

**QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS  
OF FCR 12 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

**QUESTION 1**

**Question from Councillor Julie Morris to the Chair of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee, Councillor Neil Dallen.**

It is the public's perception that parking enforcement ends at around 6pm and there is very little on Sundays. Would the Chairman please confirm what are the hours of operation of Parking Wardens and what residents should do if there is illegal or obstructive parking outside these hours of operation.

**Reply from Councillor Dallen:**

Our aim is to ensure an appropriate level of enforcement is maintained across the Borough throughout different times of the day. Civil Enforcement Officers are contracted to work until 11pm if required. Whilst the regular day shift does end at 6pm, evening patrols are in operation several nights a week to enforce within the car parks, on double yellow lines and within the resident parking zones in which the restriction continues beyond this time. Enforcement is also carried out every Sunday although once again the restrictions in place are less on a Sunday so for example many of the single yellow lines and some of the resident parking zones are not enforceable.

If residents believe that vehicles are parking in contravention then the first place of contact is the Borough Council's contact centre. If there is a repeat offender or regular contraventions taking place outside of contact centre hours then a case can be created to alert the Parking team who will brief officers accordingly. In exceptional circumstances out of hours then a call could be placed to the Council's car park office in the Ashley Centre, and if available then an officer could be requested to attend, however there would not be an audit record of this call which potentially may be required.

If the matter is obstructive parking, such as a road or footway being blocked, then this is something which the police would deal with in the first instance and should be contacted on 101.

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**QUESTION 2**

**Question from Councillor David Gulland to the Chair of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee, Councillor Neil Dallen.**

Would the Chairman please advise what power our Traffic Wardens have to ticket vehicles with their engines in "idling" mode. There have been complaints from residents specifically concerning vehicles near to schools. If there are no powers available, would or could it be appropriate for warning notices to

be issued to offending vehicles and for spot checks to be made on schools where this is known to be a problem.

**Reply from Councillor Neil Dallen:**

Our enforcement officers do not have any powers currently to "ticket" idling vehicles unless they are doing so on an existing parking contravention.

Local authorities do have the power to issue £20 fixed penalties for emissions offences and stationary idling under the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002, which may be imposed when a motorist refuses to switch their engine off when asked to do so by an authorised person. This is an adoptive power and the Council's previous Social Committee declined to adopt this power at its meeting of 21 November 2002.

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### **QUESTION 3**

**Question from Councillor Bernie Muir to the Chair/Chairman of the Community & Wellbeing Committee and Strategy & Resources Committee, Councillor Barry Nash and Councillor Eber Kington.**

Community centres enrich the lives of local residents through community cohesion and improvements to both physical and mental health.

The increasing size of our local population and steep rise in the elderly demographic, suggests the provision of community centres should be increased, rather than reduced as it has been recently.

What steps does the Chairman intend to take to protect the provision of community centres through the local plan and otherwise? Even at this late stage wouldn't a positive and welcome decision be to reverse the closure of The Wells Community Centre as it currently exists instead of pursuing the tiny and unworkable replacement proposed?

### **Reply from Councillor Eber Kington:**

We are aware of the importance of community centres, and the Council is proud of the excellent work taking place at the Council's Community and Wellbeing Centre in Sefton Road and the support Council staff provide for residents from across the borough. As a centre of excellence, the Council has invested in improved facilities, particularly for residents with higher needs, and worked with Rosebery Housing Association to expand the provision. The Council is also proud of its community transport service that enables local residents to access the Community and Wellbeing Centre and the other valued facilities that the borough has to offer wherever they live. Recognition also needs to be given to the highly valued Meals at Home service and Telecare service that enables residents who are perhaps less mobile, to stay independent for as long as possible in their own home.

The Council's excellent track record on Health and Wellbeing has been recognised by health partners, with the Council now able to offer GPs the ability to write prescriptions to enable residents to access services and advice in the community, and the Council is working with other organisations and groups to further improve access to local services. The Council has also recently published a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy as part of its commitment to further improving physical and mental health in the borough, particularly among the older and more vulnerable communities.

With the acute shortage of homes in the borough and the impact this is having on local families and workers, the Council is seeking to build new quality homes in the right locations, while also looking for opportunities to invest in modern community facilities. It is this that will enrich the lives of local residents, build greater

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community cohesion and lead to improvements in both physical and mental health. I'm pleased to say that in addition to proposals for 23 new homes at the Wells, we are proposing a replacement children's playground and a purpose built and energy efficient community building which has benefited from design input by local residents.

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#### **QUESTION 4**

**Question from Councillor Bernie Muir to the Chair of the Licensing & Planning Policy Committee and Community and Wellbeing Committee, Councillor David Reeve and Councillor Barry Nash.**

Communities are being increasingly negatively impacted by the ongoing use of fireworks and increased noise pollution. Veterans, people with PTSD & other forms of anxiety have endured at least two continuous months of unpredictable and increasingly loud firework incidents. It is very distressing for pets, wild animals, farm animals, horses and more.

Whilst people with issues and pet owners can prepare themselves for key dates, that is not possible with the active period being increasingly drawn out.

Many residents would like fireworks to be controlled. A strategy might involve (1) limiting sales and banning fireworks that emit loud bangs (2) limiting fireworks to controlled events, enforced through a licensing system, (3) limiting the period in which fireworks can be used?

What steps does the Council intend to take to develop and implement a Borough Firework Use Policy in order to control firework usage to protect residents and animals?

#### **Reply from Councillor David Reeve:**

Unfortunately, much of the control of fireworks is at their point of sale, rather than their use. In that respect, Trading Standards at Surrey County Council, operated through Buckinghamshire Trading Standards are responsible for the licensing of firework retailing and the Borough Council has no remit in this area.

This also means that the Borough Council has very limited authority over fireworks used on private land, whether it be a residential back garden or public display. There is 2003 and 2004 legislation, which restricts firework usage to times around firework night, Diwali, New Year and Chinese New Year. This legislation also controls possession of some of the loudest types of firework and these laws are enforceable by the police.

Obviously, where permission is given to use fireworks on Council owned land, the Council can exert its influence. However, these events are limited in number and are advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.