



MINUTES ANNEX 1

SPELTHORNE JOINT COMMITTEE – 17 July 2017

AGENDA ITEM 7

WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS

1. Mr Robert Evans will ask the following question:

“In the light of the Grenfell disaster what additional action has been taken or is being considered to ensure the safety of Spelthorne residents?”

Lee O’Neil, Spelthorne Borough Council Assistant Chief Executive, will give the following answer:

“Following the horrific fire at Grenfell Tower Spelthorne has been working closely with a range of partners to ensure the safety of residential blocks within the borough.

The Government has written to all local authorities and registered providers of social housing (housing associations) to request that they undertake fire safety checks on any tower blocks they own and that they identify, record and inspect any housing blocks that are more than 18 metres high which have been clad with a particular type of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM). Spelthorne is not a significant owner of housing stock in the borough and does not own any buildings which meet those criteria. Our officers have however been liaising with housing associations to ensure that they have undertaken the necessary checks on their properties and have adequate fire risk assessments in place.

Surrey Fire and Rescue have identified all high rise buildings in Surrey and fire crews have visited and checked the cladding to these blocks. Four buildings have been identified in Surrey where the cladding required testing, none of which were in Spelthorne. All of these have been found to be satisfactory.

Following the recent conversion of Chubb House in Sunbury Cross from offices to residential accommodation, Spelthorne’s Environmental Health

team have contacted Surrey's Fire Safety Officer and the Approved Building Inspector responsible for checking that the conversion and cladding of the building complied with the Building Regulations. The Fire Safety Officer (who was a consultee for the Building Regulations application) and the Approved Building Inspector have both stated that they are satisfied with this property's fire safety precautions.

Surrey Fire and Rescue crews have received enhanced training on fire safety in residential blocks and they have produced a fire safety booklet for residents, which is available on their website. Copies of this have been sent to the residents of high rise buildings and also to the companies that manage these properties. They have also written to all responsible persons who own tower blocks in the county strongly advising them to review their fire risk assessments and reminding them of their fire safety responsibilities.

Whilst Spelthorne's Environmental Health team already work closely with Surrey Fire and Rescue's Fire Safety Officers, it has been agreed that joint working and information sharing protocols will be further enhanced in the future.

All licensed houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) are required to have an up-to-date fire risk assessment and Spelthorne's officers are currently in the process of reviewing these for all residential blocks in the borough."

2. Mr Robert Evans will ask the following question:

"Surrey County Council is making major changes to its 'Community Recycling Centres' including closing four across the County.

Many local residents are already very concerned about the amount of fly tipping which occurs and understandably fear a worsening of the situation.

As Spelthorne Council will be responsible for monitoring/addressing this, what assurances can be given to local people and how much additional budget has Spelthorne set aside to cover the inevitable increase in fly tipping?"

Jackie Taylor, Spelthorne Borough Council Group Head Neighbourhood Services, will give the following answer:

"At this stage the changes are only a proposal which is currently out for consultation and we would urge all to respond.

Until the results of the consultation have been analysed and SCC Cabinet have made their decisions it is not known how the proposals and decisions may directly affect Spelthorne.

Spelthorne already invests funding towards a very successful joint enforcement team who have secured many prosecutions against fly tippers

and also contribute funds towards the Surrey Waste Partnership fly tipping project.

Given the many unknowns and our existing financial contributions, Spelthorne is not at this stage setting aside extra funding to deal with the potential for increased fly tipping as a result of the proposals put forward by SCC.”

AGENDA ITEM 8

WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Mr Andrew McLuskey will ask the following question:

“Notwithstanding numerous complaints made by myself to the Joint Committee and its predecessor can the Chair explain why the public footpaths on either side of St Anne’s Avenue, Stanwell are impassable? Can the Chair also explain why my complaints have been ignored?”

Steve Mitchell, SCC Countryside Access Team Manager, will give the following answer:

“There are still outstanding issues on the public footpath and I hope we can reassure you that your complaints have not been ignored and the County Council has taken steps to resolve the issues so that the path is available and safe for public use.

We do recognise however, that the path has been obstructed for some time, which is an inconvenience for local people. The Countryside Access Team still have large backlogs of issues of this nature and significantly reduced resources with which to tackle them. We do not have an exact timetable to completion of the necessary work, but we hope you will see some progress on the ground shortly.”

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