

Item (a)	Executive Meeting on 15 July 2021
Submitted to:	Bill Bagnell / Katherine Makant

(a) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport by John Gotelee:

“Is the executive certain that planning permission will be obtained to allow the building of residential units on the Faraday Road Football pitch?”

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport answered:

“Any application by the Council as landowner, including residential on the football pitch, will be determined on its own merits by the Local Planning Authority and where the Executive cannot presume any future decision by the LPA. Clearly the Council as landowner will not submit a planning application unless it has fully addressed all matters relevant to policy. If important matters remain unresolved, the Council as landowner will withhold submission until it is satisfied it has addressed all matters as far as possible and that the case for development can be presented as one of major community wide benefit.”

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

Item (b)	Executive Meeting on 15 July 2021
Submitted to:	Katherine Goodchild

(b) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport by Jackie Paynter:

“Do you agree with Hugo Haig from Lochailort Investments, that the 11-storey block of flats proposed for the New Eagle Quarter, provides “a sense of place” and “wayfinding through the town centre” and will “do no harm” or that it will significantly affect the character of our town and lead it in the wrong direction?”

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport answered:

“The application referred to is a live planning application and as such it would be inappropriate to comment. At this stage the application is being assessed against national and local planning policies and consultation responses are being sought. When the assessment process is complete officers will make a judgement on the proposal as submitted.”

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

Item (c)	Executive Meeting on 15 July 2021
Submitted to:	Paul Martindill

(c) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport by Ian Hall:

“Given that the new sports ground/ football pitch is being dealt with by Delegated Officer Decisions and a firm has been appointed to oversee the management of construction, can the council please reveal the provisional cost of construction and the acquiring of land? is it true that the cost will be 5 million pounds? Where will the funds come from to pay for it?”

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport answered:

“The land leasing agreement is confidential. It is not true that that cost will be £5M. The Council has set aside a capital budget to fund the project. To date that the Council has committed £126k for Alliance Leisure to progress the planning application and pre construction works.”

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

Item (d)	Executive Meeting on 15 July 2021
Submitted to:	Bill Bagnell / Katherine Makant

(d) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport by Paul Morgan:

“Can the Council please confirm exactly what services (e.g. remote monitoring, physical patrols, spot checks, alarms etc.) are being provided from the security contract that it has in place for the football ground at Faraday Road, who is the contractor providing this service and what the contract end date is for this service/contract?”

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport answered:

“The Council’s security responsibilities at the old football ground are limited to public protection and not building and asset protection. The sole concern is to prevent unauthorised access during which individuals might be injured. Metal sheet security on the old clubhouse is provided by Maltaward who are on 24hr turn around to repair metal sheeting if vandalised. Maltaward look after other empty Council buildings. Maltaward will remain in place until existing structures can be demolished, subject to consent. In addition to Maltaward officers on rotation make random weekly visits to specifically ensure the old clubhouse is secure. This level of security is sufficient for public protection purposes and where alarms, CCTV and other measures relevant to asset protection are not appropriate here and would represent an unnecessary expense.”

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

Item (e)	Executive Meeting on 15 July 2021
Submitted to:	Paul Hendry

(e) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste by Jackie Paynter:

“In light of the fact that you declared a Climate Emergency following a petition I presented in 2019, are you going to roll out the successful wildflower verge project next year to more places than you have this year to encourage bio diversity?”

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste answered:

The wildflower verges project was started by the previous administration ahead of the climate emergency declaration. I am very glad and I trust that you are too, that this is a three year project which is being delivered in partnership with the Berkshire, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust and will provide the council with a body of evidence on the best verges in the district which support good populations of wildflowers or those verges that have the potential to develop wildflowers. You are no doubt well aware of the fairly visible trial stretches, particularly along the A4 We are planning to make changes to the ways in which we manage most of our verges on an ongoing basis. Initial results from this year are very encouraging and we do now intend to continue to promote wildflowers in verges across the district recording what we find as the project continues.

