



RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

to

COUNCIL

19 DECEMBER 2019

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. QUESTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's public speaking protocol the following questions were received from members of the public.

2. QUESTION ONE

- 2.1 The following questions were received from Judy Lea, Chairman of the Maldon Society, Spital Road, Maldon on Monday 16 December 2019:

“In connection with the Council's relationship with the proposed new nuclear power station at Bradwell, (also referred to in item 12 on tonight's agenda).

- a) Is it correct that MDC is receiving each month approximately £15,000 from the potential developer?
- b) What use has been made of the income in connection with Bradwell B received to date?
- c) Does the Council recognise its integral role as a primary conduit in a disinterested process of public consultation on whether the nuclear development should proceed?
- d) What answer would be given to those who consider a) and c) above represent a conflict of interest?”

3. QUESTION TWO

- 3.1 The following question was received from Mr John Rayment of the Thames Sailing Barge Trust, on Tuesday 17 December 2019.

“The Thames Sailing Barge Trust, is a registered charity which owns and operates two sailing barges, Pudge and Centaur, at Hythe Quay. The Trust is a non-profit making charity with no paid employees and is run by volunteers, and has berthed its vessels on the Quay for 37 years.

- The Trust is not a commercial operator

- We gain our income through donations, membership and from the small income we make from taking the public and members on weekend sails between May and September.
- In a good year we just about break-even
- By removing the discount, we will have to pay a further £6500 a year, **this being a 100% increase on what we pay. This is unfair.**
- This increase will put the Trust into a loss-making situation which is not sustainable and will result in us having to consider our future on the Quay.

If the proposed increase is to be based on comparable costs for berthing elsewhere, the Council must also consider the advantages other ports have over the town in terms of tides and other operational factors.

The Trust's aims include making the barges available to the public and children. If we have to move away from Maldon, then these opportunities would be lost to the town. The Trust is part of the Maldon Heritage Group and our barges are part of Maldon's heritage.

And on top of this it is also proposed that you will charge vehicles for parking on the Quay.

Question:

We wish to ask the Leader of the Council to reconsider the proposal to increase the wharfage charges by removing the 50% discount for our barges Pudge and Centaur, as this will significantly impact on our viability and future at Maldon."