

**Councillors' Questions  
(Standing Order 15)  
Full Council  
6<sup>TH</sup> April 2017**

**Councillor Stephanie Exell has asked the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability:**

The Chief Executive has confirmed to the Leader of the Labour Group and the Mannington & Western ward councillors that senior officers commissioned ground investigations works in Bodiam Drive without informing the Housing Development CMAG, the relevant Board Director or the Ward Members. This action caused a breach of trust with local councillors and the residents living in the Bodiam Drive area.

1. Was the Cabinet Member aware that this work was going to be carried out? Did he authorise it?
2. Was the Cabinet Member aware that correspondence was sent to the Housing Development CMAG on 29th January 2017 by Mannington & Western ward councillors expressing reservations about Bodiam Drive and other areas in Toothill and asked that full consultation was initiated with the ward councillors and the residents before any action was taken? Can he explain why this correspondence does not appear in the minutes of the 1st February 2017? Can he rectify this situation so that ward members' views are represented in full in the minutes?
3. Does the Cabinet Member agree with his senior officers that if they act in good faith then they can ignore the process of governance?
4. What actions will the Cabinet Member carry out to ensure that the same situation does not happen again?
5. Can he confirm that development will not be going ahead in the Bodiam Drive area as ward councillors were told in good faith by a Board Director?
6. Can a copy of the SHELAA list be sent to the Mannington & Western ward councillors as requested on 8th January 2017?

**The Cabinet Member has responded:**

Thank you for your questions. First, I reject the premise of your questions. Officers have behaved appropriately, in accordance with good governance and in the best interests of residents and the Council. There has been no breach of trust.

1. The preparatory work was necessary to ensure that the Council has sufficient information before making a decision as well to make it possible to proceed immediately should we make a decision. This was an operational decision and it is the type of advance work I would expect to see undertaken.

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2. I have seen the correspondence dated 29th January 2017. At CMAG on SBC Housing Developments was held on the 1st February 2017. Unfortunately, Cllr Exell sent her apologies. At that CMAG it was made very clear and recorded in the note of the meeting that the Bodium Drive site has been removed from the current phase of development work, due to not meeting the desired strategic principles for the programme. It was also made clear that the site is still a proposed development but requires further work and analysis of how best to bring this forward, this was also recorded in the note of the meeting. I would expect officers to act in order to complete the further work and analysis to bring forward any options for the site. As agreed at CMAG, I can confirm that no development is currently proposed for Bodium Drive and should a proposal be brought forward by officers I can assure you that it will be presented to CMAG and Ward Members first. A Cabinet Member Advisory Group is not a decision-making meeting and there are no minutes.
3. Please see my responses to question 1 above.
4. I reject the premise of this question; please see my response to question 1 above.
5. Please see answer 2 above.
6. A map and list of potentially developable Council-owned sites in Mannington and Western Ward was forwarded on 3rd April 2017, these are in addition to the sites identified in the 2013 SHELAA. The 2017 updated SHELAA has not yet been published.

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**Councillor Jim Robbins has asked the Cabinet Member for StreetSmart:**

7. What is the expected impact of shutting the Borough's recycling sites on flytipping, recycling rates, and rate of recycable refuse going into landfill?
8. What work was done prior to the decision to predict the impact?

**The Cabinet Member has responded:**

Thank you for your questions.

7. We expect negligible adverse effects. In relation to recycling rates and recyclable material going into landfill, the Borough continues to collect kerb-side recycling collections from every household on a fortnightly basis. Should a resident require additional recycling boxes then these can be arranged. Alternatively, if the resident wishes to dispose of their recycling before their schedule collection, then they can attend the Household Waste and Recycling Centre. As at March 2016, across the borough only 21% of material was directed to landfill.

We have made extensive improvements to the layout of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre to reduce queuing times and I am confident that Swindon residents will continue to dispose of their rubbish and recycled items responsibly. With regard to fly tipping, we are not expecting to see a material shift in the behaviour of residents who have previously disposed of their waste and recycling responsibly, and who now deem it acceptable to fly tip their waste. Where we have evidence of anyone fly tipping then we will take action to prosecute.

8. In making the decision to remove the recycling bring sites across the borough, we considered that every household would continue to receive collections from their household and the recent improvements to the household waste and recycling centre. Before removing any sites, we engaged with local parish councils and the overriding response was that parishes did not wish to keep the sites open.

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**Councillor Jim Robbins has asked the Cabinet Member for Children's Services:**

9. Did the Borough offer any places for refugees under the Dubs Amendment?
10. How many places have we offered under the Syrian Vulnerable People's Relocation Scheme?

**The Cabinet Member has responded:**

Thank you for your questions.

9. Yes, two.
10. No, the Council has not accepted anyone under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme but the Council continues to play an active part in the National Asylum Seeker Dispersal Programme.