

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN**

**19TH JULY 2006 (6.00PM)**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillors: J W Dudley (Chairman), J C Simmonds (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, Mrs M H Baillie, J Baker, G W Ballinger, J-P Campion, S J M Clee, N J Desmond, Mrs H E Dyke, P Dyke, Mrs L Edginton, G H Eeles, Mrs J Fairbrother-Millis, B T Glass, P B Harrison, M J Hart, Mrs P V Hayward, Mrs S M Hayward, M A W Hazlewood, Mrs A T Hingley, J Holden, Mrs L Hyde, W G Jones, M B Kelly, Mrs R L Lewis, H J Martin, Miss M A Mason, Miss S C Meekings, C D Nicholls, Mrs F M Oborski, M M G Oborski, Mrs J L Salter, M A Salter, J A Shaw, M J Shellie, D R Sheppard, K J Stokes, N J Thomas, S J Williams and G C Yarranton.

**C.28**

**PRAYERS**

Prayers were said by the Reverend Dorothy Humphries, Saint Mary's Church, Kidderminster.

**C.29**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R Wheway.

**C.30**

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

**Agenda Item No. 13 – Notices of Motion Nos 1-3 – Proposed Cuts in Primary Care Trust Budgets (Minute No. C. 40)**

Councillor J A Shaw declared a prejudicial interest in view of his wife's employment in the Health Service.

Councillor H J Martin declared a prejudicial interest in view of his wife's employment in the Health Service.

Councillor Mrs S M Hayward declared a personal interest in view of her employment as a nurse. She advised that the proposed cuts in the Primary Care Trust budgets would not affect her post.

**C.31**      **MINUTES**

**DECISION:**

**The minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**C.32**      **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public gave notice to speak at the meeting in accordance with the Council's scheme for public participation at meetings of full Council.

**C.33**      **QUESTIONS**

The Council received a report setting out questions from Councillors Mrs R L Lewis, M M G Oborski and J A Shaw, directed at relevant Cabinet Members. The questions and answers are set out in full in Appendix 1 (attached).

**C.34**      **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Council received a list of functions attended by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council since the Council's last meeting.

The Chairman drew attention to some additional functions that he had attended, including an awards ceremony for twenty-six Council employees who had successfully completed training courses. He also announced that the Stourport Carnival was to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2006 and hoped Members would be able to attend.

**C.35**      **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT**

The Leader of the Council made the following announcements:

**a) Members' Yearbook/Diary**

Some information pages in the Yearbook/Diary had been amended and reissued to all Councillors.

**b) Members' Laptops – New Office Software**

Members should all hand in their laptops to the ICT Section as soon as possible to enable new office software to be installed.

**c) Withdrawal of Proposed Police Authority Merger**

The Home Office had notified the Council that the proposed merger of the West Mercia Police Authority with Warwickshire, Staffordshire and

the West Midlands Police Authorities had been withdrawn.

**d) Defamatory Comments on Local Website**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services had written to the author of a local website stating that the Council would take legal action if comments, posted there, which questioned the integrity of Council Officers and elected Members were not retracted.

**e) Centralised Office Accommodation – Presentation of Business Case By DTZ**

A presentation was to be given on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006, by the Council's Consultants, DTZ, on the business case for centralised office accommodation. It was hoped that all Members would attend.

**C. 36 CHAIRMANSHIP OF PLANNING (ENFORCEMENT) COMMITTEE**

The Council was asked to make the decision detailed below. It was noted that Councillor Miss Mason was, currently, the Chairman of the Planning (Enforcement) Committee and Councillor S J Williams the Vice-Chairman.

**DECISION:**

**Councillor S J Williams be appointed as Chairman of the Planning (Enforcement) Committee for the current municipal year and Councillor Miss M A Mason as Vice-Chairman.**

**C.37 POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK – MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL**

**Recommendations from the Cabinet - 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

**a) Worcestershire Partnership Compact 'Lets Do It Smarter'**

The Council considered a recommendation from the Cabinet, seeking the adoption of the Worcestershire Partnership Compact "Let's Do it Smarter".

