

# WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 28 July 2014

### AGENDA ITEM 7

#### Questions from Members of the Public

##### 1. Question from Dr L Derrick to the Cabinet Member for Community

WDC is required under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations for people. WDC has published a Public Sector Equality Duty (PESD) Statement on its website which I assume is intended to show how WDC is fulfilling its requirements.

I have to say that I could not understand most of this undated statement but I take it WDC has a duty to do these things for people with "protected characteristics". And it appears that being a woman is a protected characteristic.

So I looked to see what WDC was doing to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation for women, to advance equality of opportunity for women and to foster good relations with women.

And there on page 13 of the 16 page statement is the section showing what WDC is doing to fulfil its requirements towards women.

Perhaps it is over generous to call it a section. It actually says "Periodic equal pay health checks are undertaken (the most recent being 2007) and a Pay Policy Statement has been agreed by Council".

It seems to me that carrying out a pay health check in seven years ago is not a serious response to the problems of discrimination, harassment and victimisation of women.

Wouldn't you agree that WDC is doing virtually nothing to fulfil its duties towards women under the Equality Act 2010?

**Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Community).**

##### 2. Question from Ms A Baughan to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration

I would like to enquire about the plans for the Old Library building. It is a beautiful building in a great location. What are the plans for the building, and is it going to be used for something that will benefit the whole community?

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

### **3. Question from Mr D Carrington to the Cabinet Member for Community**

Thank you for responding to the petition I organised regarding the provision of toilets on the Rye. Even though I was acting alone and without the support of any campaign group, I was successful in obtaining 377 signatures in the first two weeks of a short campaign on Facebook. This is a large number of people who believe this is an important issue which needs to be urgently addressed. I believe given the time and support the petition figure would have risen 10 fold.

Despite this I feel your response to the petition essentially fobbed me off with the same response given two years ago. There was no evidence within your response that the situation had been reviewed nor was there any attempt to update the financial projections to reflect the present climate. This is not a new issue, I personally experienced problems with my older children some 30 years ago at a time when the main use of the park was more centralised.

I would ask you to reconsider the council's response and adopt a more proactive, creative and positive problem solving approach to this issue?

**Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Community).**