

**(6) MEMBER QUESTIONS**

Council Procedure Rule 11 - Not more than fifteen minutes allowed for written questions to be put by Members on any matter in relation to which the Council has any power or duties or which affects the District.

Questions have been submitted, and responses provided, as follows:-

- (1) From Councillor PR Hodgkinson to Councillor Lynden Stowe, Leader of the Council

'What is your view on the proposed large development at Chesterton which is part of your emerging Local Plan? Do you support it?'

Response from Councillor Stowe

'Based on the evidence and information available thus far, it would seem that the Chesterton site appears to be the most suitable in the District for larger-scale development. However, as with any planning-related matter, I will not finally make up my mind until I have considered all available information, which will not be until after the various consultations have been concluded.'

- (2) From Councillor PR Hodgkinson to Councillor Lynden Stowe, Leader of the Council

'Do you agree that local authorities who fail to get Local Plans in place in a timely fashion fail to provide their communities with valuable clarity as to what development is appropriate and where?'

Response from Councillor Stowe

'As at 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014, only four authorities (out of 348) have produced NPPF-compliant, comprehensive Local Plans. These are not to be confused with the 22 authorities that have produced sound NPPF-compliant Core Strategies, of which 15 have so far been adopted. A Core Strategy only sets out the broad vision and strategy for the future of a district. It wouldn't specify development sites or include policies for managing development. CDC switched to producing a comprehensive Local Plan in March 2013 because a complete Plan prepared in one go would be adopted much earlier than producing site allocations and detailed policy documents after the Core Strategy.'

In order to ensure that the Local Plan has a good chance of being declared legally compliant and sound at independent examination, it is imperative that robust, up-to-date evidence has been produced which underpins and fully justifies the submitted document. Evidence takes considerable time to produce, analyse and then mould into a coherent strategy with associated policies/proposals. The risk of rushing preparation and/or cutting corners is that the submitted document would either be unsound or not legally compliant. In such circumstances, the Inspector would have no choice but to reject the document and adjourn or even cancel the examination. This has happened to an increasing number of authorities, including Stroud DC.

Submitting a plan that fails at examination would delay the adoption of a Local Plan significantly longer than producing a sound plan in the first place.'

- (3) From Councillor JA Harris to Councillor NJW Parsons, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning

'Many complaints have been made to me from residents about the fact that they don't know enough about the on-going Local Plan process and aren't well enough informed about the consultation process. Does the Deputy Leader agree that making sure the public are continually involved in constructing the new local plan is essential to its eventual success? What is the budget to advertise the consultation process?'

Response from Councillor Parsons

'Details of the communications undertaken thus far are attached at Appendix A.

The Communication Strategy moving forward, and budget, are currently under consideration.'

- (4) From Councillor JA Harris to Councillor Chris Hancock, Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Partnerships

'Will Councillor Hancock accept that Cotswold District Council's parking policy is hated by residents and businesses across the Cotswolds?'

Response from Councillor Hancock

'While it is obvious that people would prefer to have free parking, I do not accept the assertion made by Councillor Harris.'

- (5) From Councillor Mrs. JL Hincks to Councillor Chris Hancock, Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Partnerships

'I have visited several towns within the Cotswold area and note that in places the lack of disabled parking spaces is very apparent. For instance, Stow-on-the-Wold has disabled parking outside the central area of the town whereas normal parking is in a central position. Could the Cabinet Member please advise me what each town/village allocation of disabled parking spaces is and its position in relation to the centre?'

Response from Councillor Hancock

'Details relating to spaces allocated for people with mobility problems ('disabled spaces') in all CDC off-street car parks are available on our website.

In line with good practice, and indeed the Council's Parking Strategy, we review the number of disabled spaces at each site as part of any refurbishment work proposals - as an example, the Forum Car Park re-design includes a marked increase in the number of disabled bays, from 4 to 12, following consultation with the local Access Group and in the light of information reported to officers that this car park is preferred by those with disabilities.

It is also worth remembering that vehicles displaying a valid blue badge and clock may park in any of our off-street car parks for up to the maximum stay period for the car park concerned (even in non-designated bays), thereby offering drivers the option of parking as close as possible to facilities.

On-street disabled bays are the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council, and I believe that the bays in Stow-on-the-Wold to which you refer are on-street ones.'

Notes:

- (i) If any Member who has submitted a question is present at the Meeting, he/she will be entitled to ask one supplementary question arising directly out of either the answer given or his/her original question.
- (ii) The Member to whom any supplementary question is addressed will try and answer any supplementary question at the Meeting; but if this is not possible, then the Member will answer as much as possible at the Meeting and then provide a full response within five working days. If, for any reason, a full response cannot be provided within those five days, then a holding response will be sent to the questioner, along with the reason for delay and a likely timescale for the full response.

(END)