**DECISION:**

- 1. The Worcestershire Partnership Compact 'Let's Do it Smarter' April 2006, as set out in the separate appendix to the report to the Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006, be formally adopted.**
- 2. The Worcestershire Partnership Compact 'Let's Do it Smarter' April 2006 supersede, with immediate effect, the Council's Interim Compact with Community Action Wyre Forest, February 2005.**

**b) Corporate Communications Strategy 2006 – 2010**

The Council considered a recommendation from the Cabinet on the development of a Corporate Communications Strategy 2006 – 2010.

**DECISION:**

**The Corporate Communications Strategy 2006 to 2010, as set out in the separate appendix to the report to the Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006, be adopted.**

**c) Best Value Performance Plan 2006**

The Council considered a recommendation from the Cabinet which sought approval for the Council's Best Value Performance Plan for 2006.

**DECISION:**

**The Best Value Performance Plan for 2006, as referred to in the report to the Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006, be approved.**

**d) Provision of Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA'S)**

The Council considered a recommendation from the Cabinet regarding the allocation of capital for the provision of four multi-use games areas in the District.

**DECISION:**

- 1. £180,000 of capital identified from the sale of assets be allocated to fund the installation of four multi-use games areas in the District.**
- 2. Subject to the provision of capital funding, four multi-use games areas be provided, one in Stourport on Severn and Bewdley and two in Kidderminster.**
- 3. The Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services, in consultation with the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services, be authorised to agree the precise locations of the multi-use games areas following consultation with interested parties, including the Service Policy Panel, young people and occupiers of potential neighbouring properties.**

**e) Proposal for the Introduction of a Local Lettings Policy for the Hurcott Road Estate, Kidderminster**

The Council considered a recommendation from the Cabinet, which sought approval for a local lettings policy for the Hurcott Road Estate, Kidderminster. Members noted that this had been drawn up to help address issues on the Hurcott Road estate, as part of an approach to regenerate the area.

**DECISION:**

1. Approval be given to the principle of a Local Lettings Plan, as outlined in the report to the Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006.
2. The Head of Planning, Health and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Health and Environment, finalise the necessary policy and procedural changes for the Local Lettings Plan for Hurcott Road Estate, to include any appropriate amendment to the Council's Housing Waiting List Policy.

**Recommendations from the Planning (Enforcement) Committee 8<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

The Council considered a report from the Development Control Manager regarding a revised Pro-active Enforcement Policy, which sought authority for the formal adoption of this Policy.

**DECISION:**

**The revised Pro-active Enforcement Policy, referred to in the report to the Council on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2006, be adopted.**

**C.38**

**REPORT FROM THE CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

The Council considered a report from the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee Chairman which gave an update on scrutiny issues.

He added that the report on the findings of the District Council's Mobile Phone Mast Review had been passed to Worcestershire County Council, where a similar scrutiny exercise was being undertaken. He was pleased to inform Members that the report had been very well received and the recommendations endorsed.

It was noted that Policy Panel Chairmen would present annual reports to the Council.

**DECISION:**

**The Cabinet Scrutiny Chairman's report on scrutiny issues be noted.**

**C.39**

**REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

- a) **Horsefair and Broadwaters Community Neighbourhood Partnership**

**DECISION:**

**The three Greenhill Ward Councillors be appointed to serve on the**

**Horsefair and Broadwaters Community Neighbourhood Partnership, following the reorganisation of this Partnership.**

**b) West Midlands Regional Assembly - Regional Housing Partnership**

**DECISION:**

**Councillor Mrs A T Hingley and a substitute, nominated by her, be appointed to represent the Council on the West Midlands Regional Assembly's Regional Housing Partnership.**

