

Public deputation in respect of Item 10

Covid-19 Response

For more than five weeks, beaches have been packed, parking lots have been overflowing, and sidewalks have been chock full of both visitors and holiday-takers. There is absolutely no evidence of social distancing being practiced/enforced anywhere on Hayling Island.

Those of us who live and breathe on the island do not appreciate the carelessness of actions taken by thousands of weekly non-resident visitors nor the complete absence of policing.

I speak for many who have been faithfully observing protective measures by locking down to keep safe. At this point, the influx of brazen day-trippers is creating a more dire situation for those who are- now- forced to quarantine *because* of the seemingly lax attitudes of both visitors and public servants.

What exactly is being done to ensure Hayling Island does not become a hotspot for virus spreading? Why is there no signage, Council, or police presence? Why is there no restriction to access (either by numbers or locations)?

Will the Council now commit immediate focus and resources to ensure Hayling Island residents (and visitors) are being protected?

If local officials are unable or unwilling to manage the violations to the government mandates, then I do not think it is unreasonable to request that all public gathering spaces on Hayling Island be closed until a time officials are prepared, able, and committed to do so. To knowingly let conditions remain as they have been for the past five weeks would be gross negligence on the part of Council. You have had three full months to put a plan in place.

It is imperative that you **ACT NOW**.

Not tomorrow.

NOW.

Please.

Lives depend it.

Show us that you care.