

# **Council Meeting**

## **17 September 2015**

Questions and Answers



WestBerkshire  
C O U N C I L

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

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(a) Question submitted to the Leader of the Council by Dr Tony Vickers:

*“Do you agree that parish and town councils have an important role to play in the creation and development of local communities and that they should therefore reflect a distinctive and recognisable community of place?”*

**The Leader of the Council answered:**

Local communities and their parishes shape the look of the District and have a role to play in people's identity as a construct. Yes, I agree they have an important role.

**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?”*

**Dr Vickers asked the following supplementary question:**

*“If the town and parish councils are important, then this review should consider the parish boundaries especially in areas where there has been population growth. Why is there therefore no intention to review the parish boundaries before the Local Government Boundary Commission review of the district wards given that the parishes are the building blocks.?”*

**The Leader of the Council answered:**

If you stick around when we discuss Item 14 on the agenda, hopefully our discussions will address that question. It was a manifesto commitment to undertake this review and the Local Government Boundary Review will look at the numbers of Parish Councillors, as indicated in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

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

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- (a) **Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Property, Culture, Customer Services, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Countryside, Cleaner & Greener, Waste by Councillor Alan Macro:**

*“What action is the Council planning to do to get the Shaw House Park and Garden restored so that it can be removed from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Property, Culture, Customer Services, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Countryside, Cleaner & Greener, Waste answered:**

The Heritage at Risk Register is drawn up annually by Historic England and since 2009 includes Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Protected Wrecks and all listed places of worship.

We have started discussions with Historic England about the steps required to now remove the Park and Garden from the Risk Register.

Key to achieving removal from the risk register is the development of a Conservation Management Plan for the site in 2016 and this is a priority in the Shaw House Business Plan 2015-2020. Historic England have indicated that they will welcome a funding application from the Council towards the cost of developing the plan.

In August this year a funding application was submitted to the Veolia Foundation towards the cost of restoring the old kitchen garden to the north of the house (previously covered by the old gymnasium) as a community open space and garden. We hope to hear the result of that application by Christmas.

**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'm pleased things are moving; please do everything in your power to restore the important site”.*

**The Portfolio Holder for Property, Culture, Customer Services, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Countryside, Cleaner & Greener, Waste answered:**

Thank you for your help and encouragement, Councillor Macro. We will move forward as fast as we can but as in all things involving money we must be cautious.

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