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Dear Councillor

**FULL COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 16TH JULY, 2019**

I now enclose, for consideration the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was published.

**Agenda No    Item**

7.    **Questions from Members of the Public (Pages 3 - 4)**

8.    **In accordance with Rule No. 10 to receive Petitions from Members of the Council**

‘Save the Park – Cedar / Chestnut Avenue’ – to be presented for debate by the Council by Lucy Howson in accordance with the Council’s Statutory Petitions Scheme.

‘Keep the Elm Avenue stadium as a sports ground for local people’ – to be presented for debate by the Council by Graham Gustard in accordance with the Council’s Statutory Petitions Scheme.

11.    **Questions from Members of the Council (Page 5)**

## COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 15 - QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

### **1. Question from Jane Olson**

Proposed Development of The Stadium, Elm Avenue, Newark

We are all aware of how urban green space is an essential part of urban infrastructure and vital to the wellbeing of the community it serves. This planning application aims to squeeze more housing into an area already struggling with deficiencies in green space allocation. In previous conversations with Council representatives residents from Elm Avenue and surround have been directed towards the undeniably comprehensive facilities to be provided by the YMCA Sports Village. However, these facilities will not be free, available only to those children whose families can afford to use them. Are the elected councillors satisfied that they are adequately acting as agents of the existing residents of the Elm Avenue and surrounding area, in providing accessible, and most importantly, free to use green space for their children to play on within a safe walking distance of their homes? Furthermore, would the District Council be willing to undertake a more tempered assessment of the current green infrastructure deficiencies of the area in their Neighbourhood Plan, before giving the go ahead to the loss of what has the potential to be a huge community asset?

### **2. Question from Paul Moore**

Have any Councillors been admonished, censured, disciplined or reprimanded in the last 10 years?

### **3. Question from Liz Lainé**

Last week the UK Government's own Committee on Climate Change reported 'a substantial gap between current plans and future requirements and an even greater shortfall in action'. One of its four core recommendations was that the Government 'fully engage the public in the UK's net-zero transition'. Do the Councillors agree that the clearest way to communicate the scale of the challenge is to join Parliament and the 120 first and second tier Councils who have so far declared a climate emergency, as proposed by this motion? If not, how are they fully engaging the public in the UK's net-zero transition?

### **4. Question from Donna Bowyer & Max Crow (and Roger Bell)**

We are representing the newly-formed Extinction Rebellion Newark and Sherwood, which wants Governments to tell the truth about the Climate Emergency, act on it, and do so using Citizens Assemblies to ensure decisions are made in a transparent and inclusive way. I therefore support this motion and my question is, what is the current carbon emissions

target that guides NSDC decision-making in terms of scale and speed, and what is that target's scientific basis?

**5. Question from Elena Stardust**

How as a local council can you continue to build cheap housing on brown field sites, pulling up trees, taking away green spaces for children and families to play on, continue to watch as our air quality depletes due to the major roads and factories that surround Newark. How can you watch as residents tackle respiratory issues, cancers, obesity problems due to the poor quality of food from industrialised farming? How can you sleep when the people you are here to support and to protect, are being poisoned by the money making, planet killing system that has caused the largest percentage of the emissions we see in our planet today?

So I write to you to plead my final statement...for the future of the children who are not able to vote, but will feel the biggest burden of our decisions today.....a climate emergency must be push through, we need a change in the system and the policies around it, to ensure a low carbon and sustainable future. A future of fairness, not to just the 10% richest, but to us all.

It is an issue of social and economic justice as well as ecological justice. Life of every person and creature on this earth depends on this.

**6. Question from Esther Cropper**

Are you prepared to accept that the time to make bold decisions to mitigate climate change is now, and if so, will you look back at some of your recent decisions and longer term development plans with this in mind and make changes to this end?

## COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 14 - QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

### **1. Question from Councillor Penny Rainbow**

I'm sure that many Members will be aware of the recent flooding events in Southwell on 12/13th June, which affected a number of properties and required immediate and swift mobilisation of residents and flood risk responders from late at night into the early hours of the morning. Residents are understandably concerned to understand why and how this happened, and when flood defence measures will be completed in Southwell.

I would like the Chairman of the Homes & Communities Committee to set out their understanding of the reasons for the flooding, especially in relation to land at and around Springfield bungalow. Why did the flooding happen, what was done about it, and what will be done in the future?

I'm sure the Council agrees that completion of flood defence and resiliency schemes for Southwell remain critical and I'd also like to ask, therefore, whether we could seek certainty from Flood Risk Management agencies, notably the Environment Agency and Nottinghamshire County Council, as to when current flood defence proposals will be completed.

Finally, I would like to put it on record our appreciation for the help given by members of Southwell flood forum on the night, who undoubtedly saved properties from flooding. Until you have been flooded you cannot imagine the devastating effect it has on those families, we owe it to our communities to protect them.

### **2. Question from Councillor Peter Harris**

Although a recent appeal against the refusal of planning permission in Hockerton was dismissed, there is a concerning paragraph in the inspector's letter about not having a numerical number of new houses for the villages. This presumption may mitigate other planning rationale for rejection of future plans for residential development in smaller villages. I would like to ask what plans there are for addressing this deficiency.