

Cabinet

13 November 2017

Written Questions from Councillors

(Agenda Item No 6)

The following written questions have been submitted by Councillor Ient which he wishes to ask of the Lead Member for Planning, Councillor Jones

Question 1:

Agenda item 9.3 (Draft Lewes District Local Plan Part 2 – Site Allocations and Development Management Policies): page 147

Former Lewes to Uckfield railway line.

In 3.115 the description of the published Department for Transport (DfT) response in the rail corridor study ends by saying there was a poor transport case for such a scheme. However, the Department of Transport went on to say:

“....it recognised that it might be justified on the basis of economic growth. The study recommended that a new approach is required, starting with the LEP and local authorities commissioning a review of potential growth scenarios”.

My question is:

Would the Lead Member for Planning ask the planning officers to include this fuller description in with accordance with the full statement by the DfT in the Part II Local Plan before it goes out to consultation?

Question 2:

Agenda item 9.3 (Draft Lewes District Local Plan Part 2 – Site Allocations and Development Management Policies): pages 146 and 147

Tackling Climate Change

I believe this section is a critical section insofar as this policy will be in place until at least 2030. That's 13 years' time. It will probably be more like 20 years before a new local plan is developed. In these 20 years the situation for our grandchildren and descendants on this planet will become much more

serious. Unless we take every opportunity to implement strong policies to limit global warming, CO2 emissions and vehicle emissions there will be more deaths through vehicle pollution and human life on the planet will be foreshortened because of the heating up of the atmosphere and all of the ramifications which that brings.

In this section the issues addressed seem to be limited to footpaths, cycle and bridal networks and station parking. There is nothing in this section which updates the current climate change issues facing the district and indeed the whole world. Almost daily, we hear of major issues affecting the future of the planet including rising CO2 levels, rising temperatures and rising pollution levels. Also, this paragraph mentions nothing about the Government's environmental commitments:

- Legally binding commitments made at the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015.
- The Environment Secretary's announcement to ban all petrol and diesel cars from the year 2040.
- The Clean Growth Strategy
- The Electric Vehicle Bill currently going through Parliament

I believe this planning policy section must be more robust and should make reference to the relevance of controlling developments which would worsen CO2 levels in the district as well as referencing the importance of considering vehicle emissions when granting planning permission. Each development should have a renewable energy scheme associated with it in order that emissions from houses and commercial premises are reduced to the absolute minimum. Likewise, the policy should also include for the provision of electric car charging points as defined by the motion passed by this council last month.

My question is:

Would the Lead Member for Planning ask the planning officers to include more robust policies to tackle climate change and to limit vehicle emissions in relation to new developments in the planned period in the Part II Local Plan before it goes out to consultation?