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Your Ref:  
Our Ref:  
Date: 29 March 2012

Dear Member

**COUNTY COUNCIL - THURSDAY, 29 MARCH 2012**

Please find to follow the complete list of County Council Questions that will be asked at the County Council meeting on Thursday 29 March 2012.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Sass".

**Peter Sass**  
**Head of Democratic Services**

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**COUNTY COUNCIL****Thursday 29 March 2012****Question by Mike Harrison to****Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste**

Climate Change or What? Snow in Mumbai in January? One can only hope that Mr Sweetland's counterpart in Mumbai had the same support and expertise as he had here in Kent from our excellent KHS Team when we had an overnight fall of snow of up to 10 to 15 cm right across the county on 4 February. Here in Kent to the best of my knowledge ALL of our major highways and major routes were kept clear and Kent's traffic was able to keep moving. Within 24 hours I am told that most of Kent's secondary routes were also treated and even more of Kent's traffic was on the move. It would appear that the Grand winter Plan worked and that we (KHS) had the right amount and kind of equipment along with sufficient stockpiles of salt/grit to do the job.

My question to Mr Sweetland is that this was and is the last of the Big Snows for this winter and, on that basis, it may well be that he might well have an underspend on his emergency Winter Roads budget. If that does prove to be the case, may I make a plea on behalf of all Members and residents of Kent that at least some of that surplus can be used to refresh ALL of the Lines and Signs throughout the county?

**Mike Harrison****Question by Tim Prater to****Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Business Strategy, Performance & Health Reform**

Given the Information Commissioner's concerns about Kent County Council's awareness of its responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act, the Regulations, and the undertaking with the Information Commissioner's Office recently signed by the Cabinet Member for Business Strategy, Performance & Health Reform; can the Cabinet Member please say what additional resources and training, at what additional cost, are to be provided to meet those undertakings with the ICO; and when will these resources be in place to ensure we meet our undertaking, avoid formal action by the ICO and clearly demonstrate to Kent's citizens this council has embraced the culture of openness and transparency the legislation seeks to promote?

**Tim Prater**

**Question by Richard Parry to**

**Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste**

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment Highways and Waste identify how well, or otherwise, KHS's preparations for adverse weather this winter had proved to be in practice when coping with the weekend snow fall earlier this year?

In his answer it would be very useful if the Cabinet Member would identify how KCC worked with Partner organisations and what activities these Partners undertook.

Additionally are there changes which will be incorporated into our Winter Preparation Plans as a result of this year's experiences?

**Richard Parry**

**Question by Leslie Christie to**

**Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills**

Under current DfE guidance what would be, in the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills best judgement, the capital cost a) in total and b) to Kent County Council of providing 2 FE of selective secondary provision for boys and 2 FE of selective secondary provision for girls in the Sevenoaks South area.

**Leslie Christie**

**Question by George Koowaree to**

**Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health**

For more than 2 months (since 23 January 2012) I have been asking a relatively simple request\* – to be provided with details of the number of KCC funded clients in residential & nursing homes with details of those homes; will the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health give his personal assurance that KCC does know where all our clients are living even if KCC cannot provide me with the details and please inform me what the problems are preventing KCC from providing the information, when these will be sorted and when I will finally be provided with the details I have requested?

**George Koowaree**

\* No response had been received prior to this question being submitted on 23 March 2012.

**Question by Ian Chittenden to**

**Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health**

Given KCC should have regular care management reviews and contractual inspection visits to all residential and nursing homes with KCC funded residents; will the Cabinet Member inform the Council what went wrong to leave 24 KCC funded elderly residents at serious risk of harm in two Kent homes – The Oast in Maidstone\* (with 11 KCC funded residents) and The Gables in Wrotham\*\* (with 13 KCC funded residents) and what measure he has put in place to safeguard all KCC's vulnerable adults in residential & nursing homes to ensure no one will be placed at such risk again?

**Ian Chittenden**

\*The Oast – received four warning notices for urgent improvements following Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection in January 2012 relating to breaches of:

1. regulations relating to care and welfare of people - including unsupervised for long periods of time with no mental stimulation, a lack of activities
2. meeting nutritional needs – including risk of inadequate nutrition and hydration
3. safety and suitability of premises – including maintenance not up to date, and parts of the home in need of urgent improvements
4. assessing and monitoring the quality of service provision – including care plans and risk assessments not up to date, and were sometimes found to be contradictory

A report published in October 2011 found major concerns over the quantity and quality of food and drink being provided to residents, a lack of privacy, and out-of-date care plans.

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/media/cqc-warns-oast-maidstone-it-failing-protect-safety-and-welfare-people>

\*\* The Gables – shut on 20 March 2012 following a string of alleged planning breaches and negative inspections:

- a number of reports by the CQC highlight health and safety concerns.
- the most damning, published in September 2011, found improvements were needed in every area  
<http://www.cqc.org.uk/directory/1-140937060>

**Question by Trudy Dean to**

**Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste please say how many voluntary organisations/charities in Kent have:

- a) lost all of their 3<sup>rd</sup> party recycling credits
- b) retained fifty percent (50%) of their 3<sup>rd</sup> party recycling credits
- c) retained all (100%) of their 3<sup>rd</sup> party recycling credits

and describe the basis or the criteria used to allocate those voluntary organisations into one of the categories detailed?

**Trudy Dean**

**Question by Elizabeth Green to**

**Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills**

Would the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills please inform us what the current proposals are for the Newington infant School site in Ramsgate, as this site has been derelict for several years.

**Elizabeth Green**