

Question from Kevin Reay:

Dear Alan,

I should like to place this question before the meeting of STC, due to take place on Sept 20th. As I am unable to attend the meeting, due to my leaving the country in order to work abroad, I should like this question to be read out on my behalf.

1) Last year, in this chamber, members of STC gave assurances, that any future plans for a firework display in Stanley, would be subject to a tendering process. This assurance was intended to ensure that STC were left with a choice of providers, and would not have to use Stanley Events as a matter of course. Might I ask the members what they have done, both individually and collectively, to ensure that this tendering process took place? Might we also have an absolute assurance that any future plans would be subject to a tendering process?

2) With regard to the fireworks display. It is claimed that the recent STC survey revealed a desire among the public for such a display. In evidence we were presented with a "word cloud" which counted the number of times the word "fireworks" was mentioned. Each mention was counted as being in favour. Might I add that, in my opinion, such a tool is not indicative of any such desire. For example, the words "No fireworks" should not be counted as being supportive.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Reay

Response from Town Clerk:

Dear Kevin,

Thank you for your message.

In relation to your points, you are able to forward questions to be considered by the Council in writing as well as in person, however, I would like to clarify a couple of areas because I think I can answer your queries without the need to put the matter to Council.

You say in your first point that "members of STC gave assurances, that any future plans for a firework display in Stanley, would be subject to a tendering process." This is correct in so far as it relates to STC itself organising a fireworks display. However, when the budgets were set for the year 2016/17 (i.e. the current financial year) no provision was made in the budget for an STC organised fireworks display nor has the Council made a decision that STC will organise a fireworks display. Therefore, the members (and the staff) have collectively done nothing about organising any fireworks display because they decided not to organise one and did not budget for one.

Hypothetically, if STC took a decision to organise a fireworks event itself in the future, the Council would have to comply with its own Financial Regulations in any procurement exercise, which would require multiple tenders to be obtained.

In respect of the survey results, the data was analysed manually by STC Officers so I do not believe it is the case that responses of 'no fireworks' would have been taken as positive support for fireworks. The full unedited data captured in the survey was and remains published on our website and is available to be analysed by anybody who wants to. The link is here: <http://www.stanley-tc.gov.uk/march-agenda-uploaded/> The relevant download is the 'Raw anonymised data from survey'.

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The status of the survey is that it is intended to assist in the development of a medium term plan which has not yet been put to Council for approval, therefore whilst the Council has made a decision that it will address issues identified as priorities in the survey, it had not as yet formalised what its policy will be in relation to any of these matters, which would include fireworks displays.

As I believe you are aware, the Council has received a request for funding from Stanley Events for a fireworks event they are organising in November. Council will consider the application and decide whether or not to make a grant award at the meeting on 20th September, which will be open to the public.

I believe this response covers the questions you have raised, however, if there are further questions you would like to be asked at the Council meeting please let me know. I have copied your original message and this response to all members of the Council and they will also be circulated with the Council papers so they are on public record.

Yours sincerely

Alan

Alan Shaw
Town Clerk
Stanley Town Council

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Question from Robert Scott:

Name: Robert Scott

E-Mail: robertscott@power-scott.co.uk

Subject: Automated External Defibrillator AED

Message: I wonder if the Town Council has considered siting an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in Stanley. I understand that for every minute which elapses following a cardiac arrest the sufferer's chances of survival reduce by 10%. An AED can be purchased for something in the region of £2,000 . No specific training is necessary. The device is stored in a prominent position & the location can be found via the internet but if the location was made known locally to traders & businesses that would seem to be the best way of "advertising" the availability & location of the AED. You may have seen the green boxes containing an AED in other towns.

I should add I have no personal interest in such a proposal. It just seems to me to be a good use of local taxpayers money