

COUNCIL MEETING – 5 January 2021

Public Question from Ben Smith

Will BCP Council urgently put pressure on DfT and local MPs to ensure funding for accessibility to Pokesdown to station is not lost in the next few months. The decade long campaign has become aware than DfT has delayed a decision (yet again) which means ring fenced funding could be lost after years of inaction and breach of franchise agreement on behalf of SWR, Network Rail and DfT. Can BCP Council assure disabled residents and visitors, Pokesdown Community Forum, as well as all residents and rail users they will take action urgently?

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Public Question from Chris Henderson

Dorset Pension Fund (DPF) has £141m indirectly invested in fossil fuels – clear contribution to climate crisis and council CO2 emissions. As worldwide climate action mounts, fossil fuel assets increasingly risk becoming ‘stranded’, failing to deliver investment returns. Globally, 12% of pension funds have made divestment commitments.

Climate actions receiving cross-party commitment included: “Investigate divestment of fossil fuels from the Council Pension Fund”.

Will you:

- fully investigate climate impacts of DPF’s fossil fuel investments?
- commit to a divestment motion?
- use committee seats to influence DPF to divest?

And if/where not:

- divulge full findings for scrutiny by the public and scheme members?

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Public Question from Patrick Canavan

Freeport Bid

"Based on what independent evidence does the Council make the assertion in the paper prepared for the Cabinet meeting on 13 January 2021 that Freeports boost the local economy and create an opportunity to bring investment and jobs into the area? Also, will the bid identify the types of businesses it is expected will operate in the Freeport and the number of additional jobs expected?"

Furthermore, will the Council commit to full public consultation, including with trade unions, over the terms of reference for the bid and the economic impact on BCP and the surrounding area?"

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Public Question from Pete Roberts

Noting the potential benefit of the Transforming Travel (TT) project - what plans does the council have to address existing route obstructions and existing risks to life issues such as potholes & ruts?

(1.1) Does the council have any plans to fix/maintain the Castlemain quagmire (especially towards Upton).

(1.2) What plans does the council have to improve the ease of pothole reporting, improve public visibility of rework priorities & schedules?

(1.3) Does the council have plans to; make clear to the public which service company holds responsibility for road works, monitor repair by same & enforce rework should subsidence occur?

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Public Question from Chrissie Morris Brady

Many of us should like to know why you allow sewage and nitrates to flow into the harbour.

Poole Harbour is unique, home to many wild birds, some rare. Why are you polluting it? The harbour is designated several times over as unique. BCP is polluting it.

We want you to stop this.