



Council Meeting

**Wednesday, 24th
January, 2024**

HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held at the Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY. Please enter the building through the Contact Centre entrance via the seafront., on Wednesday, 24th January, 2024 at 6.00 pm at which meeting the business specified below is proposed to be transacted.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Legal Officer

Muriel Matters House
Breeds Place
Hastings

17 January 2024

AGENDA

5. Questions (if any) from:
- a) Members of the public under Rule 11
 - b) Councillors under Rule 12

Note: Nothing contained in this agenda or in the attached reports and minutes of committees constitutes an offer or acceptance of an offer or an undertaking or contract by the Borough Council

Questions from the Public under Rule 11

Questioner	Question	Answer
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 1</p> <p>Sarah Dadson</p>	<p>Further to my recent experience galvanising support from neighbours in the St Helens Road and Park View area regarding a planning application that barely anyone knew anything about due to the low level of notification: I would like to know if the council will change the way it notifies people from the statutory minimum requirement of affixing a notice to a lamp post near the development site to individual notification as it used to, before it voted to change this five years ago. Were it not for my campaign on social media and leafletting - basically doing the job the council used to do - the very people who needed to object and submit their comments would have been missed. The whole notification process now relies on the vagaries of walking by the said site: this is discriminatory to all those who can't get out - for example those who are physically disabled, perhaps wheelchair bound, those who are mentally disabled and are unable to leave their homes; the elderly who cannot walk far, and simply move from house to car and back again. HBC can find the paper and the money to send out council tax bills and reminders -how many I wonder, but can't for notifications of major developments?</p> <p>Surely you can adapt how you notify to the size and scale of the development. This is at the heart of local democracy: to ignore this is to undermine the cornerstone of our society.</p>	<p>Councillor Hilton:</p> <p>Site notices are always displayed near the site of the planning application, and this meets national guidance for notifying members of public about applications.</p> <p>In addition to site notices you can view the details of planning applications in your area through the interactive map in My Hastings (https://my.hastings.gov.uk/) and use the Council's online planning portal to search for and track planning applications (https://www.hastings.gov.uk/planning/searching/).</p> <p>Our weekly 'My Hastings Matters' newsletter with a reach of c.33,000 subscribers also links to both of these online services.</p> <p>In addition to the above, anyone can register with our Public Access search tool Creating and managing a user account (hastings.gov.uk). This allows you to save searches for a particular application or property and receive updates, for example when a new application is received. Details can be found in the link above.</p>
<p>Ronald Hayward</p>	<p>I was wondering what the position was on trailers/caravans left on the side of the road without being attached to any</p>	<p>Councillor Haffenden:</p>

vehicle, as the ones I have seen I'm pretty sure they have no insurance on them.

As a local authority and not the Highway authority our only real statutory duty concerning Caravans and Trailers is regarding abandoned vehicles.

The local authority is responsible for investigating reports of abandoned vehicles and the legislation includes any part of a motor vehicle which includes caravans and trailers. However, there is no legal requirement to insure or tax caravans or trailers and they are not registered as cars are to the DVLA.

We do often receive reports of abandoned trailers and caravans and sometimes we do remove them as abandoned certainly if they are dangerous but often an owner will advise us it belongs to them and that would be the end of our involvement. The issue becomes more complicated if people are living in the caravan or if the land belongs to Hastings Borough Council but generally if they are on the highway, it would be a matter for East Sussex County Council to consider.

The Police can also be contacted but unless the caravan or trailer is parked dangerously or causing an obstruction, they are not likely to deem it necessary to respond.

Christopher Hurrell

The Leader of the Council announced in a Facebook Post on the 9th December 2023 in his account as Leader of the Council that: "Old Road Ghyll, we have received a well thought out development plan from local residents."

Can you please inform us when this plan will be released into the public domain for wider consultation with the campaign groups that brought the plight of the gill to public attention and to the wider public?

Councillor Barnett:

That will be for the residents to decide. HBC continues to work with all interested parties to ensure that the incidents that occurred at Old Roar Ghyll last year do not happen again.

Natalie Gaimster

The Tressell ward, particularly Mount Pleasant Road and the surrounding areas, are plagued with litter. The green areas, steps and roads are often awash with rubbish that

Councillor Haffenden:

Thank you for your question, interest, and support in the street cleaning service. The two situations that you've mentioned are quite

collect on people's doorways and in the crevices where the curb meets the road.

There appear to be two main causes for this:

- Foxes and other animals ripping open the 'seagull proof' bags
- People finishing the food and drink they bought at one of the fast-food businesses or local corner shop and dropping it on the floor as there are no litter bins provided I regularly litter pick the area and easily fill a large bin bag in less than 5 minutes.

Does the council have a plan to reduce litter in the area?

often the reason for litter in the town – waste collections, particularly in weekly areas, and individuals dropping litter.

To address the first – in weekly collection areas, the configuration of the properties is such that the vast majority of people cannot accommodate the wheeled bin service used in other areas of the town. With that in mind, the collection methodology remains a weekly black sack kerbside service.

To reduce the amount of split waste caused by animals ripping black sacks, in 2013 seagull proof bags were introduced in these areas. The purpose of these bags is to provide a measure of containment on collection day. The bags are designed to only be placed out on the morning of collection and removed after the collection has been made. When bags are used in line with this design, for the most part, they provide sufficient protection from animals to significantly reduce the amount of split waste in these areas.

More often than not, when there is an issue with seagull proof bags, it is caused by the bags being left out on the street outside of the collection window. Where this is the case, our Officers work with residents to adjust how the bags are presented to maximise their effectiveness.

Regarding the second point. It is sad that a very small minority of people choose to drop litter on the street, making the area look untidy, as well as impacting on the service that is in place to keep the streets clean. Throughout Hastings there are over 500 bins located in various locations for customers to dispose of litter. The majority of these bins are in high footfall areas, or meet a specific need (e.g. next to a bus stop). If you do have a specific area you feel needs an additional litter bin, please let us know and we can arrange for the area to be assessed by one of our waste officers.

Lastly, if a member of the public feels that an area needs cleaning outside of the normal schedule, we'd encourage them to request this

		online via myhastings, and the team will clean the road as soon as possible.
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