

## **QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 27 June 2024**

### **Q1. Question from Councillor Kay to Councillor Quartermain, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.**

“A day never passes without my receiving a complaint, or hearing a comment, about the pot-holed state of Stanghow Road, which runs for three miles from the A171 at Lockwood Beck, via Stanghow Village and Lingdale, to Skelton. There are incidents of vehicles swerving to avoid potholes and of others being seriously damaged, resulting in potential claims against this Council. Not to mention the perils to life and limb.

Stanghow Road is due for resurfacing in 2025-26, but this is unacceptably late, considering its parlous state. In answer to my requests the Council has done some minimal pothole filling and patching. But, this work has been totally inadequate when you consider the parlous state of large sections of this dangerous and damaging road.

The engineers have refused to bring the resurfacing work forward, claiming there are other roads in an even worse state. I'd like to know where they are.

The current neglect of Stanghow Road is a glaring example of how East Cleveland is constantly neglected when compared with the down-town, western areas of the Borough. The shocking state of Stanghow Road would never be tolerated in Redcar or Greater Eston.

Were he to experience Stanghow Road for himself, I'm sure the Cabinet Member would come to the same conclusion as I: that immediate comprehensive resurfacing is demanded.

Therefore, will the Cabinet Member undertake to take his life in his hands and drive the full length of Stanghow Road, in both directions, from the A171 to Skelton and back, so that he can see and feel for himself that long sections of Stanghow Road should be completely resurfaced without further delay or prevarication? “

### **Q2: Question from Councillor Grogan to Councillor Brook, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.**

“On the 26th March, I received an email informing me that No Mow May was going to happen in a specific area of Kirkleatham Ward along Kirkleatham Lane near the village towards Roseberry Road. I was happy with this to help our little pollinators do their jobs.

But by the end of May it wasn't just Kirkleatham Lane not touched, but Greengates Field, the field behind Ann Charlton Lodge (time of writing on 23rd June still not done), the field between Low Farm Drive, Yew Tree Avenue and the Showground is now a meadow! Also not done are the grass verges, kerbs, and paths that have weeds and vegetation growing over 12 inches long, which in places are dangerous and turning into a tripping hazard.

I, like many other members, have been inundated with angry residents wanting to know why their fields that their children play on haven't been cut to play football on, or people are struggling to clean dog mess in the long grass, those same dogs and cats are picking up ticks, and that rats have been seen running through the long grass. This is not only in Kirkleatham but in wards like Eston, Longbeck, St Germain's, Grangetown and many other wards.

We gave it to Beyond Housing with both barrels last year about this issue and now we are making the same mistake and residents (who pay their hard-earned cash in council tax) are holding us members to account now as they pay for their fields, verges, roads and paths to be clear.

Why aren't the verges and paths being done prior and during May? Why did I receive an email telling me one thing and the council doing another? How much has the council saved in this exercise?"

**Q3: Question from Councillor Grogan to Councillor Brook, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.**

"I was asked by a Kirkleatham resident, who is a member of the Redcar Model Boat Club and who held their own regatta on the 80th anniversary of D-Day (which this town displayed brilliantly with the Royal British Legion) and was shown with a gauge the water level had dropped to 10 inches (even after winter and all the rain). It should be 22 inches at least!

I asked on 28th September 2023, in full council, why the boating lake hadn't been filled properly. Your answer was the lake was within the ongoing regeneration works in Coatham and the wider Redcar area (new hotel currently being built and hub on Majuba now complete). You confirmed that the council was actively looking at options in improving the operation and accessibility of the lake, looking to explore commercial uses going forward. You stated that this council doesn't have the revenue in the department to carry out any physical works.

What avenues have you explored and why hasn't the lake got any water?"

**Q4: Question from Councillor Learoyd to Councillor Nightingale, Chair of Corporate Resources and Governance Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.**

"You have served on the TVCA Overview and Scrutiny committee until May 2019 and then from May 2023 to the present day, in the intervening period you were a director for Teesside airport and the cabinet member for corporate resources here at Redcar and Cleveland. You have a great deal of insight into what happened over this period at both Teesworks and Teesside Airport, through contact with the TVCA and oversight of council accounts, for items such as incoming and outgoing payments.

When put under pressure by then councillor Sue Jeffrey, regarding Teesside Airport, you made a comment to a Local Democracy Reporter on 27 September 2021 calling for greater transparency regarding dealings at Teesside Airport. This is the only provision of information to the public you have seemingly made, despite all the unfolding scandal surrounding TVCA associated ownership deals.

The UK government's Independent Review Report into the TVCA and STDC was published 29 January 2024. One would have expect you to have contributed to the review. Why does your name not appear as one of those who submitted evidence?"

**Q5.Question from Councillor Thomson to Councillor Brook, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.**

“For many years requests have been made to have the Lower Promenade at Saltburn served by a suitable CCTV system to improve safety and deter antisocial behaviour and vandalism. Unfortunately, these requests have not been positively responded to.

Given the many occasions when vandalism and criminal damage have been committed and few if any prosecutions have been forthcoming, and the latest incident when extreme acts of arson and vandalism have been committed, will there now be a firm commitment to use the resources currently available to install an appropriate CCTV system without further delay?"

**Q6. Question from Councillor Thomson to Councillor Earl, Cabinet Member for Health, Welfare and Housing.**

“In December 2023 I asked if Redcar & Cleveland Council would endeavour to become a Stoma Friendly Organisation as soon as possible and show leadership in the Borough by encouraging all organisations to follow its example. Encouraged by the very positive response from the Cabinet member, it was anticipated that some real progress would have been made in six months. Can members be advised what has been achieved during this period and what remains to be done to achieve the original aspiration?"

**Q7. Question from Councillor Thomson to Councillor Quartermain, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.**

“On completion of the Cat Nab car park expansion works in 2022 it was envisaged that income would be received by the Council for parking fees for overnight stay. Despite the discussions and the merit of gaining legitimate additional revenue from such fees there has been no implementation of overnight charging. Given that Members have been advised that parking fees are determined by Members and will be implemented after Member discussion, who has taken the decision not to introduce legitimate charging, losing the Council over two years of badly needed revenue?"

**Q8 Question from Councillor Taylor to Councillor Brown, Leader of the Council.**

“At a recent public meeting, the Labour parliamentary candidate for the Redcar constituency supported calls for an investigation into Teesworks by The National Audit Office.

Do you and this Labour administration support such a review which will cost jobs, investment, and put the council’s finances at risk?"

**Q9. Question from Councillor Joy to Councillor Richardson, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.**

“I know spending is at an all-time low with cuts to local government being so scant that we must be absolutely aware that there is a balance to be had about how we spend our money. But, when the libraries consultation plan was implemented, the decision to mandate staff moves from Guisborough library to South Bank library and vice versa seems neither one of spending concerns or public service concerns.

The impact on staff to have to uproot their arrangements is considerable, with travel costs, increased travel time, impact on childcare or caring responsibilities cannot be underestimated.

The impact on the public can be measured by the voices of library hub users who feel the comfort of their usual familiar faces has gone as well as the inevitable yet understandable change in opening hours, as well as the fall out of several groups like toddler rhyme time having to be cancelled due to the change in staff members. Libraries are one of the only public facing services.

If we fail to look after the work life balance of our people and end up with an exodus of staff leaving, it will force an expensive and patchy service while we go through recruitment processes. So what will we be doing to listen to our staff? “