

## **Cabinet**

**13 July 2023**

### **Public question time**

#### **(Agenda item no 5)**

**The following written question have been submitted by Mary Campbell which she wishes to ask the Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure, Councillor O'Connor**

#### **Question 1:**

Please will Lewes District Council try to buy the area allocated for housing north-east of the planned Morrisons Store at the Meridian Centre and, jointly or not with other social housing organisations, use the land to provide low-cost housing for those most in need?

#### **Question 2:**

Given the actual and potential biodiversity/ecological value of the Valley Road area of North Peacehaven, and the already overstretched and potentially dangerous highway infrastructure from that area southwards through Peacehaven town centre to the A259, please will Lewes District Council publicly confirm, before the referendum on the Peacehaven and Telscombe Neighbourhood Plan, that the current designation of that area as `countryside` (and therefore protected from development) will be maintained by Lewes District Council in the future as in the past (when, I have been told, Lewes District Council even took High Court action to protect it).

#### **Question 3:**

Last week Peacehaven Planning and Highways Committee adopted a Business Plan action point to `identify sites that might be available to satisfy housing need`. Please will you arrange a meeting between the appropriate Lewes Planning Policy officer(s) (and LDC councillor(s)) and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Peacehaven Planning and Highways Committee to discuss constructive ways forward.

# **Cabinet**

**13 July 2023**

## **Public question time**

### **(Agenda item no 5)**

**The following written question have been submitted by Frank Flood which he wishes to ask the Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure, Councillor O'Connor**

#### **Question**

##### **Given the following:**

- 1) Morrisons have now been granted planning permission (for their redevelopment of the Meridian Centre in Peacehaven, with work on the site currently due to begin in February 2024;
- 2) as part of this redevelopment, the current Peacehaven Library (public area 952m<sup>2</sup>) will be demolished;
- 3) East Sussex County Council Library & Information Services are proposing to replace the demolished Peacehaven Library with a new unit ("Unit P") of only 302m<sup>2</sup>, with a likely public area of no more than 270m<sup>2</sup> (less than a third of the size of the current library);
- 4) Morrisons have offered to build a directly adjoining unit ("Unit Q") of 302m<sup>2</sup> to provide a potential new Library & Resource space of 604m<sup>2</sup> in total (likely public area 540m<sup>2</sup>);
- 5) East Sussex County Council Library & Information Services remain utterly resistant to using the potential "Unit Q" as part of a potential new Library & Resource space;
- 6) Kemptown & Peacehaven MP Lloyd Russell-Moyle has floated the idea of Lewes District Council taking over the management of the proposed "Unit P" and "Unit Q", subleasing "Unit P" to East Sussex County Council Library & Information Services while "operating the rest as a community facility";

##### **Will the Cabinet undertake to recommend that Lewes District Council:**

- a) work with Peacehaven & Telscombe Town Councils in further attempts to persuade East Sussex County Council Library & Information Services to take on the running of both "Unit P" and "Unit Q" as a new Peacehaven & Telscombe Library;

b) in the event that East Sussex County Council Library & Information Services remain resistant to taking on the running of "Unit Q", work with Kemptown & Peacehaven MP Lloyd Russell-Moyle and with Peacehaven & Telscombe Town Councils to pursue the idea of Lewes District Council taking over the management of the proposed "Unit P" and "Unit Q", subleasing "Unit P" to East Sussex County Council Library & Information Services while "operating the rest as a community facility"