



Member Questions for Council – 24 February 2025

#	Questioner	Officer	Question	Response
1	Cllr Andrew Maclean to Cllr Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Harrison Bowley / Richard McEllistrum	Question 1 During the construction of Victory Fields in Upper Rissington the developer created bunds made from waste material (arising from the demolition of military structures) around the perimeter of the village despite the original planning requirement to remove it from site. The planning permission was subsequently amended to allow this change but made conditions that the material be remediated (there was asbestos and other contaminating materials in the waste) and capped. The case officer's report from 2018 states that the capping should be 1 m but the final capping layer used was 150 mm of topsoil which was then planted with grass and trees and had a network of pathways and play equipment built on them. Last year, all the public open space was sold to Upper Rissington Parish Council for £1 in	Thank you for your enquiry. With the time available, officers have not been able to fully investigate this development and the contaminated land matters referenced. Planning permission was granted at appeal in 2010. This appeal included two conditions relating to contaminated land. An application was submitted in 2013 to discharge these conditions and whilst a decision was not formerly issued on this application, correspondence between the case officer and contaminated land consultant confirmed that the submitted Remediation Method Statement was acceptable, and a Peer Review of this by Land Quality Management Ltd, commissioned by the Council in 2017 also found that there was unlikely to be any risk to public health from potential land contamination sources based on the submitted remediation plan. This Peer Review also confirmed that a minimum clean topsoil depth of at least 150mm was recommended. In the time available, officers have been unable to



			<p>accordance with the 106 agreement and this land is now their responsibility. The parish council has some plans for installing equipment that may need foundations but are obviously extremely cautious about digging into possibly contaminated ground. At a recent public meeting there were several questions asked about this which the current Parish Council could not answer as none of them were serving at the time. The case officer's report also mentions the need for a long-term monitoring and maintenance scheme. The parish council is unaware of any ongoing monitoring and has not been given any instructions for maintenance.</p> <p>Please can CDC therefore help with supplying as much information as possible and in particular:</p> <p>CDC asked for extra remediation of the waste bunds and the case officer's report shows that this work was carried out by various specialist companies. Do we now</p>	<p>identify records of ongoing monitoring and this will require further investigation. It is recommended that interested parties contact the planning department separately, and we would be able to investigate this matter further with the assistance of the Environmental Regulatory Services team. We will also be able to provide any relevant documentation to assist interested parties.</p>
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			<p>hold any documentation or a certificate to show that the material in the bunds is completely safe and that it does not qualify as contaminated ground?</p> <p>Has the waste material been capped with 1 m of capping as required and if so what is the nature of the 850 mm capping underneath the 150 mm of topsoil?</p> <p>Please would CDC supply details of the ongoing monitoring and supply the parish council with instructions in particular about the care and upkeep of the capping layer that has sealed in the contaminated waste material?</p>	
2	Cllr Chris Twells to Cllr Joe Harris Leader	Robert Weaver	<p>Question 2:</p> <p>Please confirm how many meetings the Leader has had with Roz Savage, the Liberal Democrat MP for the South Cotswolds, since the general election.</p> <p>Does the Leader agree with me that it is extremely regrettable that Ms Savage is campaigning against the Lime Down Solar</p>	<p>In my capacity as Leader of the Council I have had two formal meetings with Roz Savage MP as well as several informal discussions on matters affecting our district. Lime Down Solar Park isn't in the Cotswold district, and it would therefore be inappropriate to express an opinion on an issue in another council area. I suggest Cllr Twells raises this issue with the MP directly.</p>



			<p>Park development, which is projected to generate 500MW—enough electricity to power every home in the South Cotswolds and two other parliamentary constituencies? This hypocrisy would appear to make a mockery of the District Council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019.</p>	
3	<p>Cllr Chris Twells to to Cllr Mike Evely, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation</p>	<p>David Stanley/Angela Claridge</p>	<p>Question 3: What was the total cost to the Council of sending officers and members to the LGA Conference in Harrogate in October? Please include the cost of registration, travel, meals and accommodation. Many of my residents tell me they consider this sort of event to be little more than a taxpayer-funded jolly, particularly in an era of virtual meetings. What tangible benefits do you believe sending a delegation to that conference has delivered for Cotswold residents?</p>	<p>Four elected members and the Chief Executive attended the LGA Conference in October 2024. The total cost was £4228, which includes conference registration, accommodation, travel and meals. The Local Government Association is our national membership body working on behalf of all its member councils. Their annual event covers the most important issues facing local government and is well attended by MPs, local politicians, chief executives and other industry leaders.</p> <p>The conference provides insights into the important issues in local government from the keynote speakers.</p>



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				<p>Those who attend benefit from different perspectives and fresh ideas, such as sessions on transformation and securing efficiencies. There is always high-level debate and the opportunity to understand what's working well in other areas of the country, and how we can bring that back to our residents, communities and the district.</p>
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