of the A130 PFI scheme, first stage?

(b) What will be the total cost to this Council of the A130 PFI scheme, second stage?'

17. By Councillor D Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

'School Crossing Patrol Policy:

Under the review of existing sites, paragraph 2 (b), it states:

"Where a current School Crossing Patrol exists on a zebra crossing, it is not proposed to replace this provision if the incumbent resigns or is relocated".

Isn't this proposal seeking to bring in, via the back door, the removal of patrols from all sites where there is a zebra crossing over the next few years through natural wastage, and wouldn't that be contrary to the wishes of 94% of the respondents to last year's consultation process?'

18. By Councillor D Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

'I understand that Essex has in excess of 7500 bus stops and that ECC has installed timetable information at all the transport hubs and those stops that are heavily used, but there are still many stops without any timetable information.

Out of the 7500 bus stops across the County how many have no timetable information? If the County Council is serious about trying to encourage more residents to use buses then surely easy access to a timetable would help to increase those numbers, particularly for residents who don't have internet access or a smart phone.

What level of investment is planned by the County Council and the bus companies for this financial year and beyond to ensure that more of our bus stops feature a timetable?'

19. By Councillor J Abbott of the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Infrastructure, Waste and Recycling

‘Following the information released at the September 22nd Cabinet that it will cost Essex taxpayers circa £15 million per annum to have private operators incinerate the Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) output from the Basildon MBT plant, what consideration has the administration given to reviewing the Waste Strategy, in which it was assumed that SRF could be a "valuable" material to be traded and such that ECC ensured that the Basildon MBT contract returned the SRF output to ECC ownership?’

What financial consideration has been given to the option of setting, and investing in, a higher recycling policy, such as aiming for at least 70% recycling and composting by 2020 ? What environmental consideration has been given to such a higher recycling policy, particularly in regard to the carbon savings from recycling more waste instead of burning circa 200,000 tonnes of SRF per annum, a process which immediately releases CO2 into the atmosphere?’

20. By Councillor J Abbott of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

‘Given that ECC is taking a lead role, with significant spend of local taxpayers money, into route option studies for the A120 between Braintree and Colchester, why has the administration not involved or consulted with County Members who represent Divisions along the A120 route corridor ? Why have local Members, and the communities they represent, being side-lined to date in this process, or is there an intention to undertake meaningful consultation before ECC takes any position on route recommendations?’