

Annual Meeting of Council

16 May 2024

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 – submitted by Cllr Bill Trite

Since, at the full Council meeting on 13th February, a policy review of street lighting was promised from the Corporate Director for Highways in response to the serious night-time nuisance being caused to Swanage residents by the installation of street lights which are obviously much too harsh, intense and intrusive for the residential roads concerned, how much longer than the present three months will it be necessary to wait for this belated review?

Question 2 – submitted by Cllr Andrew Parry

The rollout of a large-scale development in the heart of West Parley village, designed to accommodate the business model of a National Housebuilder, working with Planning Officers from Dorset Council, has from the community's perspective been abysmal. It is well documented that this scheme was against the wishes of the residents, West Parley Parish Council, and me as the Ward Councillor. But Officers were so keen to recommend the scheme for approval by the Eastern Planning Committee, that promises were made, including addressing traffic congestion in the area, this would have been one of the few upsides, to an otherwise highly questionable rolling back of greenbelt for development.

However, the area is now plagued by traffic chaos with gridlocks and longer tailbacks at peak times. Reports suggest housing units have been slow to find buyers, housing associations have declined the affordable units, the roads specification are too narrow to meet our adoptable standard, questions about the permanent water capture area, (which will almost certainly attract birds), constructed underneath the flightpath of the nearby Airport, remain unanswered by officers. Other matters that really should be reviewed include the double yellow line fiasco, delays in opening the new Lidl store and existing homeowners in the area, now reporting traffic vibrations inside their properties.

It remains unclear why Officers, were so eager to see this development approved? Locally we have no idea, because they have stopped responding to our requests to meet with us.

Therefore, I am seeking assurance that the new Portfolio Holders, CEO and Place Directors work with the Ward Councillor and Parish Council, to review all concerns and address them.