

Responses to Public Questions that were not able to be asked at the Council meeting of the 20.10.22

For Cllr Emma Evans

As a concerned resident, I'd like to raise a question about regulation of activities in the Adur estuary. I understand that the zone between the Toll Bridge downstream to the Norfolk Bridge is a protected nature reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest, rich in many wild bird species and fish such as spawning bass and mullet and migrating sea trout. I believe there are very low speed limits for vessels, but there is a rapidly increasing amount of other, recently developed types of traffic.

I am most concerned about the rapidly escalating presence of wind-surfing hydrofoils which can and do race around at 30 to 40 knots, changing direction erratically and presenting a danger to all river life, often with scores of these being used at the same time. I'd like to enquire:

- What controls exist to regulate such usage of this important local resource? Are laws being broken?
- Who is responsible for policing or applying any such regulations?
- What plans are in place or are being considered by the Council to interact with other stakeholders to improve the situation?
- What is the timetable for such action?

Response:

Thank you for your question. The Council doesn't have any direct controls over the use of the River Adur. The Environment Agency has the most statutory duties and responsibilities regarding water quality, water resources, Biodiversity and flood risk management. The Estuary is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) so Natural England also has an important part to play. Much of the Estuary is owned by the RSPB who have a large Wildfowl Reserve on the River Adur.

Speed limits are in place on the River Adur as the wash caused by boats has an impact on flood defences and river banks. For concerns downstream of the Old Shoreham Toll Bridge people should contact Shoreham Port Authority and for concerns upstream of the Old Shoreham Toll Bridge there is no Navigation Authority, but the River is maintained by the Environment Agency.

for Cllr Emma Evans

With two small independent businesses recently closing on Brunswick Road and footfall dramatically reducing since the closure of the Post Office and Lloyds Bank, what is being

considered to support businesses on this road to generate footfall... what is going to happen to the old Post Office building?

Response:

Adur Council works hard to ensure our various places, neighbourhoods, villages and towns thrive.

The Council continues to work with the Shoreham Independent Traders to identify support needed at a local level, however in terms of immediate support the Council has just launched the next round of Small Business Grants which are targeted at small / independent businesses - please see the Council's website for details. In addition, we continue to try and activate the town centre to support businesses including our regular markets and, for this time of year, events such as Light Up Shoreham.

In reference to the Post Office, this isn't in Council ownership / control so I'm not aware of what may happen with this building but we will try to make enquiries with the Post Office / freeholder of the building to identify any plans they may have for the unit.

For Cllr Emma Evans

School Streets support the safe movement of children and families travelling to and from school by creating an environment that enables and encourages more walking, wheeling, cycling and scooting.

Is Adur Council in support of a School Streets programme to all eligible infant, primary and junior schools in the area?

If so, will you proactively encourage WSCC to consider starting with a Shoreham school like Swiss Gardens?

Response:

The Council is committed to improving the cycling provision and infrastructure across the District but, as you have outlined, the majority of the direct delivery comes through West Sussex County Council as the Highways Authority.

I will ask our Officers to work with WSCC colleagues to identify what programme of activity is currently scoped for Adur, and specifically Shoreham, regarding the School Streets Programme. If schools in Adur aren't currently included in the programme we will be encouraging WSCC to include as many schools as possible, including Swiss Gardens.