

COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2018

QUESTIONS FROM ELECTOR UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 9

1. From Mr Paul Fuller to Councillor Swindlehurst

What has happened with regards the Council Chambers being made available to the Council for Civic Meetings as was it not a condition or promise when the site was originally agreed for Claycotts to take over the majority of the site for a school and the conversion works had finished that the Chambers would be again be available for Civic meetings and special occasions!

Reply

The Council had originally intended to use the chamber for civic occasions,. But the needs of the school and providing enough school places for our growing population superseded this need.

While care has been taken to preserve many original elements of the former Town Hall building during the refurbishment and expansion works, the council chamber has seen a number of changes that mean it is not really an ideal space for civic meetings. Plasterboard walls have been constructed over the original panelling and a mezzanine floor has been installed. It would be extremely expensive to recreate the original council chamber and while demand for school places in Slough remain at such high levels the mezzanine needs to remain in place to provide the accommodation needed for the school.

The Council has worked hard to retain the building as a public building with a long life and significant investment has been made to repair and improve the site. The conversion to a school will ensure the build remains a public asset and will serve the town well in educating our children.

Having said that, both myself and officers have had a number of discussions with the Headteacher of Claycotts who is community-focused and has confirmed the council can use space within the school out of hours. This is likely to be in the new hall which the council has funded and is nearing completion.

2. From Mrs Jayde Fuller to Councillor Swindlehurst

Are you able to reverse the decision to revise the name of the old Lynch pin public house site, on Lynch Hill lane, in Lynch Hill? The current proposal is Chepstow Court but this name is not relevant nor means anything to the community of the Lynch Hill area.

For example the wonderful decision by Slough Urban Renewal in 2017 to name Lydia Court after the first black female mayor in the country was well received and was so thoughtful to the community. It would be nice to keep Lynch Hill as part of the name as it is a focal point for the local community.

Reply

Thank you for your questions. It is unfortunately too late to reverse this decision, as most of the procedural works were completed before I became Leader. The name was taken from a pre-approved list of names and has now already been registered with the various utility providers and Royal Mail.

However going forward I have agreed with Council officers that ward members will be involved in choosing new street names from the pre-approved list of names.

3. From Mr Lee Pettman to Councillor Swindlehurst

Given the Council is committed to building a considerable number of new homes in Slough over the next few years, and given the pressure on land availability, will the council guarantee that it will work to protect the town's only Royal British Legion site in Cippenham, an important meeting place and institution supporting our town's ex-military, as well as other similar memorial sites across our town, from any future housing development?

Reply

The Royal British Legion in Cippenham is currently a successful local club – one I enjoy the occasional drink in – and I am not aware of any threat to its future.

The site is currently in control of the British Legion which in itself provides relative security.

I can confirm the British Legion does not feature in any council plans – apart from its use as a club. If the British Legion themselves are aware of any threat to its future I would be grateful if they could inform me and I will be happy to meet with them to discuss this.