**c) Worcestershire Corporate Parent Steering Group**

**DECISION:**

**Councillor Mrs H E Dyke be appointed to the represent the Council on the Worcestershire Corporate Parent Steering Group, which has been set up as County and District Council members are now considered to be "Corporate" parents for looked-after children.**

**C.40**

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. D1 (1)**

**Having declared their prejudicial interests in motions a) to c) below in accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillors H J Martin and J A Shaw left the Council Chamber at this point (6.34 pm) and remained outside whilst these motions were dealt with.**

As motions (a) to (c) below were all linked by a common denominator, namely, proposed cuts to Primary Care budgets, the Council considered them together:

**a) Worcestershire Primary Care Trust Budgets – Cuts in Services submitted by Councillor S J M Clee**

"Following the Health Seminar on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and Mr Eamon Kelly's presentation:

This Council deplores the financial top-slicing of the Primary Care Trust Budgets in Worcestershire which is forcing the three Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to dramatically cut services across the County.

We urge the Strategic Health Authority to re-consider the decision to top-slice budgets, bearing in mind that the majority of PCTs would, this year, have been in financial balance but for this top-slicing.

We are further concerned at the impact these changes will have on many of the "pooled budgets" supported by this Council under our partnership arrangements.

We urge the regional Health Authority to look again at all these proposals."

**b) Doctor Emergency Cover – submitted by Councillors G H Eeles, H J Martin, M J Shellie and N J Thomas**

“This Council wishes to express its grave concern over the sudden, unannounced withdrawal of Doctor emergency cover for the people of Worcestershire during the hours of 12.00 pm and 8.00 am. and especially the people of Wyre Forest District whom we represent.

We call on the relevant Authority to restore appropriate Doctor led emergency cover during the night hours.”

**c) Cuts by Primary Care Trust – submitted by Councillors G H Eeles, H J Martin, M J Shellie and N J Thomas**

“The proposals for cuts by the Primary Care Trust give this Council great concern, especially those aimed at the most vulnerable members of our community, particularly the young and the elderly.

Community Services are already overstretched and underfunded. Further cuts can only jeopardise these services still further and we call on the decision makers to reject these drastic proposals.”

In the course of the debate on these motions, it was stressed that the proposed cuts in Primary Care Trust budgets were so significant that they would have a detrimental effect on the health of everyone in Worcestershire. Members pointed out that the area was already significantly under-resourced for health care and cuts were affecting vulnerable groups, such as the young and the elderly. For example, the Council heard of a case where a mother, who had concerns about her handicapped child, took her to Kidderminster Hospital and was told by a nurse to go to Worcester because the relevant department in Kidderminster had closed.

Examples were also cited at the meeting of the way the proposed cuts would have a knock-on effect on services in the community. Reference was made to the potential impact on Worcestershire County Council’s supporting people budget, particularly services to teenagers and other people who were not defined, specifically, as vulnerable individuals. Members were also aware that there would be a potential impact on child and adolescent mental health services, in terms of access for young people, not in crisis now, but who needed help so that their condition did not deteriorate. Furthermore, the impact on preventative services would mean that vulnerable people would suffer as a result.

The Council also heard that the emergency out of hours' services had been significantly reduced. Medical cover had not been completely withdrawn but, instead of the previous six medical doctors, there were, currently, only three covering the night hours for the whole of Worcestershire. Councillors were concerned over the implications in the event of a major emergency.

**DECISION:**

1. The above three motions, relating to proposed cuts in Primary Care Trust Budgets and Doctor Emergency cover, be approved, unanimously, combined into one motion and copies sent to:
  - a) All Worcestershire MPs;
  - b) The Acting Corporate Director Advantage West Midlands;
  - c) The County Council's Director of Adult and Community Services;
  - d) The Chairman of the County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
  - e) The Chairman of the Strategic Health Authority;
  - f) The Chairman and Acting Chief Executive of the Wyre Forest Primary Care Trust.
2. Details of the points made in the debate be sent to Councillor J Holden, the Council's representative on the County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, so that he may raise them at the Committee's next meeting.

