

**Wiltshire Council**

**Annual Council**

**16 May 2017**

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**Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Brian Dalton, Salisbury Harnham Division**

**To Cabinet Member with relevant portfolio to be appointed**

**Question Ref 17-45**

Can I ask why members received notification during the purdah period, that the Southern Area Planning Committee's start time was being changed from 6pm to 3pm? I'm sure members had other things on their mind at the time, rather than not being consulted about a change of time.

Members of the public attending consider this a very important committee of the council, where they can air their voice on planning issues which effect their lives.

I am aware that the three other Planning Committees have (in the past) changed their time to 3pm, but surely, it's up to each Committee, democratically, to determine when it meets? Area Boards meet at different times about the County, for example. Is there going to be a forced change here too?

Changing the time to when many people (and councillors!) are still at work will have a detrimental effect on public attendance at this Committee. To announce it during an election is somewhat devious. Perhaps if Agendas were manageable and 18 meetings not cancelled during the past 4 years, then meetings would end at a reasonable time. I ask:

- a) Just who consulted with the Chairman?
- b) Members of the Committee should be consulted, and democratically vote on any change of time, and
- c) Serious consideration be given to revert the meeting back to 6pm.

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting