

Full Council 8th February 2023 – Supplementary Questions to Councillor Roark

Questioner	Question	Answer
Councillor Haffenden	In light of the cost of agency staff, why is there not an adequate street cleansing service in Hastings, particularly in Tressell Ward where street cleansing is far less frequent compared to other parts of the Borough?	<p>Councillor Roark:</p> <p>I am not aware of street cleansing in Tressell being less frequent compared to other parts of the borough. However, in recent months there has been a reduction in service levels in street cleansing across the town generally. This is due to a mixture of issues affecting capacity, that are in the process of being resolved.</p> <p>It is hoped that recruitment for all vacant posts will start in the next few weeks which should help to resolve the issues that the service is currently experiencing. I would like to thank the street cleansing operators for their continued hard work in our town and thank residents for their patience whilst these issues are resolved.</p>
Councillor Foster	In what document, if any, is the intention of the e-bike charging motion captured so that when exploring potential regeneration schemes officers are prompted to consider e-bike charging infrastructure opportunities?	<p>Councillor Roark:</p> <p>The climate strategy action plan contains relevant information, specifically Sections: 3.4; 5.2; 5.4; 5.5 and 5.7. I have had it confirmed by officers that EV charging and e-bike infrastructure is considered within our major regeneration schemes and will be accommodated if shown to fit within a scheme's eligibility criteria and considered viable.</p>
Councillor Cooke	Have you considered meeting with local cycling groups to see if they have any ideas on alternative routes that could be put forward to East Sussex County Council?	<p>Councillor Roark:</p> <p>All the alternative routes previously proposed were ruled out by ESCC and any proposed routes that do not run through Alexandra Park would fall under the leisure portfolio. Having said that, I would be happy to meet with local cycling groups to discuss this at their invitation and listen to ideas on new alternatives.</p>

<p>Councillor Collins</p>	<p>As plants of the rose family are particularly vulnerable to brown tailed moths will the Council consider replanting Warrior Square gardens with more sustainable species, perhaps supplied by the nurseries at Great Dixter?</p>	<p>Councillor Roark:</p> <p>I have received the following update re: Warrior Square gardens which I can share in answer to this question:</p> <p>“Unfortunately the infestation of the brown tail moth (BTM) caterpillars and their nests continues to remain on the roses and in the beds in the rose garden at Warrior Square Gardens.</p> <p>The infestation has now spread, with the brown tail moths now also on the roses in west and east shrub beds at the lower garden.</p> <p>Due to the infestation and the H&S risks posed by the hairs of the caterpillars (these have an irritant effect and can cause breathing difficulties and rashes when in contact with the skin), the grounds maintenance contractor is unable to undertake any maintenance to the beds until the brown tail moth caterpillars are removed.</p> <p>An alternative specialist contractor has been contacted who is able to undertake a very hard prune of the roses, start date of 27th February 2023 (the best time to prune roses is from late winter to early spring), in an attempt to remove the caterpillars and any nests. The rose cuttings will be removed from site.</p> <p>There is no guarantee that this hard prune will eradicate the brown tail moths, though we will be able to measure whether this work has been a success when the roses re-grow. This work once completed and if successful will also allow us to reinstate the ground maintenance in the surrounding area.</p> <p>If unsuccessful, we will have to review the future position of the rose beds and remove any plants that provide a food source for the BTM. This review will consider replacement of the rose beds with more sustainable plantings (subject to financial resources)”.</p>
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