APPENDIX A: LOCAL PLAN COMMUNICATIONS – OUTGOING

When	What	Who or What
December 2010 – March 2011	Core strategy 2 <sup>nd</sup> Issues and Options Full public consultation of the document. 10 public exhibitions and 10 evening workshops. Conducted in accordance with Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement. Advertised in local publications and on Council's website. Posters distributed to all Town and Parish Councils to help advertise the process.	Cabinet decision Town & Parish Councils Email Posters Letters
17 August 2012	Invitation to Chesterton Visioning event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cirencester District councillors;</li> <li>• Water Park District councillors;</li> <li>• Cirencester Town Council;</li> <li>• Siddington Parish Council;</li> <li>• Planning Committee members; and</li> <li>• Members of the Planning Sustainable Communities Programme Board.</li> </ul>	Email
19 September 2012	Thank you for confirming that you will be attending the workshop Monday 24th September. Please find attached, for your information, a copy of the programme for the afternoon. There is a lot to get through so the workshop will begin promptly at 2pm in the Council Chamber.	Email
24 September 2012	Chesterton Visioning Event held in main Council Chamber. ATLAS	Email
16 October 2012	Final report produced by ATLAS in connection with the Chesterton Visioning event	Email
Autumn 2012	Update on the Local Plan	Cotswold News
9 May 2013	Cabinet approved Consultation Paper – preferred development strategy	Cabinets papers publicly available on CDC website
10 May 2013	CDC Local Plan paper will be ready for public consultation in early June	Press Release
10 May 2013	Parishes/Town Councils alerted to Cabinet Papers	Email
14 May 2013	CDC Local Plan paper will be ready for public consultation in early June	Notification of Press release to Front of House
30 May – 3 June	Local Plan consultation document –was available on the website as a read only document before comments could be made on it from the 3 June 13	Website
31 May 2013	Information regarding the Consultation paper.	Email to: Development Services Group, Sustainable Communities & Housing . Service Head and Director and Press and Media Liaison Officer
For 3 June 2013	Hard copies of Consultation Paper and comment form distributed to Parish/Town Councils in 17 settlements, the libraries – including posters	Libraries. Parish/Town Councils

	advertising the document for the libraries	
2 June 2013	CDC Local Plan paper is now available for public consultation	Press Release
3 June 2013	Consultation Paper on website for comment – people could submit comments via Limehouse. The 'event' is set so that comments need to be 'processed' by an officer before they appear on the website	Website – link to limehouse to document and to comment.
3 June 2013	Printed notification letters and a comment form were distributed to all consultees who do not have and email address on Limehouse. This was obtained by running a report for all the consultees on Limehouse and then sorting on email address column	Letters
3 June 2013	An email notification was sent to all consultees with an email address – note this was done by Officers from the <a href="mailto:Localplan@cotswold.gov.uk">Localplan@cotswold.gov.uk</a> mailbox.	Email
3 June 2013	Front of house fully briefed and FAQs produced to help respond to enquiries.	Briefing and FAQs
3 June 2013	FAQs put on latest News page of website	website
5 June 2013	Forward Planning members and Cllr Nick Parsons and other Members attended meeting at Chesterton Community Group (160+ members of public attended)	Meeting
17 June 2013	Come and have your say on CDC's Local Plan Paper! Details of Drop-in events	Press Release
21 June 2013	Local Plan Consultation Drop-in Events details. Members' Briefing Note: Local Plan Consultation Paper – Preferred Development Strategy. Included Poster to advertise drop-in events	Members' Weekly Bulletin
28 June 2013	Statement from Cllr Nick Parson Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Forward Planning	Members' Weekly Bulletin
28 June 2013	Chesterton Cirencester	Drop in event
2 July 2013	South Area – Council Chamber, Cirencester	Drop in event
3 July 2013	North Area – Moreton in Marsh Centre	Drop in event
7 August 2013	Call for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites	Press Release
24 September 2013	Call for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites	Members' Weekly Bulletin
24 October 2013	First Letter to Parishes regarding the training for the Community Engagement work	Letter to all Parishes in district
24 October 2013	First Letter to Parishes regarding the training for the Community Engagement work	Individual emails to Beverston, Long Newton and Lower Slaughter as Parishes do not have postal addresses
15 November	Provision of Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Planning Update from Cllr Nick Parsons	Members' Weekly Bulletin
6 November 2013	Update regarding the training for the Community Engagement work <b>15 Sustainable Settlements</b>	Second letter

6 November 2013	Update regarding the training for the Community Engagement work <b>Cirencester &amp; Siddington</b>	Second letter
Winter 2013	Article about Forward Planning Font page and inside – 'Local Planning Issues – the facts	Cotswold News – sent to all households in the District
6 November 2013	Down Ampney (after Cabinet decision 5/12/13)	First letter
6 December 2013	Further Details - Local Plan Sites / Community Engagement training event 18 January 2014	Email
6 December 2013	Local Plan site allocations - ward member invitation to training event Jan 18th 2014	Email
7 January 2014	Reminder: Local Plan Sites / Community Engagement training event 18 January 2014 to those who had not signed up	Email and calls
18 January 2014	Site Allocations Work – Training event in Northleach	Training event
23 January 2014	Local Plan Site Allocations - 18 Jan Event Follow up. Final list of attendees, additional note – Community tool kit and Thank you email to all Parish/Town Councils, Councillors who attended	Email
10 February 2014	To all Parish Clerks: Local Plan Informal consultation scrutinised and closed. Preferred Development Strategy (May 2013) instructions on how to view comments made about the document and the Officers responses.	Email and latest news page
February	Copies of response report for Front of House Trinity Road, Members' Room and Moreton officers.	Hard copies of Response report
12 February 2014	Meeting with Cirencester Town Council regarding Chesterton site	Meeting at Cirencester Town Council
18 Jan – 31 March 2014	On-going support from officers, GRCC and Place Studio to meet target deadline.	Email, meetings, phone calls
April 2014	Local Plan Briefing Note	Sent out by Email to all Members
April 2014	Leaflet for Community Planning Weekend Friday 9 & Saturday 10 May 2014 (John Thompson Partners on behalf of Bathurst Estate) draft seen	
24 April	Email, including letter and Toolkit sent to all Parishes in District concerning the designation of Green Spaces	All Parish Councils and Council Members
28 April	Press Release – Five Year Supply figures	Sent to all
9 & 10 May	Leaflet for Community Planning Weekend Friday 9 & Saturday 10 May 2014 (John Thompson Partners on behalf of Bathurst Estate)	
28 May	Smaller Settlements – Policy event (Northleach)	

(END)