

To:
All members of the
Council

Please reply to:
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Date: 12 December 2019

Supplementary Agenda

Council - Thursday, 19 December 2019

Dear Councillor,

I enclose the following items for the agenda for the Council meeting to be held on Thursday, 19 December 2019:

- 7. Questions from members of the public** **3**
The Leader, or his nominee, to answer any questions raised by members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 14.
Four questions were received by the deadline of 12 noon on Thursday 12 December 2019.
- 17. Report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee** **5**
To receive the report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee on the work of his Committee at its meeting held on 11 December 2019.
- 20. General questions** **7**
The Leader, or his nominee, to answer questions from Councillors on matters affecting the Borough, in accordance with Standing Order 15.
Two further questions were received by the deadline of 12 noon on Thursday 12 December 2019.

Yours sincerely

Gill Scott
Committee Services

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To the members of the Council

Councillors:

M.M. Attewell
C.F. Barnard
C.L. Barratt
R.O. Barratt
C. Bateson
I.J. Beardsmore
J.R. Boughtflower
A. Brar
S. Buttar
R. Chandler
N.L. Cornes
J.H.J. Doerfel
J.T.F. Doran

S.M. Doran
R.D. Dunn
S.A. Dunn
T. Fidler
N.J. Gething
M. Gibson
K.M. Grant
A.C. Harman
H. Harvey
I.T.E. Harvey
N. Islam
T. Lagden
V.J. Leighton

M.J. Madams (Mayor)
J. McIlroy
A.J. Mitchell
L. E. Nichols
R.J. Noble
O. Rybinski
D. Saliagopoulos
J.R. Sexton
R.W. Sider BEM
V. Siva
R.A. Smith-Ainsley
B.B. Spoor
J. Vinson

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Item 7. Questions from members of the public

1. Question from Caroline Nichols

“As the building known as Ceaser Court One grows upwards to dominate the skyline in Green Street, I am wondering why the site never went to public consultation for complete redevelopment. The site could have accommodated a lower broader housing development more in keeping with the street scene and providing better privacy to the homes on the Benwell Estate. Why was there no public involvement in deciding the form and function of the development when the site was first acquired?”

2. Question from Caroline Nichols

“The next Great British Spring Clean is scheduled for 20th March to 13th April 2020 and the Keep Britain Tidy campaign gives awards to the best performing councils. In Spelthorne there are many local groups and individuals who support the Council with litter picks but there is still more to do. Would the Council be agreeable to raising the profile of the next Great British Spring Clean and publish it prominently in the next edition of the Borough Bulletin with a view to competing for an award?”

3. Question from Martin Shortland

“If Spelthorne BC did not fund the costs required [airfare, accommodation, transportation, meals] for the Council Leader and Chief Executive’s visit to Mauritius in November 2019 when they were officially representing the Council who did fund them and why?”

Were the details and supporting documents of this official visit published?

On which dates did the Council Leader and Chief Executive leave and return to the UK?”

4. Question from Shadia Doerfel

“As it is understood that the Council's Monitoring Officer, Michael Graham, will be leaving Spelthorne Borough Council around February 2020 after a number of years' service, will he continue his role as Company Secretary for Knowle Green Estates Ltd (the council's property and real estate buying and selling company whom I understand can also make planning applications)? Mr Graham is still listed as company secretary to Knowle Green Estates Ltd with other listed directors, one of whom I understand is Cllr Harman - and Spelthorne Borough Council itself is listed as a "person with active significant control" of the company - does that mean the whole council, including opposition councillors, therefore have control of this company?”

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Report of the Chairman on the work of the Planning Committee

This report gives an overview of the key item considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 11 December 2019.

1. Planning Committee – 11 December 2019

- 1.1 This meeting considered one planning application. Three public speakers and one ward councillor took the opportunity to address the Committee.
- 1.2 Application 19/01237/FUL – Staines Ex-Servicemen's Club, 6 Laleham Road, Staines-upon-Thames. This planning application sought the demolition of the existing clubhouse building and outbuildings to allow for construction of a new ex-servicemen's clubhouse and apartment complex comprising 14 apartments with integral car and bicycle parking, refuse storage, landscaping and amenity space together with an altered vehicular access point from Laleham Road. The Committee approved the application.

Councillor Richard Smith-Ainsley

19 December 2019

Chairman of Planning Committee

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Council – 19 December 2019

Item 20. General Questions

5. Question from Councillor S. Dunn

"The Local Development Scheme sets out a timetable for the production of the Local Plan which stretches out in to 2021. Could the Leader please set out what opportunities will be available to members to formally discuss, debate and vote on both specific aspects of the Local Plan and the final completed version?"

6. Question from Councillor J.H.J. Doerfel

"On 21 November I asked Council staff to provide me with information that is covered by the Freedom of Information Act namely the full contract with and instructions to the consultants Arup that informed their Green Belt assessment which plays a central part in the current Local Plan Consultation. Both as a Councillor (who happens to be a member of the Audit and Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and as a member of the public I am entitled by law to receive this information. I asked to be provided with this information **without delay**, yet I have still not been provided with a copy this information (either by email or by post) as I am entitled to under the Act. This is extremely concerning both in terms of appropriate treatment of Councillors' requests for information and in terms of the compliance with the rule of law at this Council, considering furthermore that the Local Plan consultation is due to close on 21st January 2019, that the information has already been withheld for 3 weeks [at the time of submission of this question] and that this information is central.

(1) When will I be provided with a copy of the full contract for Arup (and all the specific documents that make up this contract) which I expressly requested?

(2) What steps is the Council going to take in the future to ensure that Councillors' requests for information are complied with promptly and that the Freedom of Information Act is complied with in a spirit of openness and compliance from now on?"

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