

COUNCIL MEETING – 15 MARCH 2023

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS PURSUANT TO
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14.3**

Q1 Councillor Walsh to the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Chapman

Q1 Major housing developments ought to result in, via the planning process, commensurate improvements to community infrastructure, to include transport, education, health facilities, and affordable housing. Arun has been woefully under resourced in this regard via the planning process . Indeed, facilities have been reduced or closed, rather than improved to match housing development . Scandalously, Littlehampton Hospital closed in 2005 and, disgracefully, its facilities remain unreplaced , in spite of promises to the contrary made at that time .

Since the closure of Littlehampton Hospital in 2005, how many additional houses have been approved for development in the Littlehampton and East Arun area?

A1 Thank you Councillor Walsh for your question.

I assume that you will appreciate that officers have not had very long to collate the data you have asked for and therefore I will provide you with a written response as soon as the data is available and within the 10 day period.

Q2 Councillor Walsh to the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Chapman

Q2 Following on from my last question, how much developer contribution has been negotiated via the planning process in the Littlehampton and East Arun area since 2005 for primary health care facilities ?

A2 Thank you Councillor Walsh for your question.

I assume that you will appreciate that officers have not had very long to collate the data you have asked for and therefore I will provide you with a written response as soon as the data is available.

Q3 Councillor Walsh to the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Chapman

Q3 Following on from my first question, what additional primary health care facilities have actually been provided within the East Arun area via the planning process as a result of housing development, since the closure of the Littlehampton Hospital in 2005 ?

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A3 Thank you Councillor Walsh for your question.

I assume that you will appreciate that officers have not had very long to collate the data you have asked for and therefore I will provide you with a written response as soon as the data is available.

Q4 **Councillor Walsh to the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Chapman**

Q4 Will you, or somebody else on this Council, hold the NHS to account for their broken promises to reopen the Littlehampton Hospital after its closure in 2005, and if necessary refer the matter to the NHS Ombudsman, via its complaints procedure .

A4 Thank you Councillor Walsh for your question.

I have not been asked by the Committee to take any action in this matter but in any event, I do not believe that is the role of the Planning Committee which is a regulatory committee. In this cycle of civic life and being in the fourth and final year, this has never been raised as issue at the Planning Committee and so I cannot satisfy you in raising this with Ombudsman.

Supp

Q I understand the contortions that Cllr Chapman has gone through as Chair of the Planning Committee, but it may be appropriate for a question to be posed to the Ombudsman by the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee at a later date.

Q5 **Councillor Chace to the Chair of the Economy Committee, Councillor Cooper**

Q5 As Chair of this Committee for nearly two years, could you please outline what you believe are your key achievements?

A5 Thank you Councillor Chace for the opportunity to outline some of the excellent achievements over the past two years.

- June 2021 – Covid-19 Discretionary Business Fund which helped many businesses survive. I would like to thank our teams here at Arun for working hard during that time, giving the businesses the help that they needed.
- Also in 2021, the submission of the Levelling-Up Fund.
- July 2021, Littlehampton Public realm – Phase II and III
- The excellent café renewals gaining new and improved offerings for the district.

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- The Blue Sail Tourism Review which was assisting the Council to develop tourism.
- January 2022 – the much needed renovation and renewal of the Bedford Street toilets in Bognor Regis. The reality was that the Council had refurbished quite a few toilets and had resurfaced car parks in the district, living up to its obligation of maintaining services.
- The fantastic grant for the Alexandra Theatre.
- The second part of that grant for Littlehampton Greensward and beach improvements
- March 2022, Phase I Littlehampton Public Realm Terminus Road – bringing forward this Phase which had previously been thought to be unavailable.
- Pier Road pedestrianisation consultation – putting groundwork in for a better offering for the river frontage area.
- Beach huts and agreement for a further 17
- July 2022, Changing Places Toilets – delivering new facilities in Arundel, Bognor Regis and Rustington
- The Economic Regeneration team remained focused through several economic studies to ensure that they are ready to deal with grasping new opportunities in the district as they arise.

I am sure that there are many things that I have missed out so a full and comprehensive response will be provided in writing to all Member.

Q6 **Councillor Chace to the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, Councillor Gunner**

Q6 As Chair of this Committee for nearly two years, could you please outline what you believe are your key achievements?

A6 Thank you for your question, Councillor Chace.

- Starting with the Bognor Regis area, we have saved the Alexandra Theatre with £15m pounds £12m from the government.
- Bersted Brooks Country Park – we held an excellent exhibition in the Committee Rooms earlier this afternoon. This is looking to be an excellent project.
- I am working with the County Council over The Esplanade
- We had the Hotham Park Christmas lights and ice rink
- Work was progressing with the Sunken Gardens
- We are spending £1m on the Arun Leisure Centre in Felpham
- In Arundel we have saved the market and the Arundel Festival
- In Littlehampton we are finishing the public realm work

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- In the balanced budget agreed by Council last week, the Council is working on five new playgrounds for Littlehampton as well as having £7.2m to transform the seafront.
- Across the district, we are developing a new sports hub in Angmering.
- We have been challenging Southern Water
- We are planting 35,000 trees.
- We have kept weekly bin collections.
- We are standing up to developers in rejecting the planning application at Lansdowne Nurseries in Ferring
- We have developed HMO licensing.
- We have pushed for six changing places toilets across the district.

I think that these are plenty of achievements for the council. Thanks also to Officers for all the hard work on all of these projects and for the support that they have shown me over the last two years as Chair of the Committee.