

Council
26 February 2020
Item 6 - Questions from Members of the Public

a. In accordance with Part 4 Section E of the Council's Constitution, Graham Bullen has asked the following question:

"The Question relates to Agenda Item 13, Community Governance Review - the question is as follows:

The Community Governance Review report produced by Democratic Services will be discussed at Council on 26th February. The report makes some specific recommendations, but there is an underlying tone of 'unease' that arises as the authors have sought to balance a wide range of arguments arising from the splitting of the village of Windlesham. This sense of unease is well expressed in Section 7 of the report where a series of 'Alternative Options' are outlined in language that almost suggests that Democratic Services would like to see these options properly explored.

Would the Leader of the Council agree that the right course of action when such an important democratic principle is at stake is that Democratic Services should be given a mandate to expeditiously explore these 'alternative options' with the interested parties whilst encouraging all eligible councillors to accept an obligation to vote on this matter and not abstain in the belief that it is just a 'Windlesham village matter'?"

The Leader will provide a verbal response at the meeting.

b. In accordance with Part 4 Section E of the Council's Constitution, Lisa Finan-Cooke has asked the following question:

"Can the leader of the Council, or relevant executive member, provide an explanation why the play area in Orchard Way [*in Watchetts Ward*] has not been upgraded or refurbished when other play areas across the Borough have been upgraded or earmarked for an upgrade?"

The Places & Strategy Portfolio Holder has provided the following response:

"In 2017, £650,000 was identified for the refurbishment of play areas from previously unallocated Planning Infrastructure Contributions (PIC). Following the annual inspection carried out by the Royal Society for the Protection of Accidents (RoSPA), 11 playgrounds were identified for renovations to be carried out over three years.

To date, 5 of the 11 projects have been completed, including Cheylesmore Park, Briars Avenue Play Area, Evergreen Road, Frimley Lodge Park and Lightwater Country Park. Play areas at Old Dean, Watchetts Rec, Loman Road and Chobham Road Rec are due for completion this summer.

PIC has now changed to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which means that all future projects will primarily be funded from ward CIL allocations; we will be working with the respective ward Councillors to allocate funds.

Orchard Way was not prioritised on the original play improvement funding list in 2017 as there were other playgrounds with more immediate concerns following the RoSPA report. Subject to the next RoSPA inspection, which will be carried out in March, Orchard Way will be considered for improvements once funding has been identified.”