

Council - Thursday, 29 July 2021

At: Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Time: 5.00 pm

a Revised Councillors Questions.

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Councillors' Questions

Part A – Supplementaries

1 Councillor Irene Mann

Can I first emphasize the huge respect and thanks that residents wish to convey to every member of your Cleansing, Recycling and HMO teams.

The service they provide is second to none.

However in the wake of the removal of 10 tonnes of waste generated by students leaving their accommodation I saw very little evidence of recycling.

Landlords are seen as the major beneficiaries of the HMO properties in the ward (12500 students) yet their supervision of their properties ref recycling etc seems minimal.

The model in other towns and cities with a high level of HMOs is the fining of properties who consistently do not recycle and a monthly meeting with a Landlord forum representative /University representatives and Environmental Health representatives.

In these times of growing global warming and climate emergency all must play their part, this includes landlords and tenants.

Are there any plans to bring landlords / universities and environmental health representatives together or to look at some kind of dining for HMO properties that consistently fail to recycle their waste creating significant problems for both cleansing and residents.

Again I and all the residents thank you for the huge efforts made to keep the streets clean of rotting food, discarded knives and clothes

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management

Cllr Mann is to be commended for her work with residents and various partners in the local community raising the importance of recycling and correct disposal of household waste for many residents.

The ongoing liaison and education programmes, particularly at the start and end of the academic year continue. Swansea University's specific financial commitment towards additional household waste collections has been welcomed and whilst this helps to clear waste from the streets it is acknowledged that cannot address the separation of recyclables from the waste which goes to landfill.

Whilst Council officers in our Waste Management, Cleansing and Housing and Public Health teams work on a regular and close basis with landlords, agents and the universities, there are no legal provisions for fining occupiers or landlords of rented properties who fail to recycle. There are no distinctions with regard to this across tenures.

If Cllr Mann is willing to share details of other local authorities she refers to, officers will be asked to investigate those models further.

2 Councillors Will Thomas & Myles Langstone

The sea wall project to protect business and property in Mumbles is being progressed and I hope the council take the opportunity for place making and safer road crossings as part of this scheme.

We have been contacted by many constituents who are unhappy that the building depot for this project is proposed for the tennis courts. Has the council considered putting this depot on one of the car parks in Southend. What would be the cost implications of this (What is the yearly income from each car park in the area).

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management

The Authority is signed up to the Place Making Charter and the officers overseeing the project have presented a detailed design approach that illustrates a strong commitment towards developing a design solution that seeks to complement and enhance the character of the promenade. The first phase of consultation has recently been undertaken and whilst illustrating the core requirements for enhancing coastal protection measures, it also evidenced proposals to introduce reference to the local heritage and ecology. Options to provide a more inclusive and welcoming environment for the broad range of users have also been taken into account, with design detailing seeking to align to the authorities green infrastructure ambitions. Subject to reviewing the comments from the consultation session, we will be developing the detailed design proposals for briefing to Councillors, key stakeholders and the community over the coming weeks. The Mumbles Coastal Protection Project forms part of the Welsh Governments Coastal Risk Management Programme which would not fund items such as road crossings along Mumbles Road. The team have sought to consider the wider ambitions of the Mumbles community to ensure that the proposals for the promenade complement the area as a whole. Issues such as improved road crossings would need to be funded through alternative sources and the team are investigating other funding opportunities based on the comments raised to date. They are continuing to work with local councillors to develop a broad design solution that identifies such issues.

The scale and nature of works being undertaken will unfortunately involve an element of disruption to the local community and it is acknowledged that there is limited scope for locating site compounds in the vicinity. Although the method and form of construction are yet to be finalised, we are progressing the scheme in a manner that seeks to maximise the use of prefabricated elements to limit the scale of site occupancy, enhance the quality of build and reduce the period of construction. The nature of working in a tidal environment with limited access and transport constraints means that it is imperative that sufficient space is afforded to enable the works to progress with minimal risk of disruption. Whilst the construction methodology will be defined by a contractor yet to be appointed, discussions to date have identified the need for a site compound at least the scale of the tennis courts. It is therefore possible that both the tennis courts and car park areas may be required during the construction period. The choice of site compound is not purely a financial decision. It is based on location to the promenade, accessibility, size etc. In order to reduce the overall duration for construction, there is an ambition to work from either end of the scheme extents and thereby facilitate construction access and storage accordingly.

