

Adur Council - Questions from members of the public - 17 December 2015

Item 3

1) Mr Alden

“Will the Executive member please let me have the following information in respect of private sector housing:

In the last year (or other recent available period)

- a) How many inspections of private rented property have taken place following referral by a tenant**
- b) How many randomly selected inspections have taken place (ie not referred by a tenant)**
- c) How many Landlords have been given advice following an inspection visit**
- d) How many Landlords have been prosecuted for unsatisfactory conditions.**

Does the Executive member consider the Council is adequately protecting the interests of Private Sector Tenants

2) Mr Gilbert:

**I would like to pose this question to the relevant Executive member:
(Councillor Dunn)**

In the JOSOC report on fuel poverty in March 2015 the Executive member promised a report on the case for installing solar panels on Council properties. This would be an important step in addressing fuel poverty as well as making a contribution to tackling climate change. Is the report available, and if not when will it be? Are there any proposals about this being brought forward?

3) Mr Francis

(The Leader will respond)

My question for the council is, regarding the proposed increase to Councillors allowances and rates of Special Responsibilities Allowances.

Could you please tell me, if all members retained the same roles within the council under the proposed increases, what would the increases be, in real terms percentage increase, from what they currently receive in total allowances, including SRAs?

I understand that as there is an election next May and special Responsibilities may change, however if we could make the assumption that all members are in the same posts as they currently are, what would be the actual increase from the current TOTAL annual allowance, from current rate, to both options presented by the JIRP?

It would be ideal if you could present this in the simple form of, Member's name, and percentage increase under option 1 and option 2.

4) Bill Freeman

The leader states that following the publication of the Proposed Submission of the Adur Local Plan 2014 amendments are proposed in relation to a strategic allocation within the document in response to some representations received!

The majority of the residents around the Lancing Brooks flood plain, North South and West are totally opposed to any more development there - so who is Adur DC responding to?!!

Of the 1151 representations to the 2013 consultation, 90% of those expressed their fears for increased flood risk by developing the Lancing Brooks area.

The cabinet member responsible for the Plan, Cllr Beresford recently made great play publically of supporting the majority to the detriment of the minority who are greatly concerned about this. Surely, if the minority are the only ones who are affected by a proposal, they become the majority! Anybody not affected should not even be in the frame.

My question – why is ADC continuing to persist in proposing to build 600 houses on the Lancing Brooks flood plain?

The recently published WSCC CH2MHill Surface Water Management Plan clearly states the causes of flooding in Lancing area is due to capacity restraints in the Lancing Brooks.

It goes on to say that even with all the measures in place to reduce flood risk, the Lancing Brooks drainage system will still be at risk during more extreme weather conditions.

It also states that In such conditions, whatever you do to mitigate, in extreme weather. Lancing is highly vulnerable to ground water flooding. Drainage is affected by groundwater levels.

We understand the flood plain will be raised to enable construction of the 600 homes and business development as will a repositioned travellers site on the Withy Patch to make room on the A27 for a new roundabout. This level of build and road infrastructure will cause a massive increase in surface water flows into an already over capacity Lancing Brooks which will disrupt ground waters irreparably.

I ask, has the CH2MHill study been referenced in the later work done on the Plan? Or has ADC chosen to disregard this informative report?

Already residents are being refused insurance cover and experiencing failed house sales because of flood risk.

Why is ADC not listening to the majority of the electorate who oppose the NMF build? Why are you insisting on increasing the flood risk to residents around the Lancing Brooks area, putting them in harms way, blighting their properties to become uninsurable and unsaleable, That apart, consigning residents to indescribable misery. Believe me I know personally what that is like for the community!

Extreme weather events are becoming the norm. Cumbria 6 years ago was flooded. Look at the community there now. They were supposed to have been protected for 100 years by a £45million investment in flood defences which simply were not a match for the levels of weather experienced.

I have to ask, Cllr Beresford, is this the legacy ADC wants to create for Lancing?

I repeat the question.

Why is Adur DC continuing to persist in building these 600 homes on the Lancing Brooks flood plain?

Why are you not listening to the majority of the electorate who oppose the NMF build?

Why are you insisting on increasing flood risk to residents around the Lancing Brooks area which will put them in harm's way, blighting their properties and making them uninsurable and unsaleable? – Consigning them to indescribable misery?

Under the rules of the National Planning Policy Framework and with the evidence of the CH2MHill report Adur does have the information to assist in taking this ill conceived allocation out of the Plan and to tell Government we have no more room for building the level of development being foisted upon this authority.

Once again, we ask you to take this inappropriate allocation out of the Local Plan.