



Winchester
City Council

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 11 October 2016

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Hiscock

To: The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Estates

"Has the Portfolio Holder any plans to have the public toilets in St Maurice Covert restored to an acceptable standard?"

Reply

"Yes. However, In view of the fact that the Council has a leasehold interest only of these premises and there is a short term remaining on the lease, Estates are arranging for a moderate refurbishment to an acceptable standard which they anticipate commencing early in the New Year if the budget is approved. As, although there is budget in the Capital Programme for these works, this remains subject to approval under FPR6.4."



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 11 October 2016

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 2

From: Councillor Hutchison

To: The Leader

“Please can the Leader inform us of the Council’s total expenditure on Station Approach to date, and can he itemise expenditure on the following elements?

Tibbalds Report 1, 2013

Tibbalds Report 2, 2014

Consultation events winter/spring 2015 - officer time

Production of the Brief

The Competitive Dialogue

- Legal costs, full, initial advice and subsequent fees, including protocols etc up to July 2016
- Architects’ fees
- Officer time
- Jury costs
- RIBA Client Adviser engagement
- RIBA Client Adviser Report, July 2015
- Full costs of other professional engagement and reports: Grant Thornton & Vail Williams and transport studies.
- Administration costs - advertisements etc”

Reply

“The costs over the past two years have been broken down as follows:

Supporting technical assessment / site investigatory work (incl both Tibbalds reports)

£89,000

Production of the Brief including engagement

The brief and associated consultation was undertaken by officers and members. Cost of hiring venues, equipment and refreshments for events was

£6,000 over the two year period. Staff time has been estimated at £40,000 equivalent to one full time project manager for 1 year.

Jury Costs £21,000

Architects fees/ honorariums £40,000

RIBA Advisor £34,000

Legal Advice £68,000

Financial advice £96,500

Total costs over 2 years £394,000 including internal officer costs in relation to project management.”



Winchester
City Council

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 11 October 2016

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 3

From: Councillor Gemmell

To: The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Estates

“Will the Coca-Cola lorry be visiting Winchester this Christmas?”

Reply

“The Coca Cola Lorry is not scheduled to visit Winchester this Christmas. The organisers, Playmaker Ltd, devise a changing annual itinerary and often do not revisit a destination twice in a row.

This year the Visit Winchester team is looking at improving the infrastructure and welcome at Christmas, using new signage in the Broadway area and improving the customer experience of the city. As part of this, particular dates have been pinpointed as being potentially problematic, and the Head of Parking is currently devising a series of special measures - in partnership with Hampshire County Council and Stagecoach Ltd - to maximise parking capacity.

In terms of family focused events, the tourist information centre is extending the hours of the popular Victorian style grotto in the Guildhall. This grotto was created last year and was a sell-out attraction with highly positive customer feedback.

The Visit Winchester destination management plan is being revised to reflect a call from local businesses and residents to ‘spread out’ the footfall beyond the Christmas season. New campaigns are about to begin that are intended to encourage footfall into all areas of the city and across the shoulder seasons. The first of these will launch before the Christmas season.”



Winchester
City Council

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 11 October 2016

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 4

From: Councillor Bell

To: The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Professional Services

“We are aware that there are resourcing issues across many council services, including the customer contact centre. However, is it appropriate to requisition skilled staff from technical departments to man the general enquiries phones when the result is that customers with specific issues or enquiries for Environment or Environmental Health, for example, cannot be referred through to these departments?”

Reply

“Corporate Management Team are currently reviewing staffing levels across all teams to ensure that the appropriate resources are in place to deliver an efficient and effective service. Part of this review has included recruiting additional staff to the Customer Services Centre, increasing capacity to respond to an increase in the volumes of calls being received.”



Winchester
City Council

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 11 October 2016

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Stallard

To: The Leader

“What is the City Council doing to safeguard the future of the famous D-Day Map and Map Room located in Southwick House, Southwick Park, now that the Ministry of Defence are discussing their options for removing the Map and selling the site?”

Reply

“Southwick House is a Grade II Listed Building. The listing description includes specific reference to its role as the ‘scene’ of the planning of D Day operations. Although the map itself is not referred to in the listing, officers consider that the map could not be removed from the house without listed building consent.

To ensure that there is no ambiguity Historic England has been asked to amend the listing to include reference to the map as an individual item.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to make clear that the City Council will oppose any attempts by the MOD or anyone else to damage the historic character of Southwick House or to remove items from it. Any plans for the future of Southwick Park must include provision for the care of the historic assets and reasonable public access to them.”



Winchester
City Council

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 11 October 2016

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Ashton

To: The Leader

“Could the Leader provide an update on negotiations with Tesco over the purchase of the Garrison Ground playing fields?”

Reply

“I am pleased to report that the Assistant Director (Estates and Regeneration) has been able to continue with positive and constructive discussions with Tesco with a view to reaching agreement on the future of the Garrison Ground. An exempt report will be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet next week which addresses the issues.”



Winchester
City Council

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 11 October 2016

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Gemmell

To: The Portfolio Holder for Built Environment

“What proportion of enforcement appeal cases are successful?”

Reply

“This year we have had 8 enforcement notice appeal decisions. 7 have been dismissed and 1 was successful (87.5% success).”