

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 16 December 2013

AGENDA ITEM 6

Questions from Members

1. Question from Councillor S F Parker to the Cabinet Member for Environment.

Can the cabinet member update the Council on the roll out of the new waste recycling scheme, and reassure us that there is sufficient flexibility in the system to cater for the requirements of all residents of Wycombe District?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J E Teesdale (Cabinet Member for Environment).

2. Question from Councillor A Turner to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration.

The proposed extension to the Risborough Springs fitness centre in Princes Risborough will need to be built on land owned by Princes Risborough Town Council (PRTC) and it now appears to be partly paid for by using 106 developer contributions which had already been claimed by PRTC for another project. However, WDC have chosen not to consult PRTC (who are the owners of the land) about the proposed extension, but simply lodged a planning application, nor did they inform PRTC that they had re-allocated the aforementioned 106 monies to their own project. So much for "Localism"!

Before this debacle descends into a legal confrontation, will this Council agree to withdraw the planning application until proper consultations with PRTC have taken place and mutual agreement reached on these issues?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor A R Green (Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration).

3. Question from Councillor R Colomb to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration.

I am sure you would agree that the unemployment situation in Wycombe District is still unacceptable. In October 2013 the claimant count was 2,026 making us the weakest of the Buckinghamshire Districts. In June 2012 the job density was 0.86 , a marginal improvement on the 0.84 recorded in the January 2012 Task and Finish Group Report on Employment and the Economy, of which you were a Member.

This report made 19 recommendations to improve the situation.

Unfortunately your predecessor and his colleagues in the Collingwood administration agreed only 6, agreed 2 in part, rejected 1 and side-lined 10 for further consideration.

Would you please advise how many of the latter you have resurrected?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor A R Green (Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration).

4. Question from Councillor T Snaith to the Leader of the Council

I reference <http://www.createacouncil.nalc.gov.uk/background/>

A Grant Agreement between NALC and DCLG for the 2013-14 NALC / CALC / DCLG new councils' Programme was signed by both organisations on 30 September 2013. Its aim is to:

- Encourage the creation of more parish councils in England;
- Sustain the work of more new parish councils in England; and
- Ensure that as the process to create parish councils was made easier, more sustainable campaigns to create parish councils in England were created.

Accordingly, funded by DCLG, NALC is making available by 31 March 2014;

- 15 grants of up to £10,000 to support campaigns to create parish councils in England;
- 1 grant of up to £25,000 to support the sustainability of work of a new council created between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014; and
- 42 bursaries of up to £1k each for County Associations of Local Councils with un-parished areas to engage in early out-reach work at an agreed day-rate, to encourage new councils and campaign groups to apply for these grants.

Does the Leader agree that our council should be supporting and promoting this initiative as it will allow High Wycombe Town to develop its own voice and deliver a Town Council for High Wycombe?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor R J Scott (Leader of the Council).

5. Question from Councillor M Hanif to the Cabinet Member for Community.

A lack of affordable homes means that people who are working these days have to apply and live on benefits. Families in such situations can easily fall in the poverty trap. What is WDC currently doing to help such families and to address the affordable homes requirement in this town?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor J M Gibbs (Cabinet Member for Community).

6. Question from Councillor T Snaith to the Leader of the Council.

As community leaders what can the Leader and councillors do to show leadership in improving health and wellbeing of our local communities?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor R J Scott (Leader of the Council).