

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**2 February 2021**

**Agenda Item 5 – Public Questions**

**Statement and Questions from Myla Watts**

**To Councillor Richard Clewer, Deputy Leader of the Council and  
Cabinet Member Corporate Services, Heritage, Arts & Tourism,  
Housing and Communities**

**Question 1 (21-76)**

On 25 January, Chippenham Town Council published clarification of their involvement in Wiltshire Council's Housing Infrastructure Bid for Chippenham. However, the simple fact remains that the CTC letter which supported the HIF bid at key early stage, was signed without CTC knowledge or authorisation. Without this illegitimate letter of support, the HIF Bid may not have been successful and therefore it surely invalidates the whole submission. Please could you clarify the legal standing of this?

**Response:**

Whether or not the letter from Chippenham Town Council had sufficient and necessary authorisation is not a matter for Wiltshire Council to answer. As to whether the inclusion of the letter in good faith if not duly authorized invalidated the submission that is again not something that Wiltshire Council can answer and that question will be put to Homes England for their view once the veracity of the letter has been substantiated.