

Housing and Wellbeing Committee – 4 February 2025

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – ORDER IN WHICH THE CHAIRMAN
WILL INVITE QUESTIONS BELOW RECEIVED IN WRITING IN ADVANCE OF THE
MEETING**

1. Michelle Butters, Vehicle/House Theft Alert Group Arun District..

THE FULL DETAIL OF THE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED IS DETAILED BELOW

NOTE: The Chair will:

- Invite questions from members of the public who have submitted in writing their questions in line with the Council's Constitution.
- Explain that the questions received will be answered by the appropriate Members of the Committee.
- Confirm that Public Question Time allows Members of the public to ask one question at a time and that a maximum of one minute is allowed for each question.
- State that questions will be invited in the order in which they have been received and that if there is time remaining from the 15 minutes allowed for Public Question Time, questioners will be allowed to ask a supplementary question.

QUESTION ONE

From Michelle Butters to the Chair of the Housing and Wellbeing Committee

Will Arun District Council work with the Admins of Vehicle/House Theft Alert Group to reduce the influx of Crime currently being committed across the District?

Response

I am aware that the Council's ASB Enforcement Team Leader has already had a conversation with a group admin about the role the Council plays in this area. The team are keen to hold further talks to clarify roles and responsibilities and any joint opportunities. The Team have reached out to you to ask for a meeting.

QUESTION TWO

From Michelle Butters to the Chair of the Housing and Wellbeing Committee

Please could you inform us what work the Council's Community and Wellbeing Team are carrying out to deal with the recent increase of Crime across the District?

Response

Crime is specifically a police matter. They have the powers to investigate incidents and arrest perpetrators. As such, the police will always be the lead agency for tackling crime.

The Council's Community Safety team takes the lead in co-ordinating the local Community Safety Partnership, which brings together the relevant statutory agencies to ensure a collaborative approach to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. A copy of the partnership's 3 year plan has been provided to you last week.

QUESTION THREE

From Michelle Butters to the Chair of the Housing and Wellbeing Committee

Admins of Vehicle/House Theft Alert Group would like a closed meeting with the Council/Police and Town Council on how Admins can move forward to gain authorisation to allow access to approach the public?

Response

We understand that this type of meeting has already been proposed to you by the clerk of Littlehampton town council, and I know that our Community Safety team are committed to participating, who have already reached out to you.

There is likely to be the need for some detailed conversations about what is being proposed, what the intentions of the group approaching the public are, how this might affect the work of the police and others, including the new Business Crime Reduction Partnership Manager.

QUESTION FOUR

From Michelle Butters to the Chair of the Housing and Wellbeing Committee

Admin, once given Authorisation, would like a drop in centre in Littlehampton Town Centre, initially and then rolled out across the District, if successful. Can Arun Council help us with funding for this?

Response

Arun District Council is happy to explore this idea through with you at a meeting.

QUESTION FIVE

From Michelle Butters to the Chair of the Housing and Wellbeing Committee

As Admin are currently working on a voluntary basis with no funding, this would need to be a safe, quiet place and FREE where a confidential service will be supplied, as well as a listening ear and a chat for those that have no access to the internet and build a rapport with the Community. Can Arun Council help with funding?

Response

Arun District Council is happy to explore this idea through with you at a meeting.

QUESTION SIX

From Michelle Butters to the Chair of the Housing and Wellbeing Committee

Members would have to register, be given some sort of communication system (walkie talkies), hi-vis vests, torches, be in Groups of 3-4 people. This would be on a voluntary basis. Admin are gaining the trust and respect of the Community/Members and would like to know, if we can set up a Patrol Group?

Response

The Council is not in a position to endorse volunteer patrol groups. Further detail about how such a group would operate and its intent should be discussed during the aforementioned multi-agency meeting with guidance sought from officers.

QUESTION SEVEN

From Michelle Butters to the Chair of the Housing and Wellbeing Committee

We are demonstrating that our activities are benefiting the public and meet the criteria for charitable status. Admin would like to register as a charity, so we can get funding for office space, a direct telephone number and out of hours number?

Response

I would direct you to Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester in this instance. They provide a wealth of advice and support to groups to develop the tools they need to succeed. I will ask the committee manager to provide you with the contact details.

www.vaac.org.uk

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