

Meeting of the Council

16 October 2013

Written Questions from Councillors

Agenda Item 7

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, Councillor O’Keeffe has submitted the following questions which she wishes to ask of the Cabinet Member for Health and Environment, Councillor Nicholson:

“1. Please can you explain how the situation has arisen that across the Lewes District there are approximately £2.5 million pounds of unspent funding for play areas and open spaces derived from 106 planning agreements, both in general and also specifically in

Lewes £176,569.51 (from applications in 2004, 2006, 2007, 2010) (91.5% of original value for these applications unspent)

Newhaven £78,042.75 (from applications in 1999, 2003, 2006) (100.4% of the original value for these applications unspent)

Newick £45,538.04 (from application in 2010) (101% of the original value for this application unspent)

Peacehaven £1,839,206.53 (from applications in 2004, 2008, 2009) (102.5% of the original value for these applications unspent)

Plumpton £15,555 (from application in 2006) (101.9% of the original value for this application unspent)

Ringmer £9636.70 (from application in 2001) (20.9% of the original value for this application unspent)

Seaford £330,568.89 (from applications in 2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009) (52.5% of the original value for these applications unspent)

Telscombe £932.38 (from applications in 2005, 2006) (1.8% of the original value for these applications unspent)

Wivelsfield £43,019.65 (from application in 2009) (90.8% of the original value for this application unspent)

2. Please can you further set out how this situation is to be rectified and the money spent, with approximate timescales, both in general and also specifically in

Lewes
Newhaven
Newick
Peacehaven
Plumpton
Ringmer
Seaford
Telscombe
Wivelsfield

Please note in giving this answer that the explanation that a list of projects is being drawn up with the assistance of a project officer for prioritisation has already been given more than once in the last 5 years and has not appeared to move the process on sufficiently given the remaining underspend. Please include in this answer the manner in which all necessary timescales will be met and an explanation for how any money which appears from publicly available documentation to have run out of time already is being safeguarded.

3. Please can you explain what provisions are being put in place to prevent this backlog of incomplete and unstarted projects from recurring across the District in both general and specific terms with respect to play areas and open spaces.

4. Please can you explain how Town and Parish councils have been and will be involved in the planning and as appropriate execution of the projects necessary to utilise this funding.

5. Please can you explain the processes planned and beginning to be executed for liaison with the National Park over monies which have already been and will in the future be given over to the National Park to administer, both with respect to the District Council and to any Town and Parish Councils which the District Council could be working with as appropriate.

Please note that I am happy to make available further background information on this topic if required to do so.”