

Council – 15 December 2021

Responses to Public Questions

Question 1

Beryl Wrangles to ask Cllr Graham McAndrew, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability:

To ask the executive member for Environmental Sustainability when parking policy will be changed to accommodate RPZs deemed necessary for the granting of planning permission to mitigate the impact of infill development and prevent the deterioration of quality of life for existing residents? I of course am specifically interested in Tamworth Road, Hertford where I have lived for over 30 years, but would appreciate that residents in other areas of the district are potentially similarly affected.

Response from Councillor Graham McAndrew:

We are aware of the issues raised regarding the proposed development at Tamworth Road in Hertford. Our officers concluded a survey in May and June 2021 which determined that the area currently does not qualify for the Resident Permit Zone (RPZ) scheme.

The Council updated the RPZ policy in December 2020, our approach ensures we are able to manage the financial implications of an RPZ scheme and mitigate any unnecessary displacement whilst ensuring new schemes proposed are on a “shared use” basis.

For clarity the approval of an RPZ scheme operates outside of the planning system and therefore the planning permission process does not determine whether an RPZ proposal is approved.

The process requires a formal public consultation with residents and businesses whilst following the criteria approved, the

implementation of such a scheme is not certain until this exercise has been undertaken. It is of course positive that funds are secured with developers should the scheme qualify in the near future.

Officers will repeat the surveys in the summer of 2022. At this stage, given that the policy has recently been updated there is no intention to revisit this policy in the context of proposed new developments.

Question 2

Ann Forbes to ask Cllr Graham McAndrew, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability:

You will be aware that we had a very successful COP 26 Community Climate Gathering in Bishops Stortford over the weekend of 6/7 November; we are grateful for the Council's financial support towards the cost of the event. We had to move to a bigger venue to accommodate the high level of interest! Over 100 people of all ages attended over the two days with the express aim of discussing positive ways to improve our quality of life in our town. We were delighted to be joined by the few councillors who attended but disappointed that there weren't more who were interested in joining us to listen to ideas from the Bishops Stortford community about improving our town.

Ten working groups are now established as a result of the Gathering, all under the umbrella of the Bishops Stortford Climate Group, working on a range of topics including Solar advice, Vegan offers in the town, waste and recycling, an Eco directory, Community orchard, Community vegetable growing and improved walking and cycling safety.

In what ways will EHDC further support us in this exciting, community led initiative?

Response from Councillor Graham McAndrew:

I would like to thank Ann Forbes for her timely question, following as it does the excellent work conducted in Bishop's Stortford as part of the local response to COP26. The council was very happy to provide grant assistance and we were impressed by the output from the event.

The council takes a genuinely open approach to working with community groups on the climate change agenda; we know we certainly don't have all the answers.

The council's environmental sustainability officers have been proactive and have already met representatives from the Bishop's Stortford Community Climate Gathering to discuss the next steps to take following the COP26 event and I know further meetings have been booked. I'm very pleased to say that similar meetings are being arranged with groups covering Hertford and Ware, Sawbridgeworth and Buntingford.

Officers and local groups have already identified actions where the council and the community can work together, for example with regard to community bulk purchase of solar panels.

We will continue to make a success of community-led initiatives by, among other things, sharing information, putting groups in different parts of the district and county in contact with each other and identifying grant funding opportunities.

I would like to think that the council's leadership and commitment to facilitating community networking across the district is demonstrated by our work to evolve the East Herts Climate Change and Environment Forum into a more community-focused platform for debate and action setting. The Forum meets every two months and in 2022 we will be facilitating community-led sessions as an integral part of the Forum's meetings to build a sense of wider

ownership of the agenda and draw on the community's expertise and enthusiasm across East Herts.