

# WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 13 April 2015

### AGENDA ITEM

#### Questions from Members

#### 1. Question from Councillor B Pollock to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability

I would like to thank the Cabinet member for agreeing to set up a sub-committee of the Slate Meadow Liaison Committee to explore recent decisions made by the Secretary of State that emphasise the importance of Green Gaps between settlements and their protection even though an authority is not meeting its assessed housing need. Does he agree with me that this decision should be taken into account when assessing the need to develop Slate Meadow, particularly as it acts as a "green gap" between Bourne End and Wooburn?

#### Verbal reply to be given by Councillor N Marshall (Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability)

#### 2. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability

Buckinghamshire County Council have committed £6.2 million for infrastructure improvements in Wycombe in response to the release of the reserved sites for development. In addition to the CIL and Section 106 funding which will become available from developers how much is Wycombe District Council planning to contribute from their reserves to support improvements to the already over-stretched infrastructure of East Wycombe?

#### Verbal reply to be given by Councillor N Marshall (Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability)

#### 3. Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Cabinet Member for Environment

Does the cabinet member agree with me that there is a problem with the blue recycling bins? Because these are full size bins but most households only fill up to about 1/3 or even 1/2 capacity the items in the said bin are rather light. Therefore with a half empty bin of light materials when there are strong winds which we have experienced recently and a delay in the waste collection these large bins with light materials inside get blown about consequently rubbish is deposited all across the highway and pavement. Does the cabinet member agree with me that bins half the size with some kind of weight in the construction would be a much better idea and solve this problem?

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

**4. Question from Councillor R Metcalfe to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration**

Could the Cabinet Member please outline future plans for use of the entirety of Wycombe Air Park?

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

**5. Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Cabinet Member for Environment**

Does the cabinet member agree with me that the new parking meter machines in WDC car parks, although I believe offer good value for money and are a great success, many people have stated to me that the 10 minutes grace time for some people is not enough, particularly with mothers with a pushchair or pram, and a considerable amount of shopping. I know from experience it would take more than 10 minutes to load the car with shopping, to dismantle a pushchair and place a baby in the correct car seat with all the apparatus and paraphernalia this involves. And then to negotiate exit from a car park, particularly the Swan car park, if one happened to be parked on the top floor. Also, regarding the Swan, when people are leaving the theatre sometimes the entrance and exits tend to get gridlocked and this would take more than 10 minutes to exit the building.

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

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

Does the Leader agree to hear such comments as these from your Cabinet members as unacceptable?

Cllr Julia Adey said "Estates would also need additional resources, just as Community, if it were to be able to support ward Member projects."

Cllr Neil Marshall said "WDC planning is currently overloaded and cannot support backbench demands."

In Ryemead we are faced with serious parking problems on the Wye Dene estate which are impacting across the whole ward. We also have several projects that need investigating to improve Ryemead, however Cabinet Members are blocking the necessary resources we need. Perhaps you can advise why residents and Councillors are finding it increasingly difficult to reach out to this council for assistance and support?

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

**7. Question from Councillor R Colomb to the Leader of the Council**

It is common practice now, in their efforts to reduce expense for neighbouring Councils, to share senior management positions. Following the decision by Mr Westgate to retire in the Autumn was any effort made to explore this possibility, prior to the announcement to replace him with a full-time Wycombe District Corporate Director?

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

**8. Question from Councillor R Colomb to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration**

The Council has been participating in a Wood Footprint Study under the EU Urbacht programme for nearly four years. I appreciate the costs are borne by the EU. Would you please advise what benefit the residents of Wycombe District (as EU taxpayers) have received as a result of the programme, which is, I believe, holding its final meeting on Election Day.

**Verbal reply to be given by Councillor T Green (Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration)**

**9. Question from Councillor R Colomb to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability**

When the BNU Wellesbourne Campus site was redevelopment by Taylor Wimpey, great efforts were made to separate the houses in Kingshill Court from the rear of the existing houses in Brands Hill Avenue with a comprehensive landscaping scheme. Whilst landscaping schemes are enforceable for five years, Taylor Wimpey conveyed ownership of the land to individual house owners so the landscaping is no longer enforceable and some house owners are now removing it to enlarge their gardens.

In view of the proposed development of the five reserve sites, where no doubt landscaping will feature prominently, will the Cabinet Member investigate if there any ways in which more effective and longer protection can be afforded to such landscaping planning conditions?

**Verbal reply to be given by Councillor N Marshall (Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability)**

**10. Question from Councillor R Colomb to the Cabinet Member for HT, ICT & Customer Services**

Does this Council, or any of its appointed service outsourcers have any employees on Zero Hours Contracts?

**Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mahboob Hussain (Cabinet Member for HR, ICT & Customer Services)**

**11. Question from Councillor R Colomb to the Cabinet Member for Community**

Are you aware your department placed an advert in the latest edition of the Wycombe District Times for the Duke Street theatre operated by the Renegade Theatre Company? This conversion of a warehouse went ahead without planning permission encouraged by our officers. The Place Service of Bucks County Council, a statutory consultee, has recommended refusal on the grounds of pedestrian and vehicle safety!

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

**12. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability**

Over the last few years how often has WDC used the powers set out in Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act, requiring property owners to clean up land and buildings, and do you have any examples of how this planning law has been put to effective use in the district?

**Verbal reply to be given by Councillor N Marshall (Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability)**

**13. Question from Councillor Julia Wassell to the Cabinet Member for Community**

Further to the recent Improvement and Review Commission Review into Urgent Health Care in Wycombe District, would you agree that further reviews need to be held? Wycombe residents are concerned about over stretched mental health services, the distance to Maternity and Children's services and the difficulty in finding an NHS dentist. In addition, young stroke victims and their families are suffering from a lack of suitable accommodation. I believe all these areas of health merit a locally based investigation.

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