Councillors H J Martin and J A Shaw returned to the meeting at this point (6.50pm).

**Local Residents' Groups / Community Involvement**

**DECISION:**

In accordance with Standing Order D1 (5) the following motion, submitted by Councillors B T Glass, H J Martin, N J Thomas and K J Stokes, be referred for consideration by the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2006:

**“Council acknowledges the good work in the community undertaken by local residents' groups. It pledges support to underpin the work of these groups, wherever practicable.**

**Furthermore, Council recognises the importance of a “bottom up” approach to community involvement and recognises the important role Ward Councillors play in supporting this through their ‘community leadership’ role.”**

**C.41 URGENT MOTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. D1 (7)**

No Motions were received in accordance with Standing Order No. D1 (7).



**C.42**            **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**DECISION:**

**Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of “exempt Information” as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

**C.43**            **MINUTES**

**DECISION:**

**The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

The meeting ended at 6.59 p.m.

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING – 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2006**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

**QUESTION TIME AT COUNCIL MEETINGS - STANDING ORDER A5**

**Questions from Councillor J A Shaw**

To the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services

- 1. Does the Portfolio Holder agree with the sentiment expressed by members of the public at the recent meeting about works to Stourport Bridge that, in order to reduce on-street parking and, consequently, traffic congestion, for the duration of the works, encouragement should be given to motorists by Wyre Forest District Council to park in town centre car parks by means of a suspension of parking fees?**

**Answer from the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services**

Regarding the sentiments of the public about the bridge works to be undertaken by Worcestershire County Council, I agree that there should be traffic flow and car parking in Stourport throughout the duration of this work and that it should be properly managed. As a District Council we will be ensuring that Vale Road car park in Stourport will be properly and adequately signposted to remind all members of the public who live in Stourport on Severn and visitors that the car park is free of charge for usage.

Regarding the suspension of charges for other car parks: in respect of Martin's Way, when the County Council provides information about when the specific work will be done, I, with the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services, will liaise on whether to take any short term measures to suspend car parking fees at peak times during the period of the roadworks.

**Supplementary Question from Councillor J A Shaw**

**Is this a definite maybe?**

**Answer from the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services**

I cannot be more categoric. We will look at suspending car parking charges when the County Council provide us with the information as to when Stourport Bridge work will be undertaken.

### **To the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services**

2. **Since the matter was last considered by Wyre Forest District Council, does the Portfolio Holder consider that there has been any improvement via our joint working with Worcestershire County Council in reducing the weed cover on the ring road in Kidderminster, with particular reference to the stretch from the Birmingham to the Worcester road islands?**

### **Answer from the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services**

In terms of the joint working between the District and the County Council, I am confident that we are still working in co-operation with each other. You will remember that Councillor Shaw asked a similar question on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2005 last year in respect of the weeds on the highway, particularly from the Birmingham Road to the Worcester Road. There were plants in those beds, but unfortunately, due to the design and the hard landscaping, they did not survive. Worcestershire County Council is, subject to funding, looking at introducing hard surfacing to flower beds to ensure less maintenance, but at least they will be appropriately cleansed.

Members will be aware that weeds in the central reservation are the responsibility of the County Council and not myself and the District Council. As Cabinet Member, I will raise this matter with the appropriate officers and the Cabinet Member at the County Council.

### **Supplementary Question from Councillor J A Shaw**

**I would ask that something be done immediately as it does the reputation of Kidderminster no good at the moment if visitors come in and they are greeted with weeds in an important thoroughfare in the town.**

### **Answer from the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services**

I have written on numerous occasions on this. This is the responsibility of the County Council and not the District Council but, unfortunately, it reflects badly on the District Council despite its being a County Council matter. I will be pressing for action in respect of your question.

