



Supplement for

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 2023

| Agenda No | Item |
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| 5. | <u>Participation of the Public</u> (Pages 3 - 4) |
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One public question has been submitted for this meeting which is included.

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| 6. | <u>Questions by Members</u> (Pages 5 - 8) |
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Written responses to questions by members are included.

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Council 22 March 2023

Item 5: Participation of the public

Public question from Karen Squibb-Williams, Chair of the Stop Botley West Campaign, Oxfordshire.

“In the current stages of proclaimed climate emergency, energy crises and the lemming-like rush to renewables, is this community (Oxfordshire) at risk of being led to believe that the proposal for the UK’s largest ever ground mounted solar park is actually a good thing,

bearing in mind that:-

- a. The so-called informal “public consultation” provided by the Developer (“PVDP”) was notably lacking in any detail, and could not, and did not, help the public to appreciate just what was being planned;
- b. The Developer’s boast that BWSF will provide enough electricity for 330,000 homes (impliedly in Oxfordshire) is utterly misleading, given that any generated electricity will be fed into the National Grid;
- c. The assault on Oxford’s Green Belt is quite unprecedented and seriously damaging to the whole intent and purpose of green belts; this proposal intends to build about 75% of its industrialised landscape on Green Belt land including most of the “middle section” from Bladon and Begbroke to Cassington, and all of the southern section at Cumnor;
- d. Solar energy is proven beyond doubt to be the least efficient means of renewable generation, especially when compared to wind power, and the most damaging to the natural environment, with absolutely no evidence to show that solar farms can be reasonably restored to agriculture at the end of their useful life without considerable cost.”

As my request is made before your deadline of 12 noon today, I look forward to receiving your confirmation at your earliest convenience.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Andy Graham, to respond at the meeting.

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Members Questions for Council – 22 March 2023

| Questions (6) | Questioner | Executive Member / Lead Officer | Response |
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| 1. Will the Executive Member commit to "putting residents first" when it comes to the future of the waste and recycling service? | Cllr Dr. Alaa Al-Yousuf - Conservative, Freeland and Hanborough | Cllr Lidia Arciszewska / Scott Williams | Absolutely! Cllr Dr. Alaa Al-Yousuf can be assured that residents will always come first in any considerations regarding waste and recycling service in West Oxfordshire. |
| 2. Can the Deputy Leader confirm that Marriotts Walk will be managed as per the approved business plan to prioritise increasing rental income to support services for the District as a whole through the regeneration of the site in order to increase footfall? | Cllr Dr. Alaa Al-Yousuf - Conservative, Freeland and Hanborough | Cllr Duncan Enright / Frank Wilson | The business case associated with the acquisition of Marriotts Walk will be used to guide us through the process of re-energising the development to deliver more to the residents of Witney, West Oxfordshire and beyond. This will mean additional investment in empty units to bring them into occupation which will drive footfall and yes rental growth. I have no doubt that there will be variations in timing and values within the process of implementing the regeneration but we will be steered by the direction of travel as set out in the business case. |
| 3. How often since May 2022 have replacement (as a result of breakdown or other reason) recycling collection vehicles had to be used which are unable to keep glass and other recycling materials separate? How many vehicles (e.g. those used on narrow streets) in regular use are unable | Cllr Ted Fenton - Conservative, Bampton and Clanfield | Cllr Lidia Arciszewska / Scott Williams | Ubico does not record this specific information, because commonly when a vehicle experiences a breakdown it can be fixed the same day and so the crew would return to the depot and pick up a spare, then go back out to continue making collections. In some instances, they then return to the depot when the split back vehicle is fixed and then go back and make the remaining collections. |

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| <p>to keep glass and other recycling materials separate?</p> | | | <p>The contamination levels are within the tolerances set out in the contract between the Council and Suez, which receives the recycling material and then sorts it into its component commodities.</p> <p>There are two vehicles used on the narrow access collection rounds which aren't able to accept separate glass and this is sorted by Suez at the recycling plant.</p> |
| <p>4. The District Council continues to hold money from developers to be used for the provision of a 3G pitch in Witney.</p> <p>Please update the Council as to when this money will be spent and when will the very much needed facility be built?</p> | <p>Cllr Norman MacRae MBE - Conservative, Carterton North East</p> | <p>Cllr Joy Aitman / Andy Barge</p> | <p>As members are aware the sum of £941,335.54 (includes indexation) was secured in 2016 from the Downs Road development towards the provision of grassroots football development in Witney. In addition to this a further £22,801.30 (includes indexation) was secured from the same development towards either the provision of a spectator stand for a football pitch(es) in Witney or the surrounding area or the improvement of football facilities in Witney or the surrounding area. Giving a collective sum of £964,136.84, which has an expiry clause of 08/07/29, the final instalment for this was received in December 2021.</p> <p>Officers have met on several occasions to determine the optimum site for a 3G facility – including West Witney Sports Ground (owned by Witney Town Council). Although follow consultation with WODC Planning Development Management, there would be planning constraints on the site in terms of sports lighting and the existing ancillary facilities are not fit for purpose. Following this Officers met with Woodgreen School who expressed an interest in</p> |

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| | | | <p>locating the 3G pitch on their site. Officers intend to consult with Henry Box School as well, with the recommendation for the two schools to submit Business Cases for locating the facility at their sites if they are interested, discussions need to be held with both schools regarding this.</p> <p>In order to support this piece of work and the wider Playing Pitch Strategy, Officers are in the process of appointing a designated districtwide post to support the delivery of the Playing Pitch Strategy, which will incorporate the new 3G provision in Witney.</p> |
| <p>5. The Woodstock open air pool is reopening in July 2023 for the school holidays. Please can you tell me what arrangements have been made for school swimming lessons, which would normally take place in the June (schools summer term) and was there a consultation with adult and family users?</p> | <p>Cllr Michele Mead - Conservative, Carterton South</p> | <p>Cllr Joy Aitman / Scott Williams</p> | <p>Following discussions between the Council and the School Management Team, it was agreed that they were comfortable with utilising other WODC facilities for hire (Chipping Norton LC for example) to accommodate their swimming requirements. Outdoor Pool Users were not consulted on the decision to only open for the summer holiday period. Whilst there would likely be users who would like the pool to open the decision to shorten the season was made based on the financial cost of providing the service in the colder months of the year (April, May, June).</p> |

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| <p>6. How many Food Waste caddies in particular and other household waste/recycling containers in general, have been replaced in the last year by WODC because householders' original ones have been damaged?</p> | <p>Cllr Ted Fenton - Conservative, Bampton and Clanfield</p> | <p>Cllr Lidia Arciszewska / Scott Williams</p> | <p>The Council doesn't record the number of containers which need to be replaced as a result of solely being damaged. Instead all requests for new containers are recorded on the customer records management system (CRM) and individual requests are raised for Ubico to action.</p> <p>The number of containers requested since 1st April 2022 are shown below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1737 x Combination of 180 litre (ltr) and 240 ltr Refuse bins ● 3297 x 240 ltr Recycling bins ● 15 x 360 ltr Recycling bins ● 538 x 240 ltr Garden Waste bins ● 896 X 23 ltr External Food Caddy ● 193 x 44 ltr Black Boxes |
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