

Questioner	Question	Answer
Clean Water Action	<p>Are Hastings Councillors aware that East Sussex County Council has, via its pension fund, investments in Southern Water (via UBS)?</p> <p>As the Council is no doubt aware Southern Water is responsible for over 125 sewage spills onto Hastings & St Leonard's beaches in the last year, and continues with these breaches this year despite £90m in fines from the Environment Agency. What, if anything, can the Council do with regard to these ESCC pension investments?"</p>	<p>Councillor Hilton:</p> <p>As a response to the appalling sewage leaks we have seen on Hastings beaches Council leadership has held regular meetings with Southern Water.</p> <p>Further to this on 13th July the Council passed a motion to setup a working group bringing together, subject to their agreement, local representatives and stakeholders to hold regular meetings with Southern Water at the highest level. This working group will hear and discuss current plans to improve both the sewage system and clean water supply in Hastings. We have also made our severe reservations about the performance of Southern Water known to both our MP and the Government.</p> <p>All decisions about pension fund investments are made by the Pension Committee of East Sussex County Council, so Hastings Borough Council can make its views known about investments as it did when it called on the pension fund to divest its holdings in fossil fuels for example but it has no direct influence on its investment decisions.</p>
Charlotte Phillips	<p>Since 2015, when you consulted the public, and two public organisations (representing disabled people and those who cared for the park at the time) about your plan to introduce cycling into Alexandra Park, the world has moved on. I understand that neither of the public organisations you consulted now exist, nor did they support your plan.</p> <p>I would like to know why you think this 7-year-old consultation adequately represents the current thinking amongst those that use the park now, and would be grateful for more transparency on what is actually driving this plan forward when there are many apparently much better alternatives now available to cater for both cyclists and pedestrians which you have not formally consulted the public about.</p>	<p>Councillor Hilton:</p> <p>As you will be aware there has been a lively public debate regarding the proposed cycling path and all parties have been making representations.</p> <p>The Council agreed the adoption of updated byelaws for our pleasure grounds and open spaces on 14th September and at that meeting it was confirmed that any decision relating to the proposed cycle path through Alexandra Park will be subject to a further report for consideration at Cabinet, followed by final approval at a meeting of the full Council. This report will lay out in full all the options considered in arriving at the final design of the cycle path.</p>

