

**Full Council - Wednesday, 17 November 2021**

## **Written question from Cllr Peter Spink to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council**

Does the Leader of the Isle of Wight Council consider that motor cycle racing/time trials on the Island, and in particular in the West Wight, is consistent with:

- i) the Council's Climate Policy,
- ii) the Islands designation as a UNESCO Biosphere.
- iii) Eco tourism (which provides substantial income to Island businesses).

## ***Response***

The Council, through its Cabinet is under an obligation to determine an application for a motor cycle race through a statutory process which sets out the matters it must take account of when making a decision of whether to allow an event of this nature to take place.

On this basis, and having taken advice, it would not be appropriate for any Cabinet member to express a view until such time as an application is formally placed before the Cabinet and all of the relevant information is available on which to base a decision.

To do otherwise before all the details of the application have been received and formally considered, together with the allied information and results of a further public consultation that we understand will be necessary, could be deemed to be pre-determining the application. As a member of the Cabinet, I am therefore unable to respond to the questions as posed by Councillor Spink at this moment in time.

To clarify matters for the public, it should be stated that, in light of the advice that we have received, it was plainly inappropriate for the previous Council Leader and the then Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport to have stated that they and other then Cabinet Members supported the proposal when it was made by the organisers last year. This may have comprised any formal decision that might have been subsequently required from them had an application come before them.

Therefore, it would not be appropriate for Cabinet members to comment at this time, so as not to prejudice the decision-making process.