The Portfolio Holder 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?”*

Jackie Paynter asked the following supplementary question:

“Would you also consider letting other suitable areas grow naturally, without regular cutting? That would give the time freed up to keep other public paths clear, for instance, barn crescent, where there’s been some complaints about paths being overgrown.”

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste answered:

Thank you Mrs Paynter. Again, I can say that all verges are looked at. It is a fairly complicated issue; as well as the ecological benefits, which obviously we all want, for a greater wildlife population and habitats for animals. We do have to consider safety and public access and so on and so forth. Where possible, we will make this change, it won't be possible in all places; it is certainly not a cost saving measure, just as much

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

money is spent on the slower frequency cutting as the regular cutting regime but we will consider more.

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

Item (f)	Executive Meeting on 15 July 2021
Submitted to:	Bill Bagnell / Katherine Makant

(f) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport by Ian Hall:

“Are the councillors and council officials aware of the document issued by the Local Government Association on Probity In Planning and the requirement to balance the council's desire to be property developers and it's legal obligations in areas such as planning , flood relief or sports fields provision ?”

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport answered:

“Councillors and officers involved in making planning decisions are fully aware of the 2019 updated guidance Local Government Association on Probity In Planning 2013. The Council is careful to clearly separate the roles of the Council as a landowner and as the Local Planning Authority. It should be noted the Council as landowner is entitled to reasonably bring forward devepolment proposals that it believes to be to the benefit of the public purse and the community as a whole and do so knowing the LPA will independently determine the application on its own merits and where the application will not succeed if proposals reducing elements of existing public benefit are not substantially outweighed by benefits to the wider community as a whole.”

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

Item (g)	Executive Meeting on 15 July 2021
Submitted to:	Bill Bagnell / Katherine Makant

(g) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport by Alan Pearce:

“Is the regeneration of the Faraday Plaza site on the London Road Industrial Estate not possible at present, as all the planning permission has expired?”

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport answered:

“Determination of whether the Faraday Plaza consent has expired or not is a technical matter being evaluated by the LPA and where it is not appropriate to assume the outcome of that on-going process.”

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

Item (h)	Executive Meeting on 15 July 2021
Submitted to:	Bill Bagnell / Katherine Makant

(h) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport by Ian Hall:

“What measures are in force to ensure that the desire to act as property developers are balanced by an impartial decision making process?”

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport answered:

“This matter is addressed in the previous question (f). To confirm – the single most important measure is having clear separation between the Council as landowner and the Council as local planning authority and where the LPA will independently determine any Council landowner application on its own merits.”

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

Item (i)	Executive Meeting on 15 July 2021
Submitted to:	June Graves

(i) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development by Paul Morgan:

“In terms of transparency and accountability is there a link where members of the public can view what tenders, with an estimated value of £10,000 or more, are or have been posted on In-tend portal?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development answered:

All procurements with an estimated value of £10,000 or more must be procured in accordance with Part 11 of the Council Constitution, using the In-tend portal. That can be accessed via the In-tend website by members of the public which will show all of those tenders for the council.

The Portfolio Holder 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?”*

Paul Morgan asked the following supplementary question:

“I believe that the IN-tend website you refer to is only available for companies who want to take part in a tender not for the public to view it. If I am wrong could you provide details of how I access it?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development answered:

As far as I am aware the public can log on at that link and view the tenders for the council. That is the information I have. If that is not the case then I'm sure we can correct that at a later date.

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

Item (j)	Executive Meeting on 15 July 2021
Submitted to:	Ross McKinnon

(j) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture by Ian Hall:

"It is three years since the football ground was closed a) what income has been generated since then from this council asset ? b) what sporting activities have been allowed on it ?"

The Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture answered:

"No income has been generated in the last three years and no sporting activity has taken place.

Two things should be noted:

- The previous annual income generated by last tenancy was very modest - £4,800 per annum.

- Reopening of the grass pitch area for whatever temporary future use is not appropriate until existing dilapidated structures are removed. The Council is seeking permission to demolish these structures after which it will implement works as soon as possible to reopen the area to public recreational sports use."

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