

Growth, Infrastructure & Housing Select Committee – 23rd November 2023

Agenda Item 4 – Public Questions

Question 1

Buckingham Town Council Planning Committee would like to ask:

Whether the system of referral to area committees is to continue; there are 150 – 180 Buckingham applications per year, some of which we or Shire councillors have called in, and yet none have been judged deserving of a public airing since February 2020.

So far 9 of the scheduled 13 meetings this calendar year have been cancelled, so it isn't pressure of business.

- Claire Molyneux, Clerk to Buckingham Town Council

Question 2

Please can you explain the process by which mitigation of, and adaptation to climate and environmental breakdown is addressed as a fundamental consideration in the housing strategy. For example what expertise is employed, at what stage and what evidence is there that this is understood as a crucial factor in developing the strategy, rather than just an add on.

- Surinder Marshall

Question 3

Given the acknowledgement that demand for affordable homes outstrips supply by 3:1, as well as concerns that homes built by developers under this category are not always genuinely affordable, how can the strategy look more creatively at other means to narrow this gap, such as support for Community Land Trust initiatives of the sort that already exist in Buckingham, and construction of social housing directly by the council, which would make it easier to more effectively address sustainability, another of the strategy's priorities, for instance by building to Passivhaus standard as has successfully been done in places such as Norwich or Exeter?

- Alan Thawley