

Cllr Derek Mortimer
Chair, Communities, Housing & Environment
Committee
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
Maidstone
ME15 6QJ

17 May 2020

Dear Cllr Derek

RULE 3.2: AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

USE OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POWERS AND THE SUPPRESSION OF NUISANCES

1. I write with my characteristically tedious formality to request that this item is placed on the agenda of our next meeting, currently scheduled for 26 May 2020.
2. You will be aware that the Committee will, at that meeting, only be able to request a report to be brought for a further meeting rather than make any immediate decision on matters under this heading. To this end, I would respectfully suggest that matters of timing & preparation, or the weight of other possible agenda items, should not preclude its inclusion.
3. The background to this request includes the recommendations of the Council's Crime & Disorder Committee on 24 September 2019, the question raised by the member for Downswood & Otham at the Committee's meeting on 15 October 2019, and my own experiences over 2018-19 in attempting to get the Council's powers used to have the High-Level Crossing tidied-up.
4. My request is that the coming meeting requests a report to be brought to the meeting after that one concerning: -
 - 4.1. The general topic of ideas for increasing member-involvement in the initiation, consideration and decision-making in the use of the Council's various powers for tackling anti-social behaviour and suppressing nuisances;
 - 4.2. A particular exercise that could be undertaken to this end, being a "call for blights" exercise. This might loosely be summarised as MBC inviting members, parish councils et al to put forward matters of concern and/or ideas for the use of the Council's various powers, and for this Committee to then lead the process of deciding which of these to take forward. I would suggest that the Committee could then preside over an "issue tracking log" arising from the exercise. The exercise could perhaps be undertaken annually.
5. The powers I have in mind are various. The most obvious ones are those contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014. These include the public spaces protection orders ("PSPOs"), community protection notices, and the power to apply for an injunction on the basis

of a civil standard of proof. Other powers available include the somewhat antiquated power to make by-laws and powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Yours sincerely


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