

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL  
9 NOVEMBER 2010**

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**COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS**

**FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM PAYNE  
TROWBRIDGE DRYNHAM DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR JOHN THOMSON  
DEPUTY LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE,  
COMMUNITIES AND LIBRARIES**

**Question**

Are you aware that the Palmer Gardens Charity, the trusteeship of which passed to the Shaw Trust from the former Wiltshire County Council in the mid 1980s, has recently been subsumed into the Shaw Trust Organisation under a Uniting Direction. Can you reassure this council, as the body which was originally vested with the control of the Palmers Garden Charity by the family, that full consultation took place between the Shaw Trust and ourselves or Wiltshire County Council before the merger action took place? If so, what form of consultation took place?

Additionally, can you please reassure me that the land occupied under lease by the Shaw Trust/Palmer Gardens off Islington, Trowbridge will remain in trust on behalf of the young people of Trowbridge for its original purpose (i.e. education of young people from Trowbridge and district) and will not be sold off for short term expediency?

**Response**

Council officers have researched the records relating to the Palmer Gardens site and can find no evidence to suggest that the council has any legal interest in this property.

After looking at the Palmer Trust web-site, it is reasonable to assume that the family set up a Trust and Wiltshire County Council became a Trustee in the 1970's, however the trusteeship was passed to the Shaw Trust in the 1980's. There is no evidence to indicate that the council ever had any rights of ownership of the land or the buildings on the site.

In that context, the Shaw Trust may not have deemed it necessary to formally consult the council whilst undertaking the Uniting Direction. There have been no formal consultations with officers from Wiltshire Council.

The future of the land therefore would appear to be in the hands of the merged Palmer gardens Trust and Shaw Trust and therefore the Council would have no involvement in the sale or use of the land.