### **Questions from Councillor M M G Oborski**

### **To the Cabinet Member for Planning, Health and Environment**

3. **Given the comment publicly posted on the internet on 14<sup>th</sup> July on the “Wyre Forest Agenda” web site at [www.wfa.org.uk](http://www.wfa.org.uk) under the heading “Every Little Helps” to the effect that:-**

**“As I understand it a secret deal is being worked out between the WFDC planners, Tesco’s and the WFDC Cabinet so that when Tesco makes a formal planning application there will be an assumption of planning consent so that if it is rejected at that stage Tesco will appeal and win on**

the 2<sup>nd</sup> round before the inspector, even if the money for the bridge has to be upped a little”.

**Will the Cabinet member:-**

- a) Take this opportunity to kill this damaging and unfounded rumour stone dead?**
- b) Tell us what action is being taken to secure both the withdrawal of this “item” from the internet and a full and appropriate apology from all parties concerned?**

#### **Answer from the Cabinet Member for Planning, Health and Environment**

Thank you for bringing this to my attention. This is a question of public accountability. Yes there is a planning application lodged by Tesco's, but it has not been registered because of outstanding information and technical assessments. It is not a valid application until it is registered and, at that time, it will be available for public inspection and will be subjected to the normal planning process, including extensive consultation.

I welcome the opportunity to record, absolutely, that there is no “secret deal” being worked out with either the Council’s planning officers or the Cabinet and the Council does not conduct its business through third party web logs. Steps are currently being taken to ensure the withdrawal of the item from the internet site.

#### **Response from Councillor M M G Oborski**

I am grateful for your reply. I would not expect anything less from the Cabinet Member. We need to protect the longstanding reputation of the Council and officers of the Planning Department, who do everything by the book. This is a shameful, undeserved slur on their reputation.

#### **To the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs**

- 4. Months ago we were told that the “Weavers Cottages” in the Horsefair were in danger of imminent collapse and emergency work to make them safe was both urgent and essential.**

**Nothing has been done and the pedestrian route round them is currently an accident in its own right waiting to happen!**

**What, if anything, is happening?**

#### **Answer from the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs**

Councillor Oborski is correct when he states that "months ago we were told that Weavers Cottages in the Horsefair were in imminent danger of collapse." He is quite right when he says that the work is urgent and indeed essential. The same is true today. That is why this Council has used every avenue at its disposal to progress the matter.

When the buildings were found to be unsafe, the Council then took immediate action as the owner of the site to ascertain what it would take to make them safe. Members will know that Council is under a legal and a moral obligation to preserve listed buildings in its ownership.

The Council, as Members will know, took an exempt report to the Cabinet on 30<sup>th</sup> March this year which updated Members as to the issues with the cottages and what the Administration proposed to do about it. The action reported was that we intended to allow the Community Housing Group to make the buildings safe on our behalves, as they are the intended eventual owners. It was also felt that the Housing Company's procurement procedures were faster than the Council's.

The Housing Company duly tendered the work out, but unfortunately only one response was received. This tender far exceeded in value what was deemed to be reasonable. The Housing Company is now re-tendering and it is hoped that an affordable solution can be found. Members should be aware that, if an affordable solution cannot be found, then this Council may choose to apply to English Heritage to demolish the buildings, but I believe we have to take reasonable steps to ensure we save our listed buildings when we are able.

Councillor Oborski, your question insinuates that this Administration has done nothing to progress the matter and that is simply untrue. I would draw your attention to the Cabinet report on 30<sup>th</sup> March; meeting the Housing Company fifteen days later; the Housing Company appointing a surveyor in April; the Housing Company tendering the services in May; the single tender reported to the Housing Company on 5<sup>th</sup> July; this Council being notified on 6<sup>th</sup> July and the Housing Company inviting six further companies to tender which are due to be received on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Is this inaction? I fail to see, and perhaps Councillor Oborski will suggest in his supplementary, what we should have done instead. The action in this case is mainly being carried out by our partners, Wyre Forest Community Housing, of which Councillor Mrs Oborski is Chairman. Perhaps if Councillor Mr Oborski is unhappy with the action to date he could use his personal influence with the Chairman of the Board.