	<p>The team fully acknowledges the impact and disruption of this approach, but will endeavour to ensure that the final scheme will enhance the overall amenity offering for both visitors and the community.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Councillors Will Thomas & Lyndon Jones</p> <p>We have had several complaints from constituents about the travel time it has taken to exit Mumbles since the lights have been placed at the bottom of Mayals road for the active travel scheme. Has the Cabinet Member had similar complaints and is the council looking into a solution.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>The operation of traffic signals at the junction of Mayals Road and Mumbles Road, have been designed to cause minimal interference with traffic flows along Mumbles Road, whilst still facilitating traffic movement along Mayals Road and a pedestrian crossing on the desire line across to the sea front.</p> <p>The traffic signals are tested and checked upon installation and monitored to ensure that they are operating at optimum settings. It can be confirmed that these traffic signals are operating correctly.</p> <p>The challenge is that there is a single carriageway serving Mumbles to Mayals Road, which has a limited capacity. There is a physical limit to the volume of vehicles that can flow along a single road per hour. At certain times of the day, especially during periods where normal traffic flows are inflated by tourist related traffic, traffic volumes exceed levels at which a single carriageway subject to free flow conditions can accommodate, hence queues form.</p> <p>In order to ensure that green time is allocated most efficiently, the recent traffic signal amendments incorporated the method of control to MOVA (Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Activation). This system is constantly monitoring flow rates, and allocating green time where it is needed most. Therefore, it is an adaptive method, best suited to maximise efficiency at isolated junctions such as the one in question. The number of vehicles counted leaving Mumbles in the busy hours is broadly the same as the free flow capacity, it should be concluded that the signal operation is not causing the queues when busy. This is due to the bunching effect of stopping vehicles which then run closer together maximising efficiency. Additional green time results in longer gaps between vehicles and as such will not result in a noticeable difference in the length of the queue.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Councillors Lynda James, Susan Jones & Chris Holley</p> <p>What measures are Swansea Council taking to ensure that all wrapping and packaging of products in the Swansea Market are recyclable.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>In the last several years Swansea Market has made great strides in promoting recycling activities which has significantly reduced the total amount of waste generated by the Market that is disposed of via landfill.</p>

With the support of the Recycling Team, Market staff and traders, the volume of waste has been reduced by **98 tonnes** and **35.5%** from January 2015 until January 2020. The latest figures show a further reduction but are not comparable because of the disruption caused by the pandemic.

At present traders and staff are actively encouraged to recycle their cardboard and food waste and special receptacles are also provided for animal by-waste products.

Arrangements have also been made to start recycling plastics which is due to commence by the end of the summer.

In terms of the public there are several specialist recycling bins located across the Market and the Market is part of the city-wide *Recycling on the go* initiative.

Traders also offer their customers a range of product packaging options which reduces the use of pre-packaged goods in styrofoam trays and plastic wrapping. This includes use of paper bags, re-usable bags and a pick and mix approach which is popular particularly among the greengrocers.

5 Councillors Linda Tyler-Lloyd & Will Thomas

Last month we asked a question regarding the skate park and received a cryptic legal reply that seemed to be holding back information, so let's try again:

- 1: Which officer or councillor received the offer.
- 2: Was there an internal meeting to discuss this substantial offer? If so are minutes available and who was present.
- 3: As ward councillors why were we not informed.
- 4: Surely it is for Mumbles Community Council to determine if a new offer would fit their aspirations after a debate amongst ourselves. So why was the offer to fund the skate park not put to Mumbles Community Council, and who specifically made the decision not to put this offer to Mumbles Community Council.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism

1. In June 2019, Cllr Robert Francis – Davies exchanged emails with Mr Bailey in relation to the possibility of a new skatepark being located at the current site of the half pipe ramp in Llwynderw.

Mr Bailey advised that he and fellow neighbours were not in support of a skatepark in front of their homes, but indicated that he would be supportive of a skatepark in another location and that his company would commit to a 10 year support package depending on the level of cost. There was also mention of calling the skatepark the Trade Centre Wales Skateboard park.

To be clear, the suggestion of a support package was not followed up by Mr Bailey with officers or Cllr Robert Francis – Davies and nor, as far as we are aware, with MCC. Additionally, the alleged offer of £500,000 was not received by officers and Cllr Robert Francis-Davies has previously explained that to his best knowledge and belief no offer was communicated to him for that amount.

2. There was no internal meeting to discuss any offer either at this time or subsequently because no formal offer was received by officers.

