

Supplementary Questions

Anne Adern

I would assume that most of you councillors and audience wouldn't really know what the audible signal is [Audible Vehicle Alert Systems (AVAS) on electric cars] and at what stage of miles per hour it comes in. This is one of the main things that we need to make people aware of that the audible signals have got a lot of get out clauses, one of which is that at 12-19mph it has to be beep but not necessarily a lot after that. What resources as councillors have you got to learn about this? It is something I'm learning about daily since I nearly got wiped out the other week.

Response

Thank you for your question. By way of an update, the Road Safety Team have confirmed that additional information is being sent to schools and local businesses to raise awareness of the issues locally. As Councillors we are also road users and so have awareness of the technologies, we have also been provided with more information following your question.

Jane Turner

I have a long history in project management and it seems to me this is a really good opportunity to separate the access issue from the rest of the beach management plan. It may need a second HRA but I am sure we could crowd fund it and that way we could start getting the access correct now because you're going to need access whatever outcome is proceeded with you are going to have to get the access right, Can this be explored?

Response

Thank you for your question. Access to the beach is addressed in both of the beach management options that are currently in development.

Don Naylor

In terms of the information on the website [Surfers against Sewage], there are three particular locations on Wirral coast that always seem to be green ticked. Its particularly the site at Chester at the top of the Dee that always seems to be always red flags which is problematic. It would be helpful if that information could be made public if the Council could assist?

Response

Officers from Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Service met with representatives from the Environment Agency on Tuesday 7 November 2023.

The subject of this discussion was bathing water quality, in particular at West Kirby. Officers took this opportunity to address your supplementary question to the Committee with the Environment Agency, who have the lead role on monitoring bathing water quality.

The Environment Agency undertake regular bathing water quality reports between May and September each year, and publish these results on their web pages.

In addition, Water Companies are obliged to notify the Environment Agency of any breaches of their permits (spills). Depending on the permit this must be provided within either 24 hours or 7 days of the breach, which is accepted as not being particularly helpful to swimmers due to the delay involved.

Officers understand that a new regulation has been introduced, requiring Water Companies to inform members of the public of any spills as they occur via their webpages. The deadline for all Water Companies to comply with this requirement is by December 2024. Officers understand, from the Environment Agency, that United Utilities expects to be in a position to comply with this regulation ahead of schedule and have this in place by the end of this calendar year. This is something that will be monitored with interest.

Julian Priest

When is the road safety review likely to take place?

Response

Thank you for your question. The local safety scheme review is undertaken before the end of the calendar year and the results of which are reported to Environment, Climate Emergency Committee each March as part of our recommended programme of local safety schemes for the next financial year and recommended indicative programme for the remaining years of the current SRSTS funding term.

Catherine Evans

Is this committee aware of the number of questions that are actually turned away from this Council meeting?

Response

Questions are dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10 of the Council Procedure Rules of the Constitution. Following consideration by and following advice from the Monitoring Officer a question may be rejected if it is considered:

- not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility, or which affects the Borough;
- illegal, improper, defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months;
- or requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information

A record of questions received is maintained and any individual whose question is rejected will receive correspondence setting out the reasons for rejection.