

# WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 12 December 2016

### AGENDA ITEM 5

#### Questions from Members of the Public

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

Wycombe District continues to have a dire need for low cost and social rent affordable homes.

WDC identified that HMOs could be one such route. However there was a need to improve the quality of some of the HMOs in the district to meet acceptable standards.

In the last Council administration there as a Councillor T&F group set up to look at Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and how WDC could introduce a new licencing system to improve the quality and monitoring of these properties

Perhaps the cabinet member for Housing could give an update on how this project is progressing?

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

##### 2. Question from Mr R Colomb to the Cabinet Member for Housing

In 2014 and Improvement & Review Commission Task & Finish Group conducted an in-depth review of Houses in Multiple occupation. Their recommendations were considered by the Cabinet in February 2015, and it was resolved that a further report be presented to the July 2015 Cabinet responding to each of the recommendations in detail.

Would you please state what these recommendations were, as I have been unable to trace them?

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

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

Many voluntary organisations in Marlow are facing large increases in the cost of room hire and catering services at Court Garden, brought about by the removal of concessionary rates formerly given to local organisations.

These arrangements were in place for many years, only now being removed due to the subcontracting of the management of many facilities to an events company. In one case, a local organisation, having already placed a deposit for the provision of a meal, had that deposit returned and had to enter into a new agreement at increased cost with the new company.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that this Council is unaware of, or deliberately ignoring, its obligations to the local community as sole trustee of the Higginson Park Trust. This is the body established, as outlined in the trust deed, to provide these facilities “for the benefit of the inhabitants of the District of Wycombe with particular regard for the inhabitants of the town of Marlow”, not for anyone the contractors decide can provide them with a commercial return.

Why is this happening?

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