



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 26 SEPTEMBER 2018
SUBJECT: WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS x 3
DIVISION: WOKING

Question 1: Ms Sallows, Old Woking

Do Surrey County Council and/or Woking borough council have any intention of stopping a dangerous wall (a boundary of a demolished property on land owned by the council) from falling onto myself or my family or any pavement users outside my house (Pedestrians, Refuse collectors, visitors to my house etc.)

When can we expect the wall to be made safe?

(This wall fell in September 2017, I have been in a fruitless dialogue with Surrey about this since 17 October 2017, and I raised a related query to this Committee in June 2018 which has also yielded no helpful response.

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the Committee

The local Area Highways Manager has approved Councillor Liz Bowes to use her Members' Highway Fund to pay for the removal of the bricks from the fallen wall. This works is to be carried out as a gesture of good will by Surrey County Council. This will be with the understanding that this is by no means an admission of liability, and would be done without prejudice, as Surrey County Council have made their position clear on this matter to Ms Sallows previously. The wall has previously been inspected by highways officers and poses no risk to highway users.

Question 2: Mr Bob Tilley on behalf of Mr Wade Pollard, Chairman of West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum (WBNF)

1. We wish Woking Joint Committee (WJC) to confirm that the WBNF Executive will be notified by regular projections of expected CIL monies in the West Byfleet area and also notified when Woking Borough Council (WBC) have received the money. The reports to be made to WBNF at least six monthly.
2. We wish to confirm that CIL projects and payments will be monitored and agreed with two local West Byfleet councillors, one from WBC and the second from Surrey County Council based on recommendations from WBNF Executive, which will be supported by research and consultation with West Byfleet residents.

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the Committee

Answer to Question 1

In accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations, Woking Borough Council already publishes CIL income received and spent during each year. This is published in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) by 31 December of each

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year, and has been done since CIL was introduced. This year and subsequent years the information will include an update of the proportion of the money that will be available for infrastructure projects to each local community where the development occurred. The information sought will therefore be in the public domain for everyone to have. The community element of the money was not published last year because there was not a significant amount of money collected to report. Details of what is reported and how it is reported are all set out in the CIL Charging Schedule. The CIL Charging Schedule can be accessed by this link:

<http://www.woking2027.info/infrastructure/httpwwwwooking2027infoinfrastructurechargingschedule>. It will be difficult to speculate or predict CIL income for the future, and as such the information that is published is actual money received and spent in the year, and this will be done yearly rather than on six monthly bases. The AMR can be accessed by this link:

<http://www.woking2027.info/developmentplan/corestrategy/annualmonitoringreport>.

Answer to Question 2

The arrangement for deciding on local community projects that would benefit from CIL income is to be led by the elected local Ward Members working with the cross section of local residents and businesses, including the Neighbourhood Forums. It is important to emphasise that Neighbourhood Forums are formed with the specific responsibility for coordinating the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and not for the purposes of managing the use of CIL income. In this regard, whilst the suggestion made by the WBNF is very helpful, it will have to be agreed by local Ward Members and should also have the support of local residents. The suggestion will be passed on to local Ward Members for their consideration.

The Joint Committee is aware of the need to get in place a formal arrangement on how local communities can draw on CIL income from the Council to deliver local community projects and, has already started informal discussions with relevant Council Officers about the matter. The Joint Committee will be meeting to discuss the matter at its meeting in October 2018. The WBNF will be notified in due course when an arrangement is agreed.

Question 3: Mr Geoff Geaves, Chairman of Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum (PNF)

Significant amounts of money from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is accruing, now, in areas where there are Forums and fully adopted Neighbourhood Plans. Each community is entitled to understand how the 25% portion of CIL that accrues to the community can be accessed and Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum agreed the process with a senior planning manager of Woking Borough Council in July 2018. Against this background Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum ask the Woking Joint Committee to endorse the understanding reached so that local neighbourhood planning can proceed constructively.

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the Committee

The Joint Committee is aware of the need to put in place an arrangement about how local communities can draw from the Council the proportion of the CIL money that will be earmark for local infrastructure at where the development occurred. The Joint Committee will be discussing this particular matter at its meeting in October 2018, and the Pryford Neighbourhood Forum will be notified of the outcome of the discussion and what will be agreed with the Council in due course.

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The Planning Policy Manager has confirmed that he has met some Members of the Pryford Neighbourhood Forum. However, he has also confirmed that the meeting did not agree any process by which local communities can draw the CIL money from the Council as claimed by the question. The Planning Policy Manager rather advised that the Joint Committee has the responsibility to put in place such an arrangement, and will be doing so in due course. He also advised that the Joint Committee has already asked Ward Members to lead on liaising with residents and businesses about what projects could benefit from the CIL income. Local Ward Members may begin this process once the arrangement for securing the money from the Council has been agreed.

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