

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Crookes asked:

Regarding Shapley Heath Garden Community Project –

- 1 I believe that notices of all meetings and agendas of the Stakeholder Forum and all other project meetings should be published to Members of this Council. Do you agree?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

The Council has never, under any administration, provided copies of agendas of working groups (and the Stakeholder Forum is such a group) nor project meetings with all Councillors as such, the Council is being entirely consistent with earlier administrations of this Council.

However, we have said that minutes will be reported to the Garden Communities Opportunities Board and will be published.

Councillor Crookes asked a supplementary question (summary):

Members of the Council are as a result unlikely to know that these meetings are taking place other than perhaps the Opportunity Board?

Councillor Cockarill responded (summary)

The stakeholder forum are for outside groups - we want to hear what the local groups, the local parish councils, the County Council, and others have to say. The forums are not intended to be an opportunity for members of this council to get involved - the opportunity for members, is to ask questions to cabinet and for Council.

- 2 Which Stakeholders have sign up to be part of the Stakeholder Group?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

Clearly the Stakeholder Group is in its formative stage and once created as stated, the minutes will be published, and membership will be a matter of public record. However, in advance of that, as we did not indicate to any interested parties that their interest in the Stakeholder Group would be published, under GDPR we do not have permission to publish this information.

Councillor Crookes asked a supplementary question (summary):

Minutes of the stakeholder meetings will be published?

Councillor Cockarill responded

That is correct.

- 3 Following the meeting of the Opportunity Board in February 2020, when will the next meeting be held?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

We aim to meet in March once the Stakeholder thematic groups and the Landowners Forum have met.

Councillor Crookes asked a supplementary question:

When will the Agenda for the Opportunities Board be published?

Councillor Cockarill responded (summary)

Can't say exactly but once the Landowners Forum (11 February) and the Stakeholders Forum have taken place and we have established a date for the next meeting (March) we will sort out an Agenda, hopefully within the next few weeks.

- 4 Can you tell us the outcome of the bid which Hart made in September 2020, for Garden Communities Capacity Funding?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

We have not heard yet but as soon as we do know, we will let you know the outcome.

Councillor Crookes asked a supplementary question (summary):

£406k is allocated in the 2021/22 budget for the garden communities project. That's to all members because members haven't seen any detail on the budget yet. The question is, if we don't receive the capacity funding are you mindful, to continue funding, a project out of Hart resources?

Councillor Cockarill responded (summary):

Clearly if we don't get the funding from MHCLG or we get significantly less than £406k, a conversation will have to be taken in the round with Cabinet colleagues about what the immediate and short-term priorities for the Council are? I cannot commit to an answer before I know the answer of the bid.