

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

19 January 2023

Title: Questions by Members of the Public

Notice has been received of the following questions from members of the public to be put to the Council meeting.

1. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Turner of Wallsend

Please can I ask why there seems to be less investment in Wallsend aimed at footfall increase

There has been a mention of artwork relating to Segedunum & new shop fronts for those that have aged

But primarily there already is not enough footfall in and around Wallsend it's merely became like ghost town

Yet I know personally when we have arranged events or I have been part of events in Wallsend that people come out in great numbers

So surely some of the allocated finance needs to be aimed more at holding more events ie a music concert in Wallsend park would be an ideal event which can be done with relative ease I'm sure or maybe something similar at Segedunum fort

Please can we find a way to hold discussions with someone who may be able to make such ideas a reality and in turn bring Wallsend back to life

2. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Thorn of Monkseaton

I am very interested to understand why, since March 2020, very little if no work has been done to ensure that road signs in the Borough are clear from the foliage or overgrowth of nearby trees and bushes?

The situation is frankly ridiculous and, in my opinion, will lead to a serious incident with potential harm to person(s) as a direct result. It is particularly noticeable on the approaches at Holystone roundabout.

3. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Cadman of North Shields

A number of Ash trees around the region have been removed from residential streets after suffering from Ash Dieback. The current NTC tree policy is to replace each removed tree with at least one other.

What is the action plan to assess and remove Ash trees in the region and when will replacement trees be re-instated to the residential streets in their place?

4. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mrs Harrison of North Shields

My question is in regard to disability accessibility in my vicinity.

I use a mobility scooter which is invaluable, but being able to get around my area is a challenge. A lot of streets don't have disability pavement slopes which means having to use driveway ramps which are steep.

Beachcroft Ave,

Beach road slip road, which I have to use to get to Morrisons in order to use the controlled crossing point. There are many areas that need re-assessed. Some streets have a ramp on one side but no ramp on the opposite side.

5. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Cummings of Whitley Bay

My understanding is that local authorities have a legal duty to remove graffiti from public buildings and structures but (unless the graffiti is offensive) there is no legal time limit to do so.

As a matter of good practice and consistent with making North Tyneside a great place to live, work and visit, will the council put a policy in place to set their own internal targets for graffiti removal and report performance back to residents (say) annually?

My reasons for asking:-

I have lived in North Tyneside for over 34 years. In that time, there has been a steady increase in the levels of criminal damage (especially graffiti) affecting high profile locations such as road signs, transport infrastructure, coastal leisure facilities (sea walls, seats, shelters) as well as many other public structures.

It's easy to report such instances. I have done so and, to their great credit, North Tyneside Council are generally responsive (certainly compared to Newcastle for example). But there are still many very obvious ugly examples of graffiti in the Borough. Visual impressions make a big impact on residents' perceptions of safety, wellbeing

and in their opinions of 'what their council does for them'. In addition, there's little point spending public money to attract visitors to coastal areas if we allow graffiti to spoil the visitors' experience.

I appreciate that there are many demands on council resources and that any commitment would probably require some zoning or area prioritisation- but surely, good councils should target and measure their performance in these aspects and report back.

If this is already being done, thank you and please pass on the details. However, I cannot find a record of any such commitment and having reported several things over recent months and spoken to councillors about specifics, I can see that there is a positive response but it appears to be without policy or plan.

6. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Steele of Tynemouth

I read with interest the claim that the council 'cuts carbon' by 53% and is 'ahead of schedule' for its 100% target. I note that the council's emissions represent less than 2% of the borough's emissions and this figure is derived from a base line set in 2010. Can you report on carbon emission reduction since the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019?

7. Question to the Elected Mayor from Ms Remfry of Whitley Bay

Has North Tyneside Council considered, as part of its zero-carbon Transport Strategy, a partnership with a local Car Club to enable its staff to have access to a car without having to have one of their own, thereby reducing borough carbon emissions and improving air quality?