

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

TO THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 4th NOVEMBER 2024

Item 6 – Public Question Time

Question from Mrs L

Dear Chelmsford City Council,

I would like to raise the following question for the Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 4th November 2024:

How are Chelmsford City Council dealing with green issues across the whole of CCC? On one hand you have converted a brown field site to open space and now are intending to make it a nature reserve. Whilst at the same time are intent on building over 4000 houses on a green field site that will result in the loss of agricultural land and destroy natural habitats and the intrinsic beauty of the area forever?

Is your decision making politically motivated? It would seem that in many areas it's where the Liberal voters live that affects how the council operates?

Item 7.1 – Call-In of Cabinