

**Councillors' Questions
(Standing Order 15)
Full Council
23rd February 2017**

Councillor Steve Allsopp has asked the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness:

1. Will you confirm that the garages and accompanied land transferred to the Council General Fund will be transferred back to the Housing Revenue Account at the valuation at the date of transfer should any subsequent development by the HRA be agreed?

The Cabinet Member has responded:

Thank you for your question.

1 In the event of such development arising, we will take a report through the appropriate decision-making process.

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Councillor Steve Allsopp has asked the Cabinet Member for Communities:

2. Ward Councillors for Walcot and Park North have been copied into the exchange of correspondence between the Chair of SWAP and the Lead Member for Communities together with her response of 11th February to Carolanne Bond. For the avoidance of doubt can she confirm that the earmarked funds identified in the correspondence will be transferred to the Central South Parish with the original specification identified in the various planning agreements namely:

£20,000 for benefit of East Walcot
£5,000 for benefit of Park North
£5,000 for the benefit of Park South
£14,000 for the benefit
of the local area resulting from New College siting planning infringement
Any Sec 106 resulting from Sussex Place redevelopment

3. Can she also confirm the remaining balance of £90,000 from the bond paid by developers towards roofing between Phase 1 and 2 in the Cavendish Square redevelopment continues to be earmarked for future use in connection with Cavendish Square.

The Cabinet Member has responded:

Thank you for your questions.

2 Officers are currently looking into this request and the chair of SWAP is aware and will be notified as soon as investigations are complete.

3 Yes, the funding is still being held. We are awaiting a response from the landowner to requests to spend the funding.

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Councillor Robert Wright has asked the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services and the Cabinet Member for Communities:

4. Why since March 2016 it has not been possible to provide accurate figures to a constituent about the calculations, which form the basis of Parish Council figures?
5. Why after a council officer admitted a mistake had been made in the figures presented to the public concerning the Parish and Council Tax figures they were not corrected?
6. Why after stating the figures being used were averages that inaccuracies concerning Band "D" figures were still being used after the Parish boundaries were set.
7. Why was the actual number of Band "D" properties not known?
8. Why after repeated requests for clarification on figures being used by the council for Parish Council calculations an accurate answer has not been supplied to the constituent? The latest questions being originally submitted on the 28/10/16 and followed up in 2017?
9. Why when the constituent used the proper channels for Parish questions officers did not come back to him?
10. Can the figures being used to calculate council tax support and now being used to fund the new Central South Parish be supplied? This includes the number of households affected.
11. Is the Parish support being funded by discounting band "D" equivalents or via a perpetual grant?
12. Is the grant funded from Central Government?
13. If the grant is funded from Central Government will it be affected by the diminishing benefit expenditure which this current Government is pursuing?
14. Why when consulting on the development of the County Ground the public were not made aware of the potential of the public play space being sacrificed and replaced by an artificial football pitch?
15. Why the S106 monies which were stated at Cabinet were available to supply new facilities at the County Ground Athletic Club are not available to install the facilities identified?
16. Why after authorising spending S106 monies on the running track which was not identified in the S106 agreement that the new facilities being sought extend beyond the S106 money available?
17. Why is the Cabinet Member responsible for communities is not consulting on the proposed new facilities with the local community?
18. Will the public be told that payment for the proposed new facility will come at the price of the loss of the main public open space?
19. Why are the Changing/Toilet facilities left by the County Ground Bowls club not been deemed sufficient to match part of the previous S106 request?
20. The Parish Asset consultation documents stated the County Ground as land for development, is this not in contravention

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The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services has responded.

Thank you for your questions 4 to 13 above.

In order to provide a full response it will be necessary to have further information. If you can provide this, I would be happy to arrange a meeting in order to assist you.

The Cabinet Member for Communities has responded.

Thank you for your questions 14 to 20 above.

14 Previous consultation that has taken place with the public was in relation to works proposed to make the site more accessible funded from other grant monies secured by the Locality team.

15 Remaining monies provided under s106 for facilities at the County Ground are still earmarked for the installation of facilities.

16 There is an opportunity to add to the funds available to spend at the County Ground on any new facility with grant funding from sporting bodies. This will extend the amount we can spend beyond the current s106 monies that are available and earmarked for the new facilities, but with no direct funding from the Council.

17 Answer as per for question 14 above

18 Yes – this will be part of any public consultation

19 The former bowls does not meet the operational needs of the Swindon harriers as their changing facilities need to be accessible from the track particularly for school use and the bowls facilities is independent of the track.

20 We have identified and listed assets owned by the Borough based on whether we would proposed that they could be available for transfer to a parish or retained by the Council. 'Development' identified on this list of assets is in relation to the possible provide of a new facility.