Councillor Oborski refers to the "pedestrian route" around the site as "an accident waiting to happen." I quite agree, it is, in my layman's opinion, unsatisfactory, but it was following representations from Councillor Mrs Oborski to the Highways Department, that the barriers were installed in the first place. It seems that you are damned if you do and damned if you don't. Perhaps also in his supplementary, Councillor Oborski would suggest an alternative that I will happily forward to Highways professionals at the Highways Department.

#### **Supplementary Question from Councillor M M G Oborski**

**Is the Cabinet Member aware that the exact design of the barriers was not specified by my wife. We campaigned for some urgent barriers and when they came they were not safe. Why is it that something is so unsafe, and so dangerous, that suddenly the road has to be closed and then months later nothing has happened and the Council has failed to demolish the property and has not made it safe. Instead there are problems with tenders. OK you**

**have done your best, but can you tell me by what date you expect the issue to be resolved? .**

**Answer from the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs**

As I understand it, an expert assured the Council four months ago that the property would fall down in three months. Therefore, action was taken from a public safety aspect by caging off the area. Specialist scaffolding can only be done by a limited number of contractors and our own officers could not be allowed in because it was too unsafe.

Every step was taken to make the property safe at the earliest opportunity by working with partners.

**To the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services**

- 5. With the forthcoming closure of Kidderminster's Lea Street and Lorne Street for resurfacing, will the Council offer free parking for residents on the Comberton Place car park for the duration of the work?**

**Answer from the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs**

As has been the case with other road works, we have offered overnight parking in respect of Comberton Place. The District Council is happy to allow free parking for residents in those streets between 4 pm until 9 am the next morning.

**Question from Councillor M M G Oborski**

**To the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services**

**The following question was withdrawn by Councillor M M G Oborski:**

- 6. Last year I trimmed the foliage from around the "Husum Way" road sign at its junction with Birmingham Road in order to enable motorists to actually see it and to make the wider point about the need to trim round road signs generally.*

*In response to my question then you told me what a good job the Council was doing and what a good job you were doing.*

*In order to stir you from your slumbers again this year, do I really have to go out and trim the hedge again or are you going to manage to get the job done?*

*Even the most limited evidence of an almost adequate level of public service would be a cause for celebration.*

**Answer from the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services**

I will answer your question anyway. When I was driving home from work, Husum Way was overgrown and I went up with my knife to do some pruning. Unfortunately, I have not got any shears. The Street Scene Officers dealt with this, on this occasion.

I will again raise the issue with the County Council because it is the County's responsibility, together with the landowner.

**Supplementary question from Councillor M M G Oborski**

**As the Councillor Hart is so proactive, I would ask the Cabinet Member, would he not agree that Councillor Campion should follow his example?**

**Answer from the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services**

This is not a matter for me.

**Question from Councillor Mrs R L Lewis**

**To the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services**

- 7. Planning permission for the redevelopment of the Kidderminster College site included a play area off Mallow Crescent. Since the development company changed hands at the end of last year, there has been no work on the site. With schools about to break up nothing is happening. When will the site be completed? Who is taking responsibility? When will children be able to play there in safety?**

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services**

This is a planning issue and should be answered by the Cabinet Member for Planning, Health and Environment.

**Answer from the Cabinet Member for Planning, Health and Environment**

This has been delayed because Westbury Developments wanted a private contractor to maintain the play area and the crib locked wall. The original Section 106 Agreement provided for the District Council to maintain the play area, but before terms could be finalised, Westbury wanted to develop the whole area as a package with a private contractor. Then, Persimmon Homes took over the site and stated that it wanted the Council to take over the play area immediately, rather than in 12 months, as originally agreed. Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services have prepared prices for this, so the Section 106 Agreement will be revised accordingly. Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services will arrange for the play area to be opened as soon as all the play equipment is installed.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Mrs R L Lewis**

Have we got a target date.

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Planning, Health and Environment**

It will be done as soon as possible.