	<p>3. Ward councillors were not informed because, again, no formal offer was received by officers.</p> <p>4. It is for MCC to reconsider and if they want to amend their business plan and open up any new discussions in light of statements made then it is open to them to do so.</p>
6	<p>Councillors Will Thomas & Linda Tyler-Lloyd</p> <p>Is the leader aware the council had received an offer to fund the skate park on Oystermouth Road in a different location.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism</p> <p>The only proposal received by officers from Mr Bailey to potentially fund a skatepark in a different location (in addition to the exchange of emails discussed already in question 5) was in the form of an expression of interest (as previously reported in the press - https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/full-story-clip-trade-centre-20691112).</p> <p>That proposal included a suggestion of removing the existing skatepark facility and providing a commuted sum (to be agreed), for the total cost of its relocation on a site, which Mr Bailey believed was better located. The PIN explicitly confirmed that:</p> <p><i>“The publication of this Prior Information Notice is for information gathering purposes only at this stage and forms part of the market testing initiative. Expressions of interest received will not be scored and will NOT form part of an evaluation process. Tender procedures and documents will be finalised following supplier feedback and issued thereafter. This exercise will not be used for the purposes of short-listing at a later stage and non-participation will not restrict access to any Tender opportunity that might follow from this exercise. Swansea Council reserves the final right to follow what it considers to be the most appropriate approach to market and will not meet any costs incurred by any party in responding to this exercise. Having considered all representations Swansea Council reserves the right to package the requirement in such a way as to offer the most cost effective, sustainable solution. The date for publication of the contract notice is subject to change depending on the outcome of this PIN notice and market testing exercise”</i></p> <p>Therefore, officers were not obligated to respond to the expression of interest as the PIN process was for information gathering purposed only and formed part of a market testing initiative.</p>
7	<p>Councillors Susan Jones, Wendy Fitzgerald & Kevin Griffiths</p> <p>As the council is spending a large amount of money upgrading play areas which is very welcome, what steps are being taken to safeguard:</p> <p>(a) the areas where the workmen are installing/ upgrading the equipment and (b) the equipment when it has been installed as we are aware of evidence of vandalism in some areas and (c) what maintenance regime is being put in place to keep them to the high standard they will be in once they are open to the public.</p>

Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism

a. Measures and consideration to areas where workmen are installing/upgrading equipment

The capital play investment is a planned programme. The delivery team have developed a clear process, to aid the appointed contractor and officers.

As part of the procurement process, the tender documentation includes a number of requirements that potential bidders will need to disclose or evidence prior to the contract award being offered. Examples would include, but not limited to; *health and safety performance, adequate indemnity cover for liabilities and guarantees for equipment, material and components.*

Prior to starting works, a prestart meeting will be held with officers of the delivery team and the appointed contractor. During the session, a number of items will be discussed and agreed to include but not limited to; *work areas, access routes and pre and post condition.* Contractors advised to capture pre and post condition of their working environment for their record. The work areas will be segregated with heras fencing erected for the duration of the works, for demarcation and security. The contractor's area will be their responsibility for the duration of works.

Contractors are requested to provide a weekly progress update and advise the Project Manager and Team Leader Specialist Parks & Technical Services of any concerns during the works.

Officers of the Parks Team, will inspect the works throughout the project and accept the park as part of the handover process. Handover is accepted, once officers are have gained a satisfactory third party inspection and any defects or snags have been rectified.

Should there be concerns relating to the quality or performance of the new equipment or safety surfacing, the contractor is to be notified during the defects period via the Parks team. Thereafter, as a part of the inspection regime, officers will relate to guarantees relating to quality or performance. It is to be noted that, vandalism is excluded from the guarantee or defects period.

b. Measures and consideration to limit risk of vandalism to new equipment

With the knowledge and experience of the delivery team, consideration is given to the selection of products, materials and equipment, to ensure equipment is robust to general exposure, risks of arson and vandalism. The Parks team are keen to seek to continually improve their specifications, following incident trends or new technology available on the market.

Unfortunately, damage resulting from vandalism or arson, will not be included within the defects period or as a part of the guarantee.

The tender documentation and specifications highlight the need for equipment to be robust and durable.

