

Questions and Answers

Executive
Thursday 23 April 2015

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Executive Meeting

23 April 2015

Questions and Answers



Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

No public questions were submitted in relation to items not included on the agenda.

Members' Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

(a) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Economic Development, Health & Safety, Human Resources, Pensions, Property by Councillor Alan Macro:

"What is the current position regarding the sale of the Pound Lane Depot site in Thatcham?"

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Economic Development, Health & Safety, Human Resources, Pensions, Property answered:

Thank you very much Councillor Macro, that is a very timely question because earlier this afternoon Officers met with the preferred buyer to finalise the sale, Ts and Cs for Pound Lane. As a result of that we hope to exchange contracts in approximately 4-6 weeks. The main condition of sale that we insisted upon, to avoid any viability discussions in the future, was that there would be at least 30% affordable housing coming. Following the exchange we expect a planning application as soon as possible for a minimum of 47 houses of which a minimum of 15 will be affordable.

The Chairman asked: *"Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?"*

Councillor Alan Macro asked the following supplementary question:

Could you tell me how long it's been since this site was first put up for sale?

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Economic Development, Health & Safety, Human Resources, Pensions, Property answered:

That's a good question, I would estimate that it's at least nine months, but it may very well be longer than that. I can come back to you with the exact answer.

(b) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport (Policy), Culture, Customer Services, Countryside, Waste, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Licensing by Councillor Alan Macro:

"What influence will the Tilehurst Neighbourhood Plan have on the selection of housing sites for the Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)?"

The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport (Policy), Culture, Customer Services, Countryside, Waste, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Licensing answered:

Thank you Councillor Macro, the Council welcomes the fact that the local community in Tilehurst recognise the need for additional development and have, along with Stratfield Mortimer, decided to produce a neighbourhood development plan for their area.

The decision by Tilehurst Parish Council has come too late to have any great influence on the current site allocation development plan document.

However, the Tilehurst Neighbourhood Plan, when it is produced, will be able to influence development in Tilehurst after it is adopted and into the future.

The Chairman asked: *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

Councillor Alan Macro asked the following supplementary question:

“Given that the impetus for them developing their Neighbourhood Development Plan was the current housing site allocations DPD, I think that many people will be disappointed in this so could I ask that we do the upmost to make sure that everyone is aware, not just the Parish Council, but everybody who may have been concerned with this request please.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport (Policy), Culture, Customer Services, Countryside, Waste, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Licensing answered:

Certainly.

(c) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Emergency Planning, on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operations), Newbury Vision by Councillor Alan Macro:

“What influence will the Tilehurst Neighbourhood Plan have on the selection of housing sites for the Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)?”

The Portfolio Holder for Emergency Planning on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operations), Newbury Vision answered:

Thank you Councillor Macro, the Council has no plans to abolish payments by cash in any parking locations where cash payment is currently accepted.

The Chairman asked: *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

Councillor Alan Macro asked the following supplementary question:

I welcome that answer. Can I ask that in future a little bit more care is taken on the consultation documents being put out because certainly at least one parish council was under the impression that this was being considered.

The Portfolio Holder for Emergency Planning on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operations), Newbury Vision answered:

I can certainly pass on that feedback.