

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Cabinet**

**15 March 2016**

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### **Public Participation**

#### **Questions from Mr Richard Hames**

1. Could the council please provide a list of all the documents relating to the planning applications for Rawlings green and East of Chippenham which were sent to Chippenham town council and Langley Burrell Parish Council?

2. Could the council please explain why Bremhill parish only received the EIA for both applications rather than a complete set of documents as councillor Sturgis said would happen at the last cabinet Meeting. After much chasing they received further documents for Rawlings Green only?

3. Is the council legally able on major planning applications to require that more than three hard copies of all documents be submitted? If the council is legally able to do so will the council please make it a policy going forward to require a least six hardcopies so that the relevant parish and town councils can receive a copy and one copy can be placed in a local library and another in a council building eg Chippenham council office?

It would make sense for developers to provide hard copies for all consultees which would include parish and town councils. Then additional copies could be provided to place in a local library and a council building.

4. I understand that the council spent approximately two years dealing with the s106 for the development north of Chippenham. Other councils have a policy of requiring the S106 to be signed within a specified period for major developments failing which the planning consent lapses. The trouble with the council's method of negotiation is that the bargaining chips are held by the developer. Will the council change it's rules so that in future the developer is given a fixed period to reach agreement (this should be a matter of months) failing which the application lapses? This will result in the council holding the bargaining chips and will result in a better deal for the council taxpayer and less time spent by council officers.

5. Availability of public documents in connection with the planning applications for Rawlings Green and East of Chippenham. As mentioned above were not distributed to Bremhill parish on a timely basis for Rawlings Green and in the case of East of Chippenham only the EIA has been received at the time this question was submitted. A resident of Tytherton Lucas tried to download one of the documents and, even though he is able to stream films, was unable to access the document. Does the council consider that adequate consultation has been given and the consultation is robust enough to defeat any judicial review? Would it not be more sensible, so as to avoid the possibility of any challenge, to restart the clock on consultation?

6. Could cabinet please explain why Chippenham town council is able to comment on planning matters but the Calne area board is not?

7. Wiltshire Council has confirmed that the council is under no legal obligation to sell its land to Chippenham 2020. It further states that it's non-legally binding email referred to a potential sale to assist development through the Chippenham sites allocation development plan document as part of the core strategy process.

Would the cabinet therefore consider writing to Chippenham 2020 informing them that they will not sell any land in area C to them unless the inspector has in his report included that land for development in the Chippenham site allocation plan and that The number of houses that can be built on such land would be limited to the number of houses the inspector recommends in his report, if he approves development of the East of Chippenham site?

This would enable the council to defend its own draft plan and let the inspector consider all the new evidence the council is collecting.

8. If the local press wished to interview the leader of the council and each cabinet member once a year for an in depth interview would you please confirm that the leader and each cabinet member would make themselves available?