	<p><u>c. Maintenance regime</u></p> <p>Future maintenance and warranties have been considered, with the requirements of the contractor outlined within the tender documents. The response is reviewed as part of the procurement process.</p> <p>Prior to handover, contractors are requested to undertake a third party inspection.</p> <p>Thereafter, the new equipment and safety surfacing will be included within the existing maintenance schedule for parks equipment, at the following frequencies.</p>
	<p>Part B – No Supplementaries</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Councillors Mike Day, Cheryl Philpott, Kevin Griffiths</p> <p>Swansea Council is quite rightly promoting itself as a tourist destination and much good work is being done to ensure visitors are given a warm welcome and have a positive experience while visiting Swansea. An important element of Swansea’s offer is the provision of clean, safe public conveniences. Will the Cabinet Member please give Council a list of all the Council owned public toilets in the City and County, indicating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) whether the conveniences are currently available, (b) the hours that each is open, (c) which conveniences the Council is responsible for cleaning and maintenance, (d) what the cleaning and maintenance regime is for each, (e) which public conveniences are the responsibility of another organisation, and what the contractual arrangements are with those organisations are for the cleaning and maintenance of those conveniences, (f) how standards of cleaning and maintenance are monitored, (g) provide a list of new facilities are to be opened and when will they are going to be available to the public. <p>Response of the Cabinet Members for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>Please see answer at Appendix A.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Councillors Chris Holley, Jeff Jones & Gareth Sullivan</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member update Council on how much of our Highways has either been resurfaced or had some repair since June 2020 and what is the current resurfacing maintenance backlog.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Members for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>We can only provide figures year to year, in 20/21 we treated/resurfaced 323,271m² of carriageways.</p> <p>In 21/22 to date we have treated 39,764m² with a total expected output of an estimated 100,00mm². In addition in 20/21 we have repaired 16,926m² through the Patch programme.</p>

The back log figure for carriageways currently stands at £61m down from approximately £63 to £64m last year.

10 Councillors Cheryl Philpott, Peter Black & Mary Jones

Please list the number of recorded fly tipping incidents by ward for each of 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 and how many prosecutions were made.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management

The number of recorded fly tipping incidents by ward for each of 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 are as below.

These incidents vary from the extreme of a lorry load fly tipped, down to the majority of incidents relating to singular items or just a couple of bags of material.

WARD	April 2019 - March 2020	April 2020 – March 2021
W01 BISHOPSTON	4	5
W02 BONYMAEN	28	56
W03 CASTLE	145	172
W04 CLYDACH	29	26
W05 COCKETT	70	66
W06 CWMBWRLA	60	106
W07 DUNVANT	8	6
W08 FAIRWOOD	11	12
W09 GORSEINON	28	25
W10 GOWER	9	2
W11 GOWERTON	7	16
W12 KILLAY NORTH	5	4
W13 KILLAY SOUTH	3	4
W14 KINGSBRIDGE	2	1
W15 LANDORE	68	88
W16 LLANGYFELACH	18	9
W17 LLANSAMLET	41	75
W18 LOWER LOUGHOR	21	11
W19 MAWR	15	29
W20 MAYALS	8	9
W21 MORRISTON	124	107
W22 MYNYDD BACH	77	72
W23 NEWTON	1	2
W24 OYSTERMOUTH	7	5
W25 PENCLAWDD	8	5
W26 PENDERRY	105	78
W27 PENLLEGAER	16	16
W28 PENNARD	1	1
W29 PENYRHEOL	23	11
W30 PONTARDDULAIS	90	24
W31 St THOMAS	68	46
W32 SKETTY	46	50
W33 TOWNHILL	86	192
W34 UPLANDS	146	144

	W35 UPPER LOUGHOR	17	7
	W36 WEST CROSS	30	29
	<p>In relation to 19/20 incidents, there were 6 fixed penalty notices issues with no prosecutions, and in relation to the 20/21 incidents, there were 5 fixed penalty notices and 3 prosecutions.</p>		

Appendix A

The list of public toilets, their opening times, and operator details are as follows:

Location	Opening hours	Facilities	Operator
Swansea Market	9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Sat	Changing Places	Council
Quadrant Bus Station Public Toilets , Plymouth Street, SA1 3AR	9.00am-6.00pm	30p charge Changing places Unisex baby change	Council staff on site
Civic Centre Public Toilets , Oystermouth Road, SA1 3SN	CURRENTLY CLOSED	Changing places	Council
National Waterfront Museum Public Toilets , Oystermouth Road, SA1 3RD	CURRENTLY CLOSED	Changing places	National Waterfront Museum
LC Swansea Public Toilets , Oystermouth Road, SA1 3ST	CURRENTLY CLOSED	Changing places	LC
Swansea Railway Station (Changing places only) , High Street, SA1 1NU	Main toilets are not public, passengers with tickets only	Changing places only	Swansea Railway Station
Glynn Vivian Art Gallery , Alexandra Road, Swansea, SA1 5DZ	CURRENTLY CLOSED	Changing places	Council staff on site
Marina Public Toilets , Trawler Road, SA1 1DN	9.00am-7.00pm Summer 9.00am-5.00pm Winter	RADAR	Council
Brangwyn Bar , Brangwyn Hall, The Guildhall, SA1 4PE	CURRENTLY CLOSED	Changing Places	Council
The Secret Swansea Public Toilets , Mumbles Road, SA2 0AY	9.00am-5.00pm	Changing places	The Secret Swansea
Clydach Mond Public Toilets , High Street, Clydach, SA6 5LW	9.00am-5.00pm	RADAR	Council

