

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

8 October 2019

**Questions from Chris Caswill – Agenda Item 7 – Chippenham Housing
Infrastructure Fund Bid**

**To Councillor Philip Whitehead – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member
for Economic Development**

Question 1

In what way or ways is the building of £75 million of new concrete and tarmac roads across the Avon Valley and the land south of Chippenham consistent with the climate emergency adopted by both Wiltshire Council and the Chippenham Town Council?

Question 2

Did Wiltshire Council request Chippenham Town Council to exclude the public from its discussion of this issue? If so, what was the justification for that?

Question 3

Given that this Cabinet has never discussed this Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Bid in public, and the Chippenham TC meeting was apparently held behind closed doors, how can this bid claim that it has public support (as is required by the scheme)?

Question 4

On 24 September, Wiltshire Council issued a press release with the title “Bid for £75 M improvements in Chippenham put forward to Government”. Amongst the improvements promoted in this press release were open space, health, an improved sense of community, new public green space, cycling and walking routes, a multi-story car park, a leisure centre, and an improved town centre. The rules of the HIF scheme make it clear that it provides road infrastructure to support development. So, will you take this opportunity to make it clear that the other facilities set out in the

press release will not be provided by HIF funding, and to at least regret that the public may have been misled by the press release claims.

Question 5

Will you now agree to make public at least the main elements of the HIF bid, for example the routes and characteristics of the proposed roads, and which HIF fund the application has been submitted to?