

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND MEMBER QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

- 1.1 The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.2, the following question has been received from Cllr K J Gordon of the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Cllr I H Ward:-

Has the appellant for the application north of London road withdrawn their appeal? If not, have they given an undertaking that they will do so? Otherwise, will this not cause a funding problem for the roundabout at the Rawreth Lane/Hambro Hill junction?

- 1.2 The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.2, the following questions have been received from Cllr K J Gordon of the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cllr Mrs J E McPherson:-

- (1) Could the Portfolio Holder inform me what has happened to the 470 saplings that were planted in Cherry Orchard Park to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1? This was a joint collaboration between the Western Front Association, the Woodland Trust and Rochford District Council to commemorate the 470 men of this District who died during the conflict.
- (2) The officers were instructed to construct a second berm adjacent to the original one that was constructed in the wrong place (as the pet memorial) - to form a partial above ground trench, to form the entrance to the avenue of remembrance, and to give school children some idea as to what the trenches were like for their great grandfathers. There were sufficient monies set aside in the budget for this, but it seems to have fallen by the wayside. I would like to know why?
- (3) Can the Portfolio Holder inform me how much it has cost to have our Structural Engineer work on the flood alleviation schemes, and does this form part of Rochford District Council's match funding from Essex County Council?
- (4) Cllr McPherson you stated to this Council that the highways verge cutting came to approximately £70,000.00 per annum. Have you renegotiated the contract? As I am sure Members will remember my letters to the Cabinet Member for Highways at Essex County Council, where we stated the correct figures of £187,000 against a contribution from them of £33,300.

You stated that the shortfall was made up from the saving to the Grounds Maintenance contract; can you confirm the figures? Your cost of £70,000 against my cost of £187,000.

And can you confirm that there is no shortfall that the Grounds Maintenance contract savings cannot cover, which would include the amount of £152,700 shortfall?

- (5) Can you please inform me and this Authority how much is still in the pot from the Grounds Maintenance savings?
- (6) Could the Portfolio Holder inform me and this Authority where the £50,000 for the two play area improvements came from?
- (7) Could the Portfolio Holder inform me why the works to fence in the play area at Cherry Orchard have not been completed? Firstly, these are needed to stop dogs fouling the play area and causing the children to get covered in excreta. There was a budget sum for this, which was due to be completed after the May elections.

1.3 The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.2, the following questions have been received from Cllr K J Gordon of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Cllr S P Smith:-

Has the Portfolio Holder or his department completed any audits on other departments this year, if so which ones and what were the findings?



John Bostock

Assistant Director, Democratic Services

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Michelle Power (Committee Administrator) on:-

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.