



**Winchester**  
City Council

**COUNCIL MEETING – 2 November 2005**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14(2)b**

**QUESTION 8**

From: Councillor Saunders

To: The Leader of the Council

“When debated at a recent (October 13th) Town Forum meeting, there appeared to be unanimous approval among the councillors and the Chief Executive for Winchester to join the ‘Cittaslow’ movement. Would the Leader of the Council in her capacity as Portfolio Holder for Community Strategy, please outline how and when the City of Winchester will adopt Cittaslow status?”

Reply

“The Chief Executive did not express any view on whether Winchester should join the ‘Cittaslow’ movement.

We believe that the ‘Cittaslow’ principles embrace a wide range of issues which need to be addressed in order to take us closer towards sustainability. We also believe that the Council’s current aspirations for the city, as set out in the Vision for Winchester, are closely aligned with many of the ‘Cittaslow’ principles.

However, only the City Council can apply for Cittaslow status for Winchester, and the implications of doing so need to be carefully considered. This will need to include a robust evaluation of the ‘Cittaslow’ brand and if it will really help us to achieve our aspirations.

In addition, Winchester City Council covers not only the city but also the wider rural area including our market towns and many villages. We need to explore whether it would be possible for the Council to join the Cittaslow movement on behalf of the town area only, or whether the whole district would need to be involved.

If the whole district would need to be part of the initiative, this would require a lot of consultation with our rural communities, and with the City Councillors and town and parish councils who represent them. Even if the town alone could apply for Cittaslow status separately from the rest of the district, there are many points of view in the town which have yet to be listened to.

In the meantime I understand that the Town Forum is arranging a visit to Ludlow to gather more information and impressions of how Cittaslow is working there. Once we have the answers about the potential geographical scope, and feedback from the visit, we will be in a better position to consider future options.”