

Item 11 – Urgent Questions Received under Standing Order 27.4.2

	Question From	Question to	Question
1	Councillor Brent	Councillor Fairhurst	<p>After the prompt removal of a traveller encampment within two days from the green alongside Ladybridge Road as a result of excellent combined working between local councillors, Havant Borough Council and Hampshire Constabulary through efficient communication and response; can the cabinet member provide assurances to residents by answering:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Will there be a short-term measure put in place at the two entry points to deter another traveller encampment incursion within this public area? 2) Has this location been prioritised within the council's work schedule for a long-term strategy to deter any traveller encampment from attempting to converge and camp upon this area?
<p>Reply</p> <p>The Plan for defending open spaces across the Borough was approved by Cabinet, with the four highest risk open spaces receiving additional protection this year: Mengham Park, Hampshire Farm, Jubilee Park and Barton's Triangle. So far, this work has proven successful but inevitably this may move the pressure to other areas such as Ladybridge. The replacement of the Ladybridge gate and damaged dragons teeth was also approved and the gate ordered a few months ago. This will be fitted in early July, with the dragons teeth replaced as needed. The gate is fitted with restriction boxes, as used on other sites recently with good results.</p> <p>While this work represents good progress, the ability to innovate or willingness to commit criminal damage by those who breach the sites means that we are unable to guarantee that incursions will not happen in the future. We continue to monitor and report this dynamic environment to enable Cabinet to prioritise future work. The Council property, environmental services, engineering and enforcement teams continue to work together to protect the Boroughs open spaces and respond quickly when incursions do occur.</p>			