Full Council
11 May 2023

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 – submitted by Cllr Les Fry

Following Natural England's latest report on Nitrates in September 2022, the vast majority of planning applications are still stuck unable to proceed. Developers are asking for advice and guidance from Dorset Council.

Firms are becoming concerned about their staff as they scrabble about to find work to keep them employed, they don't want to let them go as they will be needed when applications are approved. Much needed homes are not being built due to the delay in granting consent.

An amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill will require the upgrade of all sewerage treatment works serving more than 2,000 people, but this decision may still be way off.

Can an update on the advice and guidance from the Council for developers be given so that jobs are not lost?

Question 2 - submitted by Cllr Les Fry

We seem to be going headlong down the Electric car route without much consideration of the impact on the climate and our planet, electric cars emit no pollutants, so that's all right then?

We need Electricity to charge our cars and we know that here in Dorset we are short of sufficient power for our Commercial needs, with some businesses unable to settle here in Dorset due to the lack of electricity. We also seem to be totally ignoring the impact on the environment with the significant mining required and precious metals needed to build our batteries, see the Channel 4 program on mining in The Congo. I am aware of a possible alternative Battery using Ceramic instead of Lithium, which is an exciting prospect.

We know that electric powered vehicles are not suitable for Agriculture, heavy industry or Road Haulage to name just a few examples.

Fossil fuel powered vehicles are being phased out in a few years (from 2030 onwards), as yet we do not seem to have a suitable alternative fuel source.

What is Dorset Council doing to explore an improved electric supply to the County and alternative fuel sources, such as Hydrogen?