Location	Opening hours	Facilities	Operator
Morrison Public Toilets , Woodfield Street, SA6 8BW	9.00am-5.00pm	RADAR	Council
Morrison Hospital , Heol Maes Eglwys, Morrison, SA6 6NL		Changing Places	Morrison Hospital
Gorseinon Public Toilets , Argyle Bus Station, SA4 4AA	9.00am-5.00pm	RADAR	Council
Pontarddulais Public Toilets , Water Street, SA4 8TH	9.00am-5.00pm	RADAR	Council
Singleton Park Public Toilets , Singleton Park, SA2 8PY	9.00am-7.00pm Summer 9.00am-5.00pm Winter	RADAR	Council
Singleton Boating Lake Public Toilets , Singleton Park Boating Lake, SA2 8PY	9.00am-7.00pm Summer 9.00am-5.00pm Winter	RADAR	Council
Brynmill Public Toilets , Brynmill Park, SA2 0AX	9.00am-7.00pm Summer 9.00am-5.00pm Winter	2 unisex toilets. 1 with disabled facilities but not on RADAR	Council
Cwmdonkin Park Public Toilets , Cwmdonkin Park, SA3 5BE	9.00am-7.00pm Summer 9.00am-5.00pm Winter	RADAR	Council
Blackpill Lido Public Toilets , Mumbles Road, SA3 5AS	9.00am-7.00pm Summer 9.00am-5.00pm Winter	RADAR	Council
Oystermouth Square Public Toilets , Mumbles, SA3 4BU	9.00am-7.00pm Summer 9.00am-5.00pm Winter	RADAR Female baby change	Council
Oystermouth Castle Public Toilets , Castle Grounds, SA3 4BA	9.00am-7.00pm Summer 9.00am-5.00pm Winter	RADAR	Council
Bracelet Bay Public Toilets (car park), SA3 4JT	24 hours	RADAR	Council
Southend Public Toilets , Mumbles Road, SA3 4EA	9.00am-7.00pm Summer 9.00am-5.00pm Winter	RADAR	Council
Knab Rock Public Toilets	8.00am-8.00pm Summer 8.00am-4.00pm Winter	Disabled facility but not on RADAR	Council

Location	Opening hours	Facilities	Operator
Clyne Public Toilets , Clyne Park, SA2 0PP	24 hours	RADAR	Council
Langland Public Toilets , Langland Bay Car Park, SA3 4QP	9.00am-7.00pm Summer 9.00am-5.00pm Winter	RADAR	Council
Caswell Bay Public Toilets , SA3 3BS	9.00am-7.00pm Summer 9.00am-5.00pm Winter	RADAR Unisex baby change Changing Places	Council
Southgate Public Toilets (car park), SA3 2DH	Open	Ladies and Gents only	Pennard Stores
Oxwich Village Public Toilets (car park), SA3 1LS	9.00am-7.00pm Summer 9.00am-5.00pm Winter	Ladies and Gents only	Council
Horton Public Toilets (car park), SA3 1LQ	24 hours	RADAR	Council
Port Eynon Public Toilets (car park), SA3 1NN	24 hours	RADAR	Council
Rhossili Public Toilets (near Hotel), SA3 1PP	24 hours	RADAR Unisex baby change	Council
Penclawdd Public Toilets , Seaview Terrace, SA4 3YF	Open 9.00am-5.00pm	Ladies and Gents only	Council

This information above, with the except of the Swansea Market toilets, is available on the Council's website <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/publictoilets>

The Council run external toilet blocks are cleaned once a day through the Winter period and twice per day through the Summer period, although this is currently under review.

The regime for monitoring standards underwent a major overhaul in the Spring of 2021. Monitored by the Working Supervisor, cleaning worksheets completed daily recording time of cleaning/inspection, a more detailed cleaning process form is also completed for deep cleans. Independent random inspections by colleagues in Facilities Management.

The next new toilet facilities to be opened are as part of the new Copr Bay Arena, and the facilities, managed by the new Café Operator, are due to open in the Autumn.