

North Tyneside Council Report to Council Date: 17 March 2016

ITEM

Title: Questions by
Members of the Public

Notice has been received of the following questions from members of the public to be put to the Council meeting.

A combined response is to be provided to Questions 1 - 5

1. Question to the Elected Mayor by Paul Bunyan of Camperdown

Can the Elected Mayor explain to the residents of Burradon why the Reed Avenue green is proposed for housing development, and has been for some two years, yet is not detailed for development in the local plan. Does she feel this is a fair and transparent way to behave towards residents?

2. Question to the Elected Mayor by Patricia Burn of Camperdown

Could the Mayor explain why the opinions of the residents of Burradon and Camperdown are not being listened to in regards to the proposed development of the green at Reed Avenue. This site was not marked for development in the local plan published last year and the residents wish to keep it as a safe open play space for children?

3. Question to the Elected Mayor by Gayle Bunyan of Camperdown

Since 1984 I've lived in Camperdown when the proposed site was initially a wasteground. I think there was an intention to build on it but nothing ever was. Over the years the space has become flatter and greener (with the grass cut by North Tyneside council workers) and is now probably the largest green space we have. It is one of only a few green spaces in Camperdown where children can play safely and parents can keep watch. The response from the council that there are "other green areas within 300 metres" must have been made by a person who doesn't have children so doesn't know how vitally important it is to be able to watch your children when they are playing outside.

My question is, are the proposed 13 dwellings so vitally important that it's worth putting our children in danger if they have to find another place to play that involves crossing roads to get to?

It seems as if this has descended into a playground brawl with neither side willing to back down. As elected representatives of North Tyneside surely the Council can see the how deep the residents emotions run over this. The mature approach would be to admit that 13 dwellings aren't really going to make that much difference to the housing shortage and move the 13 dwellings into an area such as Silverbirch, where everybody agrees it is a perfect site to set up a new community?

This development wasn't on the glossy plan we recently received so how can it go ahead?

4. Question to the Elected Mayor by Rachel Bunyan of Camperdown

Can you please reconsider the housing development for Reed Avenue. The safety of my Son and his friends is in jeopardy

I know that it has been highlighted that even with these 13 properties built there is still enough green space for children. I just don't accept that. I would not allow my son at the age of 6 to go any further that the field you are planning to build on. One of the spaces that has been highlighted to me backs onto a 40mph speed limit road and there are no fences. I think you would agree that my son cannot play there safely with his friends!

The space that has been incorporated into the plans is also not suitable as it is in the middle of the houses and shares a parking area, the kids will be moved on very quickly from here due to fear of balls/other objects damaging cars and fences (and that's understandable).

I ask you to listen to the residents of Burradon and Camperdown and put a stop to this development immediately. I want the children of our community to be safe!

5. Question to the Elected Mayor by Chris Wray of Burradon

Will the Mayor concede that John Harrison's decision to confiscate the children's play area on Reed Avenue, Camperdown (the land was excluded from the local plan and is opposed by 95% of local residents consulted), contradicts North Tyneside Council's official strategy (provide new accessible space-adding to the 25% of the borough that is already open space) and deliberately compromises the safety and welfare of children in Camperdown?

A combined response is to be provided to Questions 6 - 7

6. Question to the Elected Mayor by Irene Gilbert of Burradon

Was at the Mayor's Listening Event in Whitley Bay where we asked if you could stop plans for building houses on our only piece of safe green at Reed Avenue, you said there was nothing you could do the plans had already been passed but have since learned this is not true you can stop them so please do the right thing and stop them being built.

7. Question to the Elected Mayor by Alan James of Camperdown

Is the Mayor being completely honest when she says:

"I am puzzled as to who has led you to believe that I can stop this development at Reed Avenue. As I have stated previously planning matters are not within my jurisdiction, planning matters are solely the responsibility of the Planning

Committee."

I have recently been assured by two Labour Councillors that Mrs Redfearn has the power to halt or reverse the transfer of land from Council ownership. If this is correct and the Mayor has deliberately misled the public, will she do the honourable thing and resign?

8. Question to the Elected Mayor by Liam Bones of North Shields

Can the Mayor please confirm the cost of the Council Magazine during her time in office?

9. Question to the Elected Mayor by Dan Entwisle of Tynemouth

With Newcastle City Council taking an increasingly tough stance on beggars, can the Mayor tell me what plans are in place to combat not only the existing begging problem – and anti – social behaviour – in and around Tynemouth station but how NTC intends to deal with the anticipated displacement of beggars and other criminals from the city to Tynemouth?

10. Question to the Elected Mayor by Janis Miller of North Shields:

What is the financial case for the proposed demolition of the Meadow Well Centre?