

COUNCIL – 25 JUNE 2008

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

**Question 1**

Councillor N C Poulton to ask the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport:

*Does the Member for Planning Policy and Transport agree with me that the announcement of the East of England Plan housing numbers is very disappointing, especially as this Authority presented such a well reasoned representation to the East of England Plan enquiry in Public?*

**Question 2**

Councillor P R Ballam to ask the Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support:

*As one of those who appreciates free country-wide bus travel under the Government scheme, I am aware that there were funding problems with the previous county-wide half-price scheme, and I should like the Executive Member to assure me that the present free travel scheme is adequately funded by the Government and is not placing a financial burden on the Council and its Council Tax Payers.*

**Question 3**

Councillor A D Dodd to ask the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport:

*Is the Executive Member aware of the loophole in Planning forced on the District Council by Central Government which allows 'Permitted Development' without District Council approval and is resulting in unsightly and obtrusive development in a number of residential gardens in East Hertfordshire? Does the Executive Member regard this enforced law detrimental to good residential planning in East Herts and will he be prepared to make representation to the District Councils Association to campaign to overturn this disastrous and unnecessary planning law?*

#### **Question 4**

Councillor N Clark to ask the Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support:

*In relation to the item on additional funding for the St Andrews Street Car Park Pedestrian Bridge Improvements the minutes of Council on 16th April state:*

*“the Executive Member confirmed that he had not been aware of this matter at the time that the capital programme had been agreed in February 2008.”*

*The minutes of Council on 14th May show:*

*“The Executive Member stated that he had been aware of the need for additional funding at the time the capital budget had been agreed”*

*Your answers of April 16th and May 14th are mutually exclusive and contradictory. They cannot both be true; which one is correct?*

#### **Question 5**

Councillor N Clark to ask the Leader of the Council:

*The Leader requested a budget of £20,000 for the Shaping Bishop’s Stortford Board in 2007/08. How much of this budget was spent and what outcomes that residents would recognise were delivered from this spending?”*

#### **Question 6**

Councillor D Clark to ask the Executive Member for Community Safety and Protection:

*In May I asked the portfolio holder for Development Control, who is also a member of the Development Control Committee, to assure Members that he had followed the Council’s own guidance on site visits and meetings with applicants and third parties. Cllr Alexander responded that his memory wasn’t that good. With the benefit of notice and time to check the records, can he now answer the question – can he assure Council that he has not heard any representations from applicants or interested third parties during site visits this year, without an officer being present?*

**Question 7**

Councillor D Clark to ask the Leader of the Council:

*Can the Leader please update Council on discussions with the CAB concerning their future funding?*

**Question 8**

Councillor M Wood to ask the Leader of the Council:

*Will the Leader agree to review the decision to axe the Press Cuttings service as recently advised by our Communications department?*

**Question 9**

Councillor M Wood to ask the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport:

*Will the Executive Member advise us when the first of the sponsored roundabouts will come on stream?*

**Question 10**

Councillor M Wood to ask the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation:

*Will the Executive Member confirm that East Herts Council will not be joining that small list of Councils who issue fixed penalty notices to householders who leave their wheelie-bin lids slightly open?*