

## COUNCIL – 22 JANUARY 2025 MEMBER QUESTIONS

### QUESTION

Member Question submitted by Cllr Ted Strike for response by the Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety (Cllr Norma Stephenson):-

“Ingleby Barwick Community Partnership held their Tenth market anniversary in September, sadly our Christmas market in December looks like this will be the last one.

Since SBC changed the rules on street trading in March this year which left us with a choice of charging an entrance fee or paying £100 for each market.

Paying the tax would make our market not worthwhile holding from a financial point of view so we chose to put on a charge, and although at our first market we gave out vouchers to the value of the entrance fee, and a committee member donated hundreds of 10pence pieces to pay a 10p entry fee at our other markets footfall has fallen by between 30/40%.

When I raised this last year I said this would have a negative impact on our market, officers and councillors said it was only £5 per stall, well this is presuming we have 20 stalls, which is not the case and if we were to increase our stall fee I am sure a number would stop attending.

At our Light switch on in November we only have a coffee van and a stall selling hot food but we had to pay £100. Surely this is not what was envisaged when the changes were made, negatively affecting community events.

If the rules are not changed then our market will no longer be held.

Will the council

1. Exempt Community events from this Street Trading Temporary Event Tax if not
2. Change the current rules to allow a small number of stalls to attend events free of charge, i.e. 2, 3,4 or 5. At least this way small events such as Christmas Light switch ons would be exempt?”

**QUESTION**

Member Question submitted by Cllr Jack Miller for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing (Cllr Nigel Cooke):-

“Can the Leader inform me what the Council is doing to tackle the potholes blighting our roads?”

**QUESTION**

Member Question submitted by Cllr Marcus Vickers for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing (Cllr Nigel Cooke):-

“What is happening with the £10m allocated for Billingham Town Centre back in February 2021, before levelling up funding was available?”

**QUESTION**

Member Question submitted by Cllr Barbara Inman for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport (Cllr Clare Besford):-

“I was very pleased to see lots of positive comments on social media regarding the new Letters to Heaven post box at the Crematorium.

Are there plans to keep this as a permanent feature?”

**QUESTION**

Member Question submitted by Cllr Paul Rowling for response by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (Cllr Lisa Evans):-

“From employment and educational opportunities to home ownership, evidence shows that care leavers face substantial barriers in comparison to other young people. As a Corporate Parent, Councillors have a duty to do all that is possible to break down these barriers. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council has always aimed to be a leader in this area. Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People update me on what work we are doing, and what ambitions she has for the future?”

**QUESTION**

Member Question submitted by Cllr Paul Rowling for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing (Cllr Nigel Cooke):-

“From providing money to fund council services, to multiple wider economic benefits, the Hampton by Hilton continues to be a success story for our town. Can the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing update me on both the benefits of the hotel, and the wider economic regeneration work planned around Stockton Town Centre, and over the river in Teesdale?”