

Questions submitted on Notice from Members of the Public for the Ordinary Meeting of the Council – Thursday, 15th July 2021

Question No.	Questioner	Respondent	Question
1	<p>Kate MAMMOLOTTI (Darlington Climate Action Group and Darlington Friends of the Earth)</p>	Councillor KEIR	<p><i>“1. Currently, how much of Darlington Borough Council’s municipal waste actually gets recycled to be reused, eg. what percentage of glass actually get recycled into glass products? Similarly, what percentage of cardboard, paper, cans and plastic?</i></p> <p><i>2. There is much disparity between recycling rates throughout the country. What is Darlington Borough Council doing to improve on its current rate of 40% (In an article in the Northern Echo from March 2021 Cllr Keir said “the Authority’s overall recycling rate was 40% and that...we want to take that up to 45% by 2025”) to reach the level of more efficient councils? Figures from Letsrecycle.com/Defra show East Riding of Yorkshire, for example, achieving 63.3% and Three Rivers District Council 64.1%, among other higher achieving councils, in 2019/2020..</i></p> <p><i>3. Our council could learn a lot from and then implement more advanced techniques from higher achieving councils within our own country and from other countries. Does Cllr Keir acknowledge the direct link between local authorities that have long running contracts with incinerators and low recycling rates? (As demonstrated in the Dispatches TV programme The dirty truth about your rubbish, and presented on the UKWIN website UKWIN.org.uk). Is Darlington Borough Council currently doing any research in this area?</i></p> <p><i>4. Does Darlington Borough Council have plans to extend its recycling commitment and within what time frame?“</i></p>
2	<p>Rachel NIXON</p>	Councillor KEIR	<p><i>‘1. The Climate Change Committee say, in their Sixth Carbon Budget, that</i></p> <p><i>‘Our Balanced Net Zero Pathway sees waste sector emissions fall 75% from today’s levels to reach 7.8 MtCO₂e/year by 2050. Around 80% of the abatement to 2035 is from waste prevention, increased recycling and banning biodegradable waste from landfill.’</i></p> <p><i>What is the Council's strategy to use its influence to nudge residents to reduce the waste that they create - that includes recyclable as well as food waste and other incinerator bound waste?</i></p>

			<i>2. When does the Council plan to collect food waste for anaerobic digestion as per recommendation by the Climate Change Committee?’</i>
3	Kendra ULLYART	Councillor KEIR	<p><i>‘How much glyphosate is currently used within the borough?’</i></p> <p><i>In the US, a recent liability case saw 278 million dollars awarded to a worker who’s exposure to glyphosate resulted in cancer. What measures do DBC have in place to mitigate this risk to its employees?’</i></p> <p><i>Given that the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has identified glyphosate is a probable carcinogen, why does the DBC continue to use it? Surely it’s use in playgrounds for example endangers the wellbeing of children?’</i></p> <p><i>What Is the council plan to phase out the use of chemicals to control the natural world, given that the impact of such practices is contributing to the current ecological emergency?’</i></p>