

COUNCIL – 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2022 – SO 30 QUESTIONS**Questions from Councillor O’Driscoll**Question 1 – to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Sayer)

As other Councillors may be aware, this week is anti-social behaviour awareness week. Westway residents have been affected by anti-social behaviour from youths in recent months with this behaviour primarily taking place in The Village and in Hambledon Linear Park. While the introduction of the Dispersal Order in Westway has had positive effects, will the Leader of the Council work with me and Westway residents to tackle anti-social behaviour?

Response from Cllr Sayer

*Yes, I would be more than happy to try to tackle anti-social behaviour wherever it occurs in our District. As you probably know, we had Dispersal Orders issued last year for my own area of Oxted and anti-social behaviour is a widespread problem.*

*It is a good idea, I’ve found, for District Councillors to liaise closely with the local beat officers for their Wards so that prompt action can be taken when a problem flares up - and also to liaise with their Parish Councils, perhaps with a view to funding the installation of CCTV, which is something I am aiming to have brought in soon in Oxted and Hurst Green.*

*I would strongly urge councillors to encourage residents to report incidents so that the police have the information about where anti-social behaviour is occurring and can direct officers to where their presence is needed most. The police rely heavily on intelligence gathered through our communities and this enables them to react accordingly.*

*The issues with youths visiting and congregating in the area tends to be seasonal. School holidays, weekends and, of course, the weather can play a part.*

*Partnership work is continuing between the Council’s Community Safety Specialist and Surrey Police to address the problem.*

*Surrey Police have been working with local schools to investigate which schools the youths attend and where they live. This has prompted home visits and discussion with the schools.*

*I also understand that the Design Out Crime Officer has been conducting what’s called an Environmental Visual Assessment. The purpose of this is to review the area and make recommendations to reduce the impact or eliminate the issues arising from youths gathering there.*

*You’ll know that this is anti-social behaviour awareness week and, on Monday, Surrey Police were at Tesco in Caterham, with the aim of increasing awareness and engaging with residents to discuss anti-social behaviour locally.*

*One of the priorities for the Council’s Health & Wellbeing Board is to look at youth activities and the benefits of being active, which could help with reducing anti-social behaviour. The Board is meeting next week to discuss youth provision.*

Question 2 – to the Chair of the Community Services Committee (Councillor Wren)

Residents have been in touch about a lack of recreation facilities in Tandridge, with no running tracks, few purpose-built football pitches and not many swimming pools and leisure facilities across the District. As we should be aiming to get our residents healthier or keeping fit, I feel we should be investing in these facilities. What steps are this Council taking to invest in leisure facilities such as those I have outlined for our residents?

Response from Cllr Wren

*“Tandridge District Council has a variety of recreational facilities. The Holland Sports & Social Association running track is well used and, of course, is a great community developed asset. Also, we do have public swimming facilities at de Stafford School and the Tandridge Leisure Centre as well as the Village Health Club. We have free outdoor gym equipment at Queen’s Park, Whyteleafe Rec and at Holland Sports. I’ve been speaking to groups of trainers in the area who now give their time up to provide free fitness / health & wellbeing classes using Council-owned sites and facilities. I’m happy to work with you to encourage trainers to do this in your Ward.*

*We always seek to improve and add to our facilities and, through the planning application process, the Council currently seeks provision of on-site or off-site contributions for improvements to informal open spaces, land, play facilities, and recreational equipment on housing sites through the CIL process and planning obligations. For example, Councillor Sayer and I have been working with a local school regarding a planning application to improve its swimming pool. As part of the emerging Local Plan process, the Tandridge Open Space, Sports & Recreational Facilities Assessment was commissioned in 2017 to understand the needs and opportunities for indoor sports and leisure facilities in the District. Page 45 of that document includes strategic recommendations for existing venues in the District which could be protected and enhanced. Further detailed work is needed to progress this in line with the financial implications for the Council. The Council also adopted an Open Space Strategy in 2021 which sets out how we will manage and improve open spaces across the District until 2025. The strategy includes an action plan by parish, with a list of potential funding sources (both internally and externally) which are being explored.*

*The Council has quarterly meetings with Freedom Leisure who operate the District’s leisure centres. The pandemic was challenging for Freedom and we are working with them, including helping with communications and marketing and with referrals from the Wellbeing Prescription Service. That service is an extremely important part of what we do, covering everything from weight management and increasing physical activities, to ways to combat loneliness and offering financial advice. This is a free service which people can self-refer to.*

*We also have a local Health & Wellbeing Board, chaired by Councillor Swann. The Board is co-ordinating some excellent initiatives which I’ve been reading about. Councillor Swann provides regular updates on the things we’re doing across the District to help improve residents’ health & wellbeing. I couldn’t attend the recent Surrey Youth Games, but we always have a lot of youngsters from Tandridge competing and we were extremely successful this year.*

*We will carry on supporting leisure and wellbeing initiatives and there maybe things you’re not aware of that I’d be happy to talk to you about.”*