

COUNCIL MEETING 16 MARCH 2022**Item 7 – Public Questions Received under Standing Order 27.5**

	Question From	Question to	
1	Mrs Ann Buckley Havant Borough Residents' Alliance	Cllr Satchwell	<p>Many of the issues the Planning Inspectors listed as defects on the submitted Local Plan are ones which residents had brought forward in deputations at full Council and Cabinet meetings, with officers and in also our three consultation responses.</p> <p>Can you reassure us that in the preparation of the new Local Plan that more attention will be paid to what residents say, for example we pointed out that the first two consultations did not comply with the Statement of Community Involvement 2013 and that many of the proposed sites were not suitable for development for reasons such as inadequate infrastructure or the lack of mitigation for ecology? We also hope that it will be prepared in a timely way without excessive costs.</p>

Reply

Havant Borough Council always has, and always will, put a great deal of time, effort and resources into our community consultation. This was seen for the preparation of the Havant Borough Local Plan with the extensive amount of explanatory material which was made available and more recently with our consultation on the future of Hayling Island Seafrot.

We assess every response to those consultations. Planning and the local plan are emotive and thought-provoking topics and rarely is there complete agreement on any one matter amongst the various stakeholders we engage with – residents, infrastructure providers, developers, statutory agencies and others. In preparing the new local plan, the Council intends to engage thoroughly, though in a way that balances expediency as well. Nonetheless, preparing a new local plan does not remove the necessity of making difficult decisions on controversial sites.

It is essential that we respond to the concerns raised by the inspectors in preparing the new plan and make sure that they are addressed. Whilst the inspectors did not comment on the *suitability* of these sites, they did comment on their *deliverability*. As such, in undertaking consultation and engagement, a firmer line will need to be taken on the development industry's calculations and evidence regarding deliverability of mitigation packages associated with sites being promoted, particularly where third-party land may be required.

2	Mrs Ann Buckley Havant Borough Residents' Alliance	Cllr Pike	<p>East Street in Havant has more listed buildings than any other location in the Borough. It also provides office and surgery space to many professionals such as dentists, accountants, insurance specialists, housing professionals, care workers and charities. However, many of these listed buildings have looked run down for two decades and in need of maintenance.</p> <p>Surely the St Faith's Conservation Areas needs to be conserved. Why does the regeneration strategy not contain any plans to improve this heritage asset?</p>
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Reply

The Regeneration & Economy Strategy is a strategic document which sets out the ambitions for the whole borough and provides a framework for how those ambitions will be realised over the coming years. It does not seek to replicate more detailed policies and management plans contained in other documents, for example, the St. Faith's Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan which covers East Street.

Detailed plans will come forward as the regeneration delivery programme and associated suite of projects are progressed. However, I agree that it will be important that we take the heritage quality and need to protect it into account going forward. It is one of Havant Town Centre's real assets and it will be key plank of the success of the regeneration scheme.

3	Mrs Ann Buckley Havant Borough Residents' Alliance	Cllr Pike	<p>The rusting red, white and blue poles which were put in place in Havant Park to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's silver Jubilee have been in a very poor state for years.</p> <p>With the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June could these rusty metal poles be removed and recycled and something more appropriate such as a flowering tree planted in this location in June?</p>
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Reply

We are involved a range of events and activities across the borough to celebrate the Jubilee and it will be a wonderful opportunity for the residents to celebrate together. In Havant Park, we are exploring opportunities to salvage some of the London Plane tree that sadly fell in recent Storm Eunice and are hoping to use some of it for a commemorative plaque to celebrate the Jubilee. If there are opportunities to refresh or replace other bits of infrastructure like the poles, we will happily look into this.

4	Mr Bob Comlay	Cllr Bains	<p>The Dunsbury Park employment area is perfectly situated for sustainable commuting from HBC's deprived areas of Leigh Park and Waterlooville. As a significant employment area, occupancy of the site is key to the Regeneration of Havant Borough. In ideal circumstances, owned by Portsmouth City Council with Havant Borough Council as rating authority, Dunsbury Park would continue to provide 'traditional' employment prospects for the residents of both Councils. However, designation of Dunsbury Park as a Freeport Tax Site will now limit occupancy to those incoming businesses which are directly related to Freeport commerce.</p> <p><u>Report Number: HBC/033/2022, "Freeports Programme – Update and approvals in respect of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Full Business Case FBC"</u> discusses risk categories at Section 9.1 but it is not clear from the content of the section that risks associated with changes to Solent Freeport delivery scope and phasing are given appropriate focus.</p> <p>It could be interpreted from both the report and from the physical geography of the Solent Freeport boundary that 'first phase delivery priority' will be given to the Southampton Water (NFDC) and Navigator Quarter (Eastleigh BC) customs and tax sites, with Portsmouth International Port (PCC) and Dunsbury Park (HBC) following as a future phase of the Solent Freeport delivery programme.</p> <p>Portsmouth City Council appear to be prioritising funding for the new cruise terminal at Portsmouth International Port over any immediate extension to commercial freight capacity. This would further suggest that the combination of PIP as a Customs site and Dunsbury Park as a tax site might combine as a potential future delivery phase for Solent Freeport, should the Southampton based main programme prove successful.</p> <p>I understand that all potential customs and tax sites are expected to be designated by the end of March 2022.</p> <p>Could you please outline Havant Borough Council's fall-back contingency plan for the removal of Freeport tax status from Dunsbury Park should delivery of the overall Freeport programme stall or be scaled back. Given continued uncertainty surrounding global, European and UK national economies, both the risk and the likelihood of</p>
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Reply

In the unlikely event that the Freeport tax site status was removed from Dunsbury Park, Havant Borough Council would continue to work with Portsmouth City Council (PCC) as site owner to bring forward the site for development. This would include promoting the site to prospective occupiers both nationally, regionally and locally and dealing promptly with planning applications. We would also work with PCC to secure local training and employment opportunities through the construction phase of new units developed on the site and promote local recruitment to Dunsbury Park's occupiers.