

(6) PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Council Procedure Rule 10 - Not more than fifteen minutes allowed for written questions to be put by members of the public on any matter in relation to which the Council has any power or duties or which affects the District.

Questions have been submitted as follows:-

- (1) From Mr. AR Dickinson of South Cerney to Councillor Lynden Stowe, Leader of the Council:-

'At the Cabinet Meeting of June 11th 2015, in answer to a question regarding all costs that the Council had incurred directly related to the planning application(s) in respect of the Packer's Leaze waste site, the Council confirmed a cost of £86,608 . This figure was confirmed by a number of Councillors to be grossly incorrect and a figure closer to £200,000 being more accurate. Why is getting accurate truthful financial information relating to public spending by the Council so difficult to obtain and Freedom of Information requests unanswered?'

- (2)/(3) From Ms G Somerville and Ms S Lawlor of Kemble to Councillor NJW Parsons, Deputy Leader of the Council:-

'We have attended and read the minutes of the parish council meetings in Kemble, have attended the SHLAA consultation in March 2014, have been in communication with Tony Berry, and have commented within the consultation process in February 2015.

Overview

The land at Station Rd/K2/Kemble Community Gardens (KCG) was leased by the CDC in 2008, to the Kemble Parish Council (KPC) to be used as land for allotments and a community garden as per the parish survey in 2006. The Kemble Parish Council have leased the land and the KCG committee members and plot-holders maintain the site through voluntary efforts. This arrangement has been working well for several years.

It has been suggested by Tony Berry that the land at Station Rd/K2/Kemble Community Gardens has been earmarked for potential sale for development by the CDC and that the Council plans to cancel/ withdraw the lease to the Parish Council and KCG in April 2015, do an ecological survey which we understand is already being undertaken, and move forward with selling a part of the land for development of 12 houses. We have been advised that the remainder of the land will be gifted to the Parish Council for use as allotments.

A SHLAA consultation in Kemble in March 2014 produced evidence of 47 views in the community, the majority of which supported land at Clayfurlong K1B, as a suitable site for development. Evidence supporting any other view is subjective and does not hold up to scrutiny.

Letters, a petition and further written documentation was submitted in February 2015 to the CDC, in response to their 6 week consultation.

Letters and a petition signed by 213 people in Kemble was submitted stating that the K2 site is not their preferred site for development and called for further consultation on this matter. We would like this evidence to be acknowledged and noted by the CDC. Hard copies and e-copies are available.

The view of the majority of the village is a wish to save the Community Gardens and register it as Green Space to preserve this invaluable breathing space within the village.

Kemble has had a large share of new housing developments over the last 30 years including West Hay Grove, Clayfurlong, The Oaks, Old Manor gardens and most recently the Top Farm Development of 50 houses including affordable homes.

The KCG is a much loved area, which is and will be utilised by the local Kemble and wider community for generations to come.

*The Kemble community and the Kemble Parish Council have jointly supported and submitted a Green space application to protect the Kemble Community Gardens site **in its entirety.***

The K2, Station Rd/Kemble Community gardens is an open, much loved and well utilised Green space in an overdeveloped village, the destruction of which even in part, would tear the heart out of the site.

Questions from Gabi Somerville

'Please could you confirm whether the council has already decided to develop this land or whether no final decision has yet been made about the inclusion of K2 in the local plan.'

'Has the CDC has got an open mind on the above issue which will enable the additional evidence of local opinion to be taken into account, and further evidence as it becomes available?'

Question from Sara Lawlor

'What commitment is there from the CDC to take full account of local views in accordance with government policy?'

Notes:

- (i) None of the above questions was submitted by the deadline by which a response can be guaranteed in advance of, or at, the meeting - the first question was submitted on Friday 25th September 2015; and the other two questions on 28th September 2015. If a question cannot be addressed at the meeting, a written response will be provided within five working days of the meeting.
- (ii) Notwithstanding (i) above, if any person who has submitted a question is present at the Meeting, he/she will be entitled to ask one supplementary question in respect of each original question. Any supplementary question must arise directly out of either the original question or the answer given thereto (if available).

(iii) An immediate answer cannot be guaranteed to any supplementary question, but the Member to whom any supplementary question is addressed will try and answer any supplementary question at the Meeting. However, 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)