

COUNCIL MEETING – 28 JULY 2004

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1

Councillor L R Pinnell to ask the Leader of the Council:

A Planning Officer recently recommended the reduction of affordable homes on a development from 30% to 24% because, otherwise, the developer did not consider the development viable.

1. Can the Leader confirm that 30% affordable houses on any one development is a minimum and not a percentage target or aspiration? Would he further agree that, if the viability of any particular development depended on the percentage of affordable homes required, developers would soon be persuading Planning Officers that the only viable proposition would be 0%?

2. What leeway do Planning Officers have to amend, or vary, the percentage of affordable houses required to be included in a planning application for large scale development?

Question 2

Councillor Mrs M H Goldspink to ask the Executive Member for Environment:

Does the Executive Member for the Environment agree with me that Local Authorities have a key role to play in promoting energy efficiency in their communities, and that it is a good idea to lead by example? Is he aware that there is no loft insulation in the Council's building at Wallfields? Is he aware that the rate of energy consumption in the Council's building in Bishop's Stortford is more than double the rate at Wallfields? If he is aware of these facts, could he tell me what are the plans to improve the situation in both the Council's buildings?

Question 3

Councillor A M Graham to ask the Executive Member for Community:

Can the Executive Member responsible for the car parking review update the Council on the park and ride scheme due in Bishop's Stortford?

Question 4

Councillor G L Francis to ask the Leader of the Council:

Previously this Council supported the retention of the Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT. Can the Leader please re affirm that this position remains?

Question 5

Councillor G L Francis to ask the Leader of the Council:

There were plans when HCC closed their Social Services office in Bishop's Stortford for a one stop shop at our Causeway offices. Please can the Leader give this meeting an update on this service?

Question 6

Councillor G L Francis to ask the Executive Member for Environment:

Please can the Executive Member tell this meeting the timescale for abandoned vehicles being removed from our roads and whether targets are being met?