

Public Questions: Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee, 16 January 2024.

Q1:

Re Item 6: the Greater Cambridge Authority Monitoring Report as published, para 3.71 on Page 49, please could the Executive Councillor provide an update on where the council is regarding a new municipal swimming pool and also the University of Cambridge's long overdue swimming pool plans in West Cambridge. Does the council have a message to Cambridge University students on what they can do to persuade their University to prioritise the construction of the swimming pool that still has not been built?

Finally, what impact has the Secretary of State's announcement re "Cambridge 2040" had on the council's ability to prepare "updated Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facility Strategies along with an Outdoor Courts and Rink Strategy"?

Q2:

My question is about item **11** on the **Agenda of the Planning Committee** meeting held on 10th January 2024: 22-02066-FUL **Owlstone Croft Planning Process Overview Report**.

This item was to be held in **secret** as the agenda stated "following a public interest test the public is likely to be excluded by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972".

It is acknowledged that there is an ongoing application for a Judicial Review of the Planning Inspector's decision to allow Queens' College appeal. However, there is widespread concern among residents about this **complete and catastrophic** failure of the planning system and it seems no attempt whatsoever has been made to ask residents or local organisations such as Friends of Paradise, Newnham Croft Primary School or the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum to provide details of their concerns about what went wrong that could feed into such a report.

If the report presented to the planning committee was drafted without this input by an officer or officers of the Greater Cambridge Sharing Planning surely this will have been just a case of a **failing student marking his/her own homework**?

Question

Can the Executive Councillor now provide reassurance to residents that a full call for evidence of concerns will now be made and an open and independent inquest into this planning process fiasco carried out by the council?

Q3

“There is now solid statistical evidence that 2023 was the warmest year on record, and it is predicted that periods of extremely high temperature will become the norm under the current global heating scenario. The August 2023 House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee report (<https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/123208/pdf/>) makes useful recommendations, in Section B, for cooler buildings and behavioural change, based on evidence from the UK Health Security Agency. These include (but are not limited to): external and internal shading of windows and open areas; reflective coatings for windows, exterior walls, roofs, and paving; and improved ventilation. It also recommends improving public awareness of behavioural changes needed in hot weather and that tend to be poorly understood, such as closing windows (as well as curtains) when directly exposed to sunlight, and using an electric fan. What action is the Council taking to mitigate overheating in both new and old homes in the city, and to reduce health risks to residents from high temperatures?”