

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answer which will be included in an addendum that will be circulated at the meeting. A Member who asked a question may ask one relevant supplementary question which shall be put and answered by the Chair, Councillor Robins without discussion.

(i) Councillor Mac Cafferty- Business case for WaterFront

Just last week (7th June) House of Fraser announced that about 6,000 jobs would be axed which follows the announcement only weeks ago that M&S will close 100 stores. Shopping habits are changing and there is uncertainty with Brexit. These are all things that will affect how viable shopping and big shopping centres are. Given that the business case for the bigger Churchill Centre last presented to Councillors is now 3 years old, when will the Committee be appraised of an updated business case which reflects the reality of what is happening on the high street?

(ii) Councillor Mac Cafferty- Rail

Further to the disruptive rail engineering works over the early Bank Holiday weekend, the rail timetable changes have been appalling for passengers but are also causing damage to the local economy. What communication has the administration had with Govia Thameslink Railway and the Department for Transport over timetable changes and the detrimental impact on our local economy? What assurances is the Chair seeking from the rail companies that key events for our local economy, such as Pride, won't be affected by either engineering works or timetable changes?

(iii) Councillor Mac Cafferty- Fracking policy

Since 2013 the City Council has had strong policy against fracking, with the designation of Brighton & Hove as a no-Fracking zone. There is a government consultation which controversially will make it many more times easier for fracking and acidising companies to apply for planning permission and Environment Agency licences. Further, the Written Ministerial Statement issued on 17 May 2018 by the Energy and Local Government Secretaries has for example proposed to classify non-fracking shale gas developments as permitted development, without the need for a planning application, and fracking proposals to be decided by a government-appointed inspector, rather than a local authority. Will the Chair assure us of this Council's continued opposition to fracking?

(iv) **Councillor Nemeth- King Alfred**

What estimate does the Chairman make of costs incurred to date by the Council in progressing the redevelopment of the King Alfred Leisure Centre since the project was revived in 2013?

[NB Please break down appropriately – I am particularly interested in approximate officer and consultant costs but would also like to see in there room hire, printing, etc.]

(v) **Councillor Nemeth- Planning Enforcement**

Will the Chairman provide updated figures for cases received, cases closed and total cases received for March/April/May 2018?

(vi) **Councillor Nemeth- Marlborough House**

Will the Chairman detail what progress has been made in taking enforcement action for recent planning breaches against the owner of Marlborough House since the last meeting of the committee?

(vii) **Councillor Nemeth- Beach Hut Transfer Fees**

At the March meeting of Tourism, Development & Culture Committee, I highlighted that the beach hut 'Terms & Conditions of Licence' document contains no provision for the Council's newly-introduced Transfer Fee. I requested the Council's updated position and was told that Legal would be in touch imminently. Given that three months have now passed, would the Chairman please confirm when the response from Legal that he requested will be sent to me?

(viii) **Councillor Nemeth- HMO Planning Policy**

Will the Chairman commit to introducing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to address anomalies in the Council's approach to Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs)? The current arrangement appears to be very unclear on exactly what constitutes an existing HMO when calculating numbers within a 50m radius of a proposed development.