



COUNCIL MEETING – 13 January 2021

Questions by the Public **under Council Procedure Rule 15(1)**

- Each questioner will have 2 minutes in which to ask their question. The order of the questions to be asked is as set out below and an officer will pass a microphone to the questioner when their name is called by the Mayor.
- Please note that following the response given by the Councillor, the questioner may also ask a supplementary question which must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.
- The total time allocated for questions will *normally* be limited to 20 minutes. For any question which cannot be dealt with at the meeting, a written answer will be provided, normally within one working week.

	From:
1	Mrs Jan Warwick and Cllr D Killeen (Chair Hursley Parish Council)
2	Mr Andy Lai
3	Mr Kim Gottlieb
4	Yvette Riley



Winchester
City Council

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QUESTION 1

From: Mrs Jan Warwick and Cllr D Killeen (Chair Hursley Parish Council)

To: The Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing (Cllr Porter)

"WCC has published a carbon neutrality action plan with the goal of the whole District being carbon neutral by 2030. To achieve this goal and to maintain it post 2030 will the redevelopment of brownfield sites to make the best use of that resource have a key part to play in the Council's response to the climate emergency it has declared? Over 4,000 people support such an approach. Will the Council take note of such a strong expression of the importance of making the most of brownfield sites and be proactive in identifying and bringing forward such sites?"

Reply

"The City Council is fully committed to making the most use of brownfield sites and this will be a key part of the strategy. However, as the Local Plan covers the period up to 2038, even taking into consideration the current housing commitments and allocations is likely that the Local Plan will not be able to solely rely on brownfield sites in order to meet the district's housing requirement that has been set by the government. As part of the forthcoming Local Plan consultation, it would be really helpful if local people could identify any brownfield sites that they consider could be redeveloped so that the Council can then assess them and establish if they are available for redevelopment."



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QUESTION 2

From: Mr Andy Lai

To: The Leader (Cllr Thompson)

"Could the Cabinet Member please advise me of the Council's position on the issue of remote consultation for major issues relating to Winchester residents, may exclude some groups without internet access? For example the development of Sir John Moore barrack on Andover Road."

Reply

"Thank you for your question. Of course we all look forward to when we can carry out face-to-face consultation but that isn't possible for the time being. As a result we have taken the opportunity to use virtual meetings, exhibitions and conferences to engage and inform local residents of the work we are doing.

We do of course understand that not everyone is able to participate in online events and we have been using other methods to reach out to ensure that those that wanted to take part were given the opportunity to do so. I set out below two examples of recent work where other methods were used.

The consultation on Central Winchester Regeneration included an advertisement placed in the local newspaper and posters were put up at the Guildhall. In addition we sent flyers out to all parish councils so they could print and put posters up too. The posters gave information on how residents could obtain hard copies of the consultation information and feedback forms.

The second example was the consultation carried out for the Winchester Town Forum Vision. This included a number of one to one in depth conversations carried out over the phone and this was also supplemented by "vox pop" interviews recorded on the street during the summer when restrictions were relaxed.

As far as Sir John Moore Barracks is concerned, as I'm sure you will know the site is owned by the MOD and any consultation with local residents would in the first instance be for them as developer to carry out."



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QUESTION 3

From: Mr K Gottlieb

To: The Leader (Cllr Thompson)

"The North Walls pavilion is a jewel of a building, and being involved with its progress, was one of the things I most enjoyed in my time as a councillor. It is not just the wonderful facility it would provide for residents across the city, and beyond, but that it shows how the Council could 'work with the community' as it says on the leaflet. It would also show that the Council was prepared to promote high quality civic architecture, modern examples of which are few and far between.

The proposal might be a very modest amount over budget, but it has the great advantage over any alternative idea, of being fully designed and costed and ready to go. Any alternative idea would take several years, and much more money, to bring to the same point while this proposal is, as some might say, oven-ready.

It is understood that money is tight across the board but there are so many public benefits in progressing this scheme I would ask the Leader – can she please provide an assurance that every possible effort will be made by the Council to ensure that the current proposal is built and gives everyone something to celebrate in 2021?"

Reply

"Council plans to replace the existing cricket pavilion on North Walls recreation ground go back as far as 2016. The Town Forum initially set aside £300,000 to fund the replacement but were pleased to note community led proposals for a larger more ambitious facility funded by public donations and/or sponsorship. Since that time, the Council and the Town Forum in particular has fully supported the Pavilion Project proposals, including funding the planning application process and providing extensions of time to allow the project to raise additional funding pledges, which currently total £155,000 plus an additional £50,000 from Sport England.

In January 2020, Town Forum approved a further £295,000 funding to ensure the project could proceed, subject to total costs not exceeding £800,000.

Unfortunately, following the recent tender process, it is clear that the proposed pavilion will cost well in excess of £900,000 to build (even after allowing for some significant compromises to the design/specification). I cannot agree that £100,000 is a “very modest amount”, particularly with the Council having to reduce budgets by over £3m in 2021.

That said, the current £595,000 council funding remains available to support the project and the Town Forum remains committed to delivering a replacement pavilion at North Walls as well as the long promised replacement for the pavilions at the King George V playing fields. Officers are meeting with representatives of the Pavilion Project to discuss the scope to amend designs to bring it within the available budget. The Town Forum will review options at its meeting on 28 January.”



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QUESTION 4

From: Yvette Riley

To: The Leader (Cllr Thompson)

"What is the City Council's plan to engage with the Hampshire Together hospital consultation?"

Reply

"Council officers and members are represented on the Hampshire Hospitals Together – Modernising our Hospitals and Health Services project. The project leaders have also presented current options to Council members and to representatives of local parish councils.

We continue to stress the importance that all residents of the Winchester district have a wide range of opportunities to review, comment on options and contribute to debate throughout the public consultation process, particularly in light of the limited scope for public meetings currently.

Public consultation is due to begin after the elections in May, and will last for several months. Residents will be able to have their say in many ways, from filling out a paper survey to attending an online meeting, and plans are still being finalised to ensure as wide a response as possible.

The council's involvement in the process will continue during 2021.

As well as supporting the public consultation process, the council will discuss and seek more information on the implications of the options proposed with our wider group of health and wellbeing partners.

The County's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is looking at the proposal from a Hampshire wide viewpoint. Our response to the consultation is so important for patients and employees. We want our representations to

secure the best possible outcome specifically for the citizens of Winchester district.

Winchester's residents (who will be the patients), visitors and hospital employees are diverse, and come from many parts of the district including the city centre itself, and everyone's perspective of the proposals for the service changes must be considered in our response.

We will be creating a formal opportunity for councillors representing wards right across the district to hear those views and then contribute to the response from Winchester City Council.

For even greater transparency, the paper will also go through our Scrutiny Committee."