

# Questions and Answers

## Council

**Thursday, 27th September 2012**

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# **Council Meeting**

## **27 September 2012**

Questions and Answers

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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 Executive Member for Planning, Transport Policy, Property by Mr Richard Garvie:**

*“Can the Council advise what steps are currently being taken to return the Control Tower at Greenham Common to public use?”*

**The Executive Member for Planning, Transport Policy, Property answered:**

The Control Tower is to be put up for sale on the open market. It could be of interest to purchasers for a variety of uses, which may involve public use, and these will be considered in the context of the offers received.

**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?”*

**Mr Richard Garvie asked the following supplementary question:**

*“Can the Council confirm that there will be some requirements for the building to be used to keep alive the history of Greenham Common and the activities that have gone on there whilst it was an airbase?”*

**The Executive Member for Planning, Transport Policy, Property answered:**

Well it is a listed building as you well know and I am sure the listing will protect it with regard to any future use to which this Control Tower may be put.

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**(b) Question submitted to the Executive Member for Partnerships, Equality, The Visions, Communities by Mr Richard Garvie:**

*“Can the Council confirm that an alternative facility will be provided for Newbury Football Club should Faraday Road be redeveloped?”*

**The Executive Member for Partnerships Equality, The Visions, Communities answered:**

Alternative options for the siting Newbury Football Club would be looked at in due course as part of any possible strategic redevelopment of the London Road Industrial Estate.

**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?”*

**Mr Richard Garvie asked the following supplementary question:**

*“Are the drawings which are on the agenda of the Executive Meeting, are they firm or will the development of Faraday Road be opened up to other developers”.*

**The Executive Member for Partnerships, Equality, The Visions, Communities answered:**

It hasn't as yet been presented to any developers. The intention is that in due course we will be putting something out to seek development options for the estate.

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**(c) Question submitted to the Executive Member for Strategy, Council Plan, Housing by Mr Richard Garvie:**

*"What steps are the Council taking to provide more affordable housing in Newbury?"*

**The Executive Member for Strategy, Council Plan, Housing answered:**

The Council's Housing Strategy 2010-2015 sets out the Council's approach to enabling the delivery of new affordable housing, not just in Newbury, but across the whole district. In addition, the Council recently adopted the new Core Strategy. This will increase the provision of affordable housing, with all new developments of five or more homes making a contribution. The previous threshold was 15. In addition, Greenfield sites will be expected to contribute 40% affordable housing; an increase on the former requirement of 30%. Delivery, will be delivered through the planning system, and is expected to be made with zero public subsidy input.

**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?"*

**Mr Richard Garvie asked the following supplementary question:**

*"Looking at the Core Strategy document on line, can the Councillor advise why the 2009 SHLAA documentation seems to have been removed from the Core Strategy documentation website?"*

**The Executive Member for Strategy, Council Plan, Housing answered:**

Thank you for that question but I am afraid I do not have that information to hand, but will ensure that you get a response.

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**(d) Question submitted to the Leader of the Council by Mr Richard Garvie:**

*"With Councillor Jones stepping down as Leader, can he explain what legacy he is leaving from his time as leader?"*

**The Leader of the Council answered:**

I am sure my allies over here would have a very different perspective from some of my opponents over there, or indeed yourself. Actually it is quite an important question because it does ask why we are here. Mrs Thatcher once posed the 'for what' test and I think that is something which we all should be applying to what we do. There is no point having power or being elected unless you are there to change and improve things. I think anything that has happened in my time I would have to share any credit for with colleagues, be they officers or be they fellow Members. To pick a few things out:

- Sound finance. Council tax now is 10% less in real terms than it was when we took control, and I believe this authority has handled what are times of austerity better than most authorities up and down the country.
- Economic revival. I would point you to Parkway and the Cinema, things which have happened in West Berkshire that aren't happening elsewhere.
- A few years ago we used to operate under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and it is interesting to know that it was a Labour introduced scheme and at the end of that scheme, when the Labour Government ceased, we were the top performing authority in Berkshire.
- Recycling. 16% to 50%.
- Just looking at yourself you're a fit young man one thing we've done in the last year is we have instigated the big West Berkshire Cycle Challenge – 135 miles round the district touching every parish. Hopefully we are going to repeat the exercise next year and we will certainly invite you to come and join us.
- Finally, hopefully I believe I can say I don't think I have done too badly, my employers have asked me back twice.

**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?”*

**Mr Richard Garvie asked the following supplementary question:**

*“I guess although we may or may not disagree on some of the legacy that you set out I did have my own list of suggestions that I was going to put forward, but I don't think it is probably appropriate or down to me to be negative so all I would like to do is to wish you all the best Graham, all the best for your future and I would like to welcome the proposal of the gentleman to the left of you which may or may not happen, it will be great to have a Scottish Leader of the Council, we all know there is no such thing as a Scottish Tory, or a Tory in Scotland, Graham all the best.”*

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

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There were no Member questions submitted in relation to items not included on the agenda.