



Council – Supplement – Public & Member Questions

Date: 25 February 2016
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber
District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe Bucks

Agenda

Item		Page
5	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	1 - 2
	Written questions may be asked of the leader or any Cabinet Member if submitted to the Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services no later than 12 noon on Thursday 18 February 2016. Questions will be submitted in the order in which they were received.	
	A questioner will have a maximum of 1 minute to ask a question and the answer shall not exceed 3 minutes. Any questioner may put one supplementary question without notice within a maximum time of 1 minute and the answer may not exceed 2 minutes.	
6	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS	3 - 6
	Questions to the Leader or any Cabinet members must be submitted by 12 noon on Thursday 18 February 2016. Questions shall be taken first from the Group Leaders of the political parties who shall be entitled to ask one initial Leader's question each, including the right to adopt another Member's question from his/her Group, of which written notice shall have been given to the Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services prior to the meeting.	
	The order of questions shall then permit the first question from each other Councillor to be asked before any subsequent questions from the same Councillor. One question will be taken in turn from each Councillor and there shall be no consecutive questions from the same Councillor unless there are no other questions to be asked.	
	Every Member asking an oral question is permitted to ask one supplementary question without notice provided that it not substantially the same as a question that was put to a Council meeting during the past six months.	
	The appropriate member will respond to any questions remaining	

unanswered at the expiry of 30 minutes in writing. Any question remaining unanswered after 30 minutes will be answered within 10 working days in writing after the meeting by the appropriate Member and appended to the minutes of the meeting.

For further information, please contact Iram Malik on 01494 421204, iram_malik@wycombe.gov.uk

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 25 February 2016

AGENDA ITEM 5

Questions from Members of the Public

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

Last July my 3 year old granddaughter had an accident on a slide in a playground on Red Kite Way in Disraeli. The playground was provided by Miller Homes under a S.106 agreement with WDC.

Under the agreement, WDC should have inspected the playground before it was opened to ensure it was safe. WDC didn't.

Moreover, Miller Homes was allowed to undertake road building alongside the playground and store hazardous material by the playground. When the accident took place the playground was formally classified as an active construction site.

An independent inspection found the slide had a moderate risk of causing serious injury to children.

Why did WDC not inspect the playground?

Why did WDC allow Miller Homes to undertake construction work by the playground?

Why did WDC allow Miller Homes to put children at risk?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor D Johncock (Cabinet Member for Planning).

2. Question from Mr T Snaith to the Cabinet Member for Housing.

Question to Cabinet member for Housing

Could the Cabinet member advise the number of local people on WDC Social housing register and how many are securing properties in High Wycombe

How does Wycombe District Council police the Home Choice Programme to ensure local people are housed in properties in High Wycombe?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing).

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Agenda Item 6

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 25 February 2016

AGENDA ITEM 6

Questions from Members

1. Question from Councillor R Raja to the Leader of the Council

When Cllr Wood became Leader last May she made "finding homes for the young" one of her top priorities. She has now dropped that priority in the new corporate plan. Could she tell us what targets she set for this priority and how far she has been successful in achieving her modest targets? Could she also tell us why "finding homes for the young" is no longer a priority?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

2. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Leader of the Council

Could the Leader outline the ways that Wycombe District Council works effectively with Bucks County Council and give examples of recent achievements as a result of collaboration, shared objectives and joint working?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

3. Question from Councillor S Broadbent to the Cabinet Member for Community

Has the opening of the new Leisure Centre increased the level of participation in physical activity and exercise by residents of Wycombe District?

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

4. Question from Councillor A Hashmi to the Cabinet Member for Housing

Three years ago WDC promised it would not use B&Bs for homeless families except in emergencies and then only for 1 week. It also promised not to use B&Bs outside Wycombe. It promised to set up a registration scheme for B&Bs in Wycombe and only use these B&B providers.

We now understand WDC is offering B&Bs outside Wycombe to homeless families causing them disruption to education, jobs and family support.

How many registered B&Bs in Wycombe does WDC have on its books for the homeless? How many homeless are in B&Bs and where are they? And how many families are being offered B&Bs outside Wycombe?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing)

5. Question from Councillor S Graham to the Cabinet Member for Housing

When Wycombe's council homes were transferred to Red Kite in 2011, tenants were promised that Red Kite would invest £10.5 million to regenerate the Starblocks flats in Castlefield. The contract between Red Kite and WDC requires the redevelopment to be finished by the end of 2016.

Red Kite promised to keep local Councillors informed about what was happening. It hasn't.

What I have found out is that Red Kite plans to demolish the existing 69 social housing units at the Starblocks flats and replace them with 102 affordable units, 12 shared ownership units and 12 outright sale units - to be delivered by 2018/9. So redevelopment will be at least 2 years late and another 69 social homes will disappear from Red Kites books in addition to the 130 already gone.

Don't you agree that Wycombe needs more social homes not less? And if Red Kite is not going to build them, who will??

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing)

6. Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Leader of the Council

Nearly two years ago, WDC proudly rolled out an ANPR system throughout its 19 car parks. However, the 'all singing all dancing' system has failed to deliver. Thieves and vandals have targeted the new pay machines 49 times, stealing nearly £50,000, causing over £100,000 of damage and depriving WDC of who knows how much lost revenue. 49 times!

Cabinet should have made sure the pay machines were vandal-proof before they installed such an expensive system. But they didn't. Cabinet should have made changes when the first theft took place - or the second - or even the third. But apparently not. To get targeted 49 times is beyond belief.

Would the Leader agree that her Cabinet has been negligent - or asleep - or both?

Would the Leader agree with me that her Cabinet has failed miserably and should consider taking up jobs that don't have such severe consequences for ill thought ideas?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

7. Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Cabinet Member for Housing

Is the member concerned, like I am, that morale in the company carrying out maintenance work for Red Kite is very low.

Before Red Kite was set up, and the housing stock maintained by WDC, Mears, the company carrying out maintenance work had a logo on the side of the vans saying 'Invest in people'.

As you may recall I worked for Mears until the contract was not renewed so I have an interest to declare.

We are now on the 3rd company carrying out routine maintenance since Mears contract ceased and morale with the workforce seems to be getting lower as each company is removed from the contract.

Do you agree with me that this is of great concern because the tenants for Red Kite were once tenants of WDC? And the morale of the workforce has a direct effect on tenants.

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing)

8. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Leader of the Council

Would the leader agree with me that the report by Muslim Women UK to the Labour Party raises important points. Is it time that all political parties locally examine the barriers that exist for women's participation, particularly those from minority groups?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

9. Question from Councillor R Raja to the Cabinet Member for Finance

The proposed revenue budget for 2016/17, based on the 4 year local government financial settlement, under which the Council receives funding from Central Government, has been reduced by 17% in 2016/17 and by 48% over the next 4 years towards the costs of providing services. The proposed budget is full of caveats, which makes the Revenue Budget nothing more than a guesstimate.

Can the Cabinet member with responsibility for the budget assure WDC residents that he has got his sums right and we will have sufficient resources to effectively carry out the Council's statutory responsibilities under any circumstances which are possible to know? and what happens if some of the assumptions upon which the budget is based do not materialise?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor D Watson (Cabinet Member for Finance)

10. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Leader of the Council

Would you join me in thanking the GPs from the Lynton House surgery for the service they have given to East Wycombe residents? They have had deteriorating working conditions. It is some consolation that a new premises will be provided at Wycombe General Hospital ?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

11. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Leader of the Council

What support will be given to Youth Enquiry Service now that the County Council is phasing their funding out?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)