



RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

to
COUNCIL
16 FEBRUARY 2017

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. QUESTIONS 1 - 6

The following questions (1 – 6) were received from Mr Tom Kelly of Iona 2 Midguard Way, Maldon on Friday 10 February 2017.

“Submissions:

1. Given recent statistics, should Govt be asked to 'review' the Planning Appeals System-in particular the relationship of Planning Inspectorate to Developers.?
2. Should OVERVIEW and SCRUTINY investigate all the background to the MALDON POLICE STATION move, in particular the P&CC statement "no decision has yet been made" but prior to which MDC had already taken steps to accomodate?
3. Why did MDC request payment from Healthcare Funds to permit patients use of St.Cedds site new parking spaces,as it was Public Money which had funded that Project.?
4. Should MDC not ,in view of historical BASIC UNDERFUNDING of the local NHS,make representations to GOVT?
5. Would this COUNCIL consider being part of a 'QUESTION TIME' public on its handling of Local issues?
6. Would members and staff participate in the COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH activities??"

3. QUESTION 7

The following question (7) was received from Rosalind Murphy of Bower Garden, Maldon for the Community on Tuesday 14 February 2017.

“Bearing in mind the Police and Crime Commissioners’ assertion in the local press ‘M&B Feb 9th 2017’, that the ‘People of Essex’ & also listed in the priorities for Essex in his website, - ‘want a local, visible & accessible Police Force’ –

Is the inaccessible District Council offices, with the narrow & congested exit routes the best positioning for the centre of Policing in this historic & sociable town? Over 700 people have signed a petition to ‘Save Our Police Station’, because it is so well placed & accessible.

There are fears for the Town, the District & beyond the District.

Thank you for considering this far reaching question from a Town & District feeling extremely vulnerable. Normally sign a petition.

There are also fears for our Historic High Street.

There is a very strong feeling that we need this visible Police presence.”

4. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS 1 - 6

From the Leader of the Council:

Question 1:

Yes, we recognise this concern and are currently seeking to instigate a review on this subject and in particular look to scrutinise some of the recent decisions.

Question 2:

No, the Council recognised the need to retain a police station in the town and was proactive in working with the police to look at options to relocate the service rather than lose it. The solution, which was agreed by the Finance and Corporate Services Committee presents a “win win”, retention of accessible local police services within a local community hub and effective utilisation of the Council’s assets.

Question 3:

Maldon District Council as a guardian of public funds must seek to ensure that best value is achieved in all of its activities, including generating a return on the use of its assets. Services provided from the Blackwater Medical Practice are provided by a commercial provider, it is not therefore felt to be unreasonable to request a contribution from them to contribute for their customers’ use of car parking space financed from public funds.

Question 4:

The Council has already expressed its concerns at national level about the historical underfunding per capita paid into the Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group. In doing so we have demonstrated that we are sympathetic to their challenge and continue to work together closely with them in the interest of providing good quality accessible services to our residents.

Question 5:

Yes the Council will consider this, subject to consideration of more detailed proposals.

Question 6:

Yes, we believe this Community Speedwatch is a valuable community lead approach to reducing the risks on our roads and we will willingly promote this opportunity to our staff.

Question 7:

The PCC will be attending the Council Offices on the evening of Monday 27 February to provide his response to the community's concerns re the relocation of the police station.