

REPRESENTATIONS

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	5 JULY 2021	5

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

One question has been received from a Member of the Council before the requisite deadline, as outlined in Procedural Standing Orders for Council and Committees of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, and before the statutory deadline for publication of the agenda.

If any further questions are received before the constitutional deadline, as outlined above, they will be circulated prior to the meeting for members' information, under separate cover.

Any questions will be heard during the Council meeting on 5 July 2021 and a response will be given by the Leader of the Council or any other member nominated by her.

Question 1 – Received from Councillor Brian Gill

“My question concerns the hot topic in Lytham and St Annes On Sea at the moment; the St Annes Sea Wall Defence Project.

Having reviewed the material presented on the website and correspondence received from officers, a number of concerns arise.

Why such a traditional approach?

Why are we not prioritising the protection of our beach, which is the main attraction for tourists and residents alike?

Why have we had limited consultation? It appears that only the residents that the Council considers will be affected and a select set of stakeholders have been officially informed. In reality, the proposal will impact the majority of residents on the Fylde plus the tourists we are desperately trying to encourage to visit our area.

Why are we impacting the environment by building with concrete, which is the third largest contributor to greenhouse gases, when the government has a net zero target? What other innovative solutions have been looked at, i.e a soft impact absorbing structure.

Have studies been performed on the effect of longshore drift on the sand dunes, which we are also trying to protect? This will be exacerbated by the proposed design.

Why have we not considered a mix of soft and hard defence solutions?

I have not even touched on the potential visual effects of such a high wall, nor the impact on businesses by using their real estate.

It seems that we are rushing through a proposal to meet an artificial deadline defined by the Environment Agency to secure funds. It is interesting to note that the Council posted on the 18th of May that they had been working on options for replacing the existing sea wall for the last six months. The general public became aware of this proposal mid May. Why was this not made public before the deadline for the proposal was fast approaching?

Therefore, my question to council is this. Can the Council confirm that additional measures are being introduced to look at a further range of solutions for such an important project that will have a major impact on the Fylde Coast, environmentally, economically and socially including additional consultation with all Fylde residents to address any outstanding questions and concerns, only some of which I have touched upon here?"