

QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

The following Questions to the Leader have been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9.2:

1. **“BOROUGH OF REDDITCH LOCAL PLAN NO.4 – PROPOSAL FOR HOUSES OFF FAR MOOR LANE”**

(Councillor Adam Griffin)

Would the Leader of the Council agree with me that openness and transparency in local government is important?

In this spirit of openness could he please explain to this Council why residents in my ward of Winyates Green have not been consulted about the proposal to build houses off Far Moor Lane?

Furthermore could he explain why the inclusion of this in LP4 was not discussed at PAP or any in other forum with Councillors?

Would he confirm whether **any** Winyates Councillors were briefed about this proposal? If so when was this briefing and why was I not included when it occurred?

What will he do to ensure residents of Winyates Green are **made** aware of this **major** housing proposal? **More importantly, will he commit to keeping the residents of Winyates Green updated on any such proposals?**

2. **“COUNCIL-OWNED HOUSING LAND”**

(Councillor Michael Chalk)

- a) Will the leader inform this council of every piece of land in the Borough that this council owns and can be used for housing?
- b) Will he detail which is for sale or potential sale?
- c) Will he give assurances to this Council and the residents of this town and outline how he proposes to explore all avenues to sell land rather than give it away for nothing.

- d) How does he propose to ensure that this Council gets best value for the sale of this land?

3. “LOCAL PLAN NO. 4 - STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT”

(Mr Robert McColl)

The Council's Statement of Community Involvement sets out a clear statement that Community Involvement is fundamental to the development of The Local Plan.

The draft Local Plan No 4 also states that the plan has been 'influenced by the local community', as well as stakeholders and developers. The statement adds that it aims to help the local community see that the housing growth can re-vitalise the area.

To date, there is little evidence that either of these claims have been robustly pursued. To the contrary, to date the Council have only given one example of direct communication, which was a letter to a Winyates Green resident, mistakingly referenced as a member of a group that was disbanded more than a decade ago.

Similarly, it has not been made clear which part of this strip of loved greenbelt and special wildlife site, or the residential area of the green is in need of re-vitalisation.

Can the residents of Winyates Green be given the opportunity to influence this plan? Can meaningful consultation take place, giving us the time and opportunity to fully understand the proposals and its implications? Can we have an exhibition jointly hosted by the Council and local residents in the Winyates Green Community Centre?

4. “PROPOSAL FOR HOUSES OFF FAR MOOR LANE”

(Mr Robert McColl)

In 2001, Stratford on Avon submitted a planning application to build housing along this strip of land. It was refused for many reasons, but I would like to focus on one in particular, it relates to access to the housing estate from Far Moor Lane. It was turned down in 2001.

[At time of writing, Council planning experienced difficulty locating the documented reasons that road access to the site was refused]

Access to a housing estate from Far Moor Lane now appears to be considered by planning to be acceptable. Can the Council clarify what has changed, and why the original ruling has been overturned?