

Bromsgrove District Council – 14th July 2021
Member Questions

1. From Councillor J. King
Question for the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services

“In January 2020, this council resolved to develop a new open spaces and Section 106 policy to establish a presumption that BDC will adopt land on new estates where it meets the adoptable standard as agreed by the Council. Could the Portfolio Holder for Planning please update council on progress made and advise when this policy will be published and implemented?”

2. From Councillor R. Hunter
Question for the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services

“The rapid growth in house prices in rural areas during the pandemic has been widely reported in the media. One analysis suggested that house prices had rocketed by an average of 27% in Bromsgrove over the last twelve months. Has the time come to rethink our approach to new housing development in this district, focussing more on affordability for local residents?”

3. From Councillor S. Robinson
Question for the Leader

“Can the leader please give an update to the council regarding the progress being made with regenerating the old Library and Fire Station which have now been empty for six and seven years respectively?”

4. From Councillor P. McDonald
Question for the Leader

“Would the Leader do all she can to try and stop the 'West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre' from closing because of a lack of funding? It is the only specialist Sexual Violence Support Service in Worcestershire.”

**5. From Councillor A. English
Question for the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services**

£250K was ringfenced from last year's budget to provide a new electric community shuttle bus service linking Bromsgrove Railway station with the town centre and residential areas. A firm commitment was also made at Full Council that it would be rolled out to other areas, particularly areas such as Alvechurch and Beoley Parishes that do not have any bus services at all. I would like to ask the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration if he could give the council a progress report on how the £250K has been utilised so far and dates of when we can expect to see the services up and running.

**6. From Councillor Charles Hotham
Question for the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing and Health and Wellbeing**

"It is now some five and a half years since this council vacated the old council house in Burcot Lane. A key aspect of the business case for the costly move to Parkside was the value to be released from the future development of the site. The council is now the owner of a demolished council house. Disappointingly, as of the 29th June 2021 work has once again ceased. Bromsgrove is short of housing and in particular affordable housing. This is the one site where the council can have a direct impact on this shortage. Please could the cabinet member responsible give the council an undertaking that despite this so far lack lustre performance, this site will now be developed at pace and also provide a timeline for its completion and occupation?"

**7. From Councillor K. Van Der Plank
Question for the Leader**

"Litter, including bagged dog waste, seems to be an increasing problem in our district. It blights our countryside and is a safety risk for animals and people.

Please could the leader tell me what measures are being put in place to address and whether there are plans to install more litter bins. Could the leader also tell me how many fines have been issued, for litter offences, over the last 3 years?"