

Petitions and Public Questions – Full Council (24 November 2021)

Item 2(a) Petitions – none received

Item 2(b) Public Questions

1. Alderman Bartlett to Councillor Townsend (17/11/21 – 23.28)

“Many miles of motorway through the Borough and adjacent to it are having their safety lane (hardshoulder) removed and replaced with sparsely spaced lay-bys as part of Highways England's less than Smart Motorway measures. Thousands of local residents use local motorways and many, including myself are absolutely terrified of breaking down during the works, after their completion and on stretches where they have been completed. We are also scared about running into a broken down vehicle that has not made it to a refuge.

Calling for whatever means possible, will Cllr Townsend and hopefully all Transport portfolio holders on MKC together with Group Leaders' write to the Secretary of State the Head of Highways England and the CEOs of the main contractors urging this initiative to be halted immediately, that all complete sections of Smart Motorway be returned to their smarter previous layout and all existing schemes be halted and returned to their smarter previous layout.”

2. Ethan Wilkinson to Councillor Townsend (22/11/21 – 18.06)

“Litter is a huge problem in Loughton as it is in many parts of the city. In particular, the Watling Street underpass near the Talbot Inn seems to attract large amounts of litter almost daily; ranging from plastic bottles to takeaway waste. I have spoken with Loughton and Great Holm Parish and they have suggested that Milton Keynes Council could designate this a litter hotspot so that it benefits from extra cleaning, care and attention. Please can the Council urgently consider designating this area a litter hotspot?”

3. Phil Gerralla to Councillor Marland (22/11/21 – 18.21)

“RoRE has recently been disappointed with the lack of response (including acknowledgement) to several emails sent to the council, including officers and members. It is recalled by some people that, some years ago, there was a maximum response time allowed for emails sent to officers and members. Please could the Leader report on what is expected nowadays in terms of response to emails, and what action he would recommend if responses are not supplied.”

4. David Lee to Councillor Darlington (22/11/21 – 18.21)

“One of the known problems with the renewal of estates is that the properties are not all owned by the same body, and the council did consider investigating if private owners could buy in to having the same work done on their properties as adjacent council houses. Please could Councillor Darlington give an update on that investigation, and say what is likely to be possible for non council houses on the Renewal estates.”

5. Ahmed Butt to Councillor Middleton (22/11/21 – 18.58)

“What are the Council’s thoughts on business rates going forward. As MK council received 2.3 million grant from the government where is that money?”

6. Adam Fidler to Councillor Walker (22/11/21 – 19.16)

At the previous council meeting - myself and three other trapped leaseholders shared our stories of the impact the Building Safety Crisis is having on our lives. These stories are repeated thousands of times around Milton Keynes, and millions of times around the country - people's career, family and life plans are on hold - through no fault of our own.

This council voted unanimously to support Cllr Ben Nolan's motion - including a statement that the council resolves to support "residents in their fight to achieve fairness on this issue and be protected from costs;".

What action has Cllr Walker led locally to ensure the voices of people trapped are heard by the Milton Keynes MP's, who have the voting power to resolve this issue and protect MK residents' financial and mental health?”