FULL COUNCIL, 20 MARCH 2024 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions were received under the following categories:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Questions from members of the public

1. Question from Patrick Brooks

Councillor Howard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance.

Last Summer Peterborough Palestine Solidarity Campaign put on a 2-week Festival in our city. In August we were offered the use of the museum community area to hold an exhibition of Palestinian Culture in April and May this year.

On January 31st our exhibition was cancelled. We are deeply concerned about this decision.

We were proud that our multicultural city saw the importance of educating people about Palestine and its rich culture, as it did in 2023 for the Ukrainian Community.

Peterborough can hold its head high following the recent vote calling for an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Our plans complement that vote. Our exhibition is about the history and culture of Palestine, using Palestinian voices. We believe now is the time to let Palestinians speak for themselves, promoting peace through better understanding.

Will the council please allow this exhibition to go ahead in the museum community gallery?

The Cabinet Member may respond:

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Questions on notice to:

- a. The Mayor
- b. To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet
- c. To the Chair of any Committee or Sub-committee

PART B

1. Question from Councillor Steve Allen

Councillor Elsey, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change.

I am sure we all realise the real issues that pavement parking presents for pedestrians and people with buggies and prams, but particularly for disabled people with sight or mobility impairments.

Pavement and verge parking causes damage to pavements and footpaths, and turns verges into rutted quagmires; leading to increased maintenance costs local authorities.

Pavement parking has been prohibited in London since 1974, except where councils choose to permit it by implementing exemptions and erecting the necessary traffic signs.

However there is no specific ban outside London;

Councils can implement local pavement and verge parking prohibitions through traffic regulation orders. (TRO's)

The Commons Transport Committee reported on pavement parking in September 2019, with the key recommendation that the Government bring forward proposals to reform the TRO process to make it cheaper and easier for local authorities to use this option, facilitating implementation of local traffic orders.

Can I ask the responsible Cabinet Member?

That we as a local authority, as soon as practicable implement restrictions by the means of local legislation to deal with anti-social parking behaviour, such as pavement and verge parking, an exercise which blights communities and neighbourhoods; and additionally as a Council we lobby our local MP's to make representations in Parliament to press for reform of the TRO processes.

The Cabinet Member may respond:

PART C

2. Councillor Steve Allen

Councillor Day, Chair of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny.

It has been reported that Labour Party nationally now argues that they have to focus on "being seen" as responsible stewards of the economy, rather than committing to a spending pledge for green energy projects.

May I ask this question to chair of Climate Change Scrutiny Committee?

With Labour recently abandoning its green investment pledge and no longer committing to invest £28 billion a year in green energy projects if it wins the next

election; may I ask you as Chair of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny
Committee, with what is I am sure is a deep commitment to the philosophy of green
Energy, whether you feel that your "Alliance" partners locally are on the same page
as you and still travelling in the same direction with their commitment to our own
Environmental aspirations.

Questions on notice to:
The Combined Authority Representatives:

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