

Public Questions

Question A – Alan Stockey, of Rainham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement, Councillor Paterson, the following:

“Medway Council describes its School Streets as making the streets outside schools safer and healthier and identifies improved air quality as one of their objectives.

However, a School Street is not necessarily an idle-free street. Vehicles can legitimately be present within a School Street during its operating hours. These include residents and other exemption holders, Blue Badge holders requiring access, school transport and vehicles which entered and parked before the restriction began.

ANPR enforcement controls which vehicles enter a School Street; it does not address unnecessary engine idling by vehicles which are legitimately already there. Yet reducing air pollution is one of the stated purposes of the scheme.

Will the Council, therefore, commit to making the expectation that drivers switch off their engines when stationary explicit within Medway's School Streets during their operating hours, ensuring that this is clearly communicated to exemption holders and everyone else permitted to enter or remain within them?”

Question B – Jabeen Oughera, of Chatham, will ask the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement, Councillor Paterson, the following:

“When are you going to introduce the School Street Scheme for St Michael's School and St John's Infant school? Parents are obstructing corners of the road, blocking residents in by parking outside our garages. There's been many instances of road rage. Our vehicles are being damaged; emergency services cannot get past as cars are double parked. Parents parking in disabled bays with no blue badge on display.”