

Extraordinary Council – 18 March 2021

Response to Members Questions

Question 1

Cllr Mione Goldspink to ask Cllr Linda Haysey, Leader of the Council:

“Would the leader of the Council please clarify some points about the proposals for the Old River Lane development –

- 1) What are the plans for the United Reformed Church hall (now owned by the Council)?
- 2) Has the size of the proposed Arts Centre been reduced from the original proposals?
- 3) What is the justification for adding a Care Home block of 90 units/beds?”

Response from Cllr Haysey

- 1) “Under the existing plans the URC will be demolished and the space will be used to provide parking spaces which are required for the main scheme.”
- 2) “Yes, the Arts Centre has reduced in size quite considerably.”
- 3) “There are no plans to build a care home at the Old River Lane development. The proposal is to provide a form of supported living for older people who are no longer able to live independently, but don’t necessarily require 24 hour care in a residential care home or nursing home. This type of housing enables individuals or even couples to live with a degree of independence. Facilities such as those proposed make a significant impact on the lives of older people and can delay the

need for people to go into care home facilities. The Developer will work with District and County Council colleagues to ensure that the final proposal meets local needs.”

Supplementary question from Cllr Goldspink

“I am confused about the size of the Arts Centre as you say it will be smaller but on page 12 of the report at paragraph 4.4, it states the redesign will mean it will be over a larger footprint. Could you please clarify what is correct?”

Response from Cllr Haysey

“The original design had an Arts Centre with residential units on the side. Due to discussions with the architect, we have been able to reduce and take away the residential aspect away from the development as we no longer need the income from these sales to make the site work. The Arts Centre itself has been reduced in size”