

**Full Council
15 February 2022**

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 – submitted by Cllr Louie O’Leary

I voted against the Littlemoor urban extension each time it came to planning based around concerns of road access, over development and other issues. One of the things put in place to help address these issues was the proposal of the provision of crossings, and speed calming measures including reducing the speed down to 30mph from 40. These measures would also help address issues around access from off roads to Littlemoor road. Can I ask are the measures mentioned previously still to be carried out as part of the development?

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

Crossing points are required to be provided. Speed reduction and/or other traffic calming measures along Littlemoor Road are not required to be delivered as they were not considered necessary when the outline application was determined.

The S106 Agreement associated with the outline permission specifies that “at least” three pedestrian and cycle crossing points across Littlemoor Road are provided. The number and location of the links are to be agreed with the Council before commencement of development. Associated Section 278 agreements (under the Highways Act) will need to be entered into before each phase is occupied.

Access to the site is a reserved matter and is required to be agreed through the Reserved Matters Applications. Planning Condition 3 requires that the Reserved Matters are informed by the approved Access and Movement Parameter Plan (ref. 0379-0065-08). This plan shows three pedestrian crossings across Littlemoor Road and four vehicle accesses into the site. Within the site Planning Condition 14 also requires that details of the access, highway layout, turning and parking areas for each phase of development are submitted and approved before the relevant phase commences.

Question 2 – submitted by Cllr David Gray

Is the purpose of CGR to review parish boundaries, address anomalies and create community cohesion, therefore improving the Electoral qualities of parishes?

Question 3 – submitted by Cllr Gill Taylor

With reference to agenda item 11 Community Governance Review – draft recommendations; There is a recognition that the boundaries to the south of the Weymouth needed to better reflect the communities that live there, which is welcomed, however the new proposed ward, with a proposed name of Chickerell, has three distinct and separate parts with totally different community needs. Each of these parts can easily merge with present wards and hence remain within their communities as recognised by DC in the reason for including them in Weymouth.

Can you please reassure us that this anomaly can be rectified?

Response to Questions 2 and 3 by the Leader of Council – Cllr Spencer Flower

Thank you for your questions, which I will take together given the common theme expressing a number of concerns about the Community Governance Review. I will deal with this matter more fully under agenda item 11, therefore my response to the various questions will focus on setting out the principle legal requirements used when carrying out such a Review.

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Firstly, a Community Governance Review is a legal process whereby the Council will consult with those living in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review, in this instance all parishes within the Dorset Council area.

The Review will consider electoral equality, ensuring that each councillor represents approximately the same number of electors. In some areas electoral equality may no longer be achieved resulting from development that has taken place within a parish. The Review will also seek to change councillor numbers or review any warding arrangements to make this more equitable.

The Review will also consider whether any amendments to parish boundaries are considered appropriate, or whether to group or de-group parishes, to improve community governance. However, when considering these changes, the Council must take into account government guidance which says that, so far as is reasonably practicable, no unwarded parish or parish ward should be split by a Principle Council ward boundary, as this is seen as creating voter confusion whereby one resident may vote with his neighbour for a parish election but may for example vote for a different Dorset Councillor. The Review has been carried out in compliance with government guidance and kept parish boundaries within a Dorset Council ward boundary.

Most of the questions relate to points of detail in a particular area. Can I therefore strongly urge that such questions are submitted for consideration during the 12-week public consultation, which will commence shortly, subject to member support for the recommendation to consult on the draft proposals later this evening.