

RESIDENTIAL AND WELLBEING SERVICES COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2021

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – ORDER IN WHICH THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE WILL INVITE QUESTIONS BELOW RECEIVED IN WRITING IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

1. From Miss Kennedy to the Chair of the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee, Councillor Pendleton
2. From Mr Kutzke to the Chair of the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee, Councillor Pendleton
3. From Miss Kennedy to the Chair of the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee, Councillor Pendleton
4. From Miss Kennedy to the Chair of the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee, Councillor Pendleton
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FULL DETAIL OF THE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED IS DETAILED BELOW

Note, the Chair will:

- invite questions from members of the public who have submitted in writing their questions in line with the Council's Constitution;
- explain that the questions received will be answered by the Chair or other appropriate Members of the Committee
- confirm that Public Question Time allows Members of the public to ask one question at a time and that a maximum of one minute is allowed for each question.
- state that questions will be invited in the order in which they have been received and that if there is time remaining from the 15 minutes allowed for Public Question Time, questioners will be allowed to ask a supplementary question.

QUESTION ONE

From Miss Kennedy to the Chair of the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee, Councillor Pendleton

Why were the 38 households on the Flax Mean complex not sent a copy of the more in-depth Options report dated June 2021 along with the letter outlining the results of the Flax Mean residents' views regarding the showers?

Response

Thank you for your question. A letter regarding the residents' views on the showers was previously sent on the 26 March 2021. This was followed up with a letter on the 14 July which contained the options that are being considered tonight. Copies of this report were made available to residents in the residents' communal area.

QUESTION TWO

From Mr Kutzke to the Chair of the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee, Councillor Pendleton

Is this letter to Flax Mean residents solely concerning residents of Flax Mean House only and entirely relevant to Flax Mean House and options to future development of it as there is some ambiguity to Option 4 "Disposal of the whole site.

Response

Thank you for your question. The letter sent to residents on 14 July 2021 was sent to all residents at Flaxmean. This includes the residents living in the bungalows and in Flaxmean House. The whole of the Flaxmean site is being considered in this option.

QUESTION THREE

From Miss Kennedy to the Chair of the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee, Councillor Pendleton

Where exactly is the £6m promised for improvements to Flax Mean mentioned in an article in the Bognor Regis Observer dated Friday 13th October 2017 with the headline "Sheltered Housing to Receive Six Million Pound Investment." Flax Mean is specifically mentioned in the article.

Response

Thank you for your question. The £6m referred to is included in the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and is an estimate of investment needed across the whole of the Council's retirement/sheltered accommodation. The Housing Revenue Account Business Plan is a model that is based on a set of high-level assumptions to build up a strategic forecast over the long term (25 years). These assumptions will change over time as and when more information becomes available. The budget for 2021/22 contains £50k for feasibility studies in relation to retirement/sheltered housing. The purpose of feasibility studies is to further inform the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and subsequent budget decisions in the future.

QUESTION FOUR

From Miss Kennedy to the Chair of the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee, Councillor Pendleton

What power does this committee have in considering these options? Does it have a final decisive say?

Response

Thank you for your question. The recommendation within the report is that Members identify the options that they wish to have worked up in more detail to be brought back to the Committee for further decision.

QUESTION FIVE

From Miss Kennedy to the Chair of the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee, Councillor Pendleton

In the time since this report was compiled are there any updates regarding the creation of separate male and female showers? I think as things stand remaining Flax Mean House residents without en-suite bathing facilities would indeed go for Option 3 rather than eviction.

Response

Thank you for your question. At the current time there are no further updates. The only time that bathing facilities have been allocated to individual residents was at the very beginning of the pandemic when facilities were allocated to minimise the spread of the infection. Following complaints from some residents, it was agreed to return to sharing the internal facilities with more frequent cleaning.

QUESTION SIX

From Miss Kennedy to the Chair of the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee, Councillor Pendleton

Has due consideration been given to the mental health and distress caused to 38 households who thought they would be able to spend the rest of their days at Flax Mean but only to be told that in their final golden years they were about to be evicted? Surely ADC's governing mandate is Social Care not Property Development?

Response

Thank you for your question. At this point the option to dispose of the whole of Flaxmean is just one of five options that the Committee is being asked to consider, and in itself is not intended to cause distress to residents.