



Council Meeting

**Wednesday, 14th
April, 2021**

HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held at the This meeting will be streamed online on our website, on Wednesday, 14th April, 2021 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

7 April 2021

AGENDA

9. Public questions

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

Questioner	Question	Answer
<p>Mr Struys (Supplementary)</p>	<p>Thank you for your response to my question, however I note your answer has focused on the litter issues that the town is likely to encounter.</p> <p>in my original question, I pointed out that the town is likely (and hopefully) to have a very significant increase in long and short stay visitors and a significant increase in local residents staying at 'home', taking advantage of the town's attractions who would otherwise be holidaying abroad. I therefore believe that our normal car parking and public toilet facilities will not cope with the increase in demand. If these facilities fail to cope, it will leave a lasting impression on visitors who may never return in the future and a lot of disgruntled residents who will complain about the council's lack of foresight.</p> <p>However, if we leave a positive impression of our town, it's facilities, fantastic attractions and our council's foresight we may get more visitors returning year-on-year which can only be good for the town in the future.</p> <p>In my opinion the council should consider options for the provision of temporary additional public toilet facilities throughout the town and surrounding attractions, either by rental of temporary portable facilities or maybe having a temporary partnership scheme with local shops, cafés, and other businesses to make their own toilet facilities more accessible to non-clientele passing by? It's possible they will want some financial incentive, but it could be sold to them on the basis that it might have some long-term benefit to their business from returning visitors in the future. With regards to parking, could a temporary 'park-and-ride' scheme be set up in the field by Glyne Gap for visitors coming from the West? Park-and-ride schemes</p>	<p>Council Barnett:</p> <p>Consideration is actually being given to a whole range of measures, including in relation to parking and public conveniences. However, park and ride isn't under consideration. Our experience is that even on extremely busy Summer days, there is still excess capacity in some of our car parks. The key will be directing visitors to the available spaces. Experience has shown that park & ride is generally not that popular and is expensive to operate. But we are actively working with the local train operating companies to encourage people to travel here by train. Bus charges are a matter for the local bus operators who work closely with the County Council and are therefore outside our control.</p> <p>The council is obviously very keen to ensure that the town is ready for a potentially super busy Summer. But it is also conscious that the ability for local businesses and attractions to satisfy a much greater than normal demand will still be limited, even if the infra-structure is enhanced. So we will need to try and strike a balance between providing enough well serviced infra-structure to satisfy peak demand, whilst not encouraging more visitors than can be comfortably satisfied by our local attractions and shops, cafes, and pubs. Even if visitors find it relatively easy to park when they arrive in Hastings, they won't enjoy themselves if they spend much of their day in huge queues for massively oversubscribed attractions, shops and catering outlets.</p> <p>It is hoped that the measures we are developing and putting in place will prove to be just what is required as the Summer progresses.</p>

from other directions I appreciate may be more impractical.

Maybe you could also consider offering a temporary nominal or reduced charge summer bus pass or Taxi Discount Vouchers to residents to encourage them to leave their cars at home? This can only be good for bus and taxi services that will have suffered greatly in recent months.

It may be that the council has already considered these issues and with a better idea of potential numbers of visitors and residents has assessed that our current facilities will cope. There may be good reasons why my ideas or concerns are not practical or relevant, but I would be interested to know if the council has considered these and other potential issues, aside from the litter.

Thank you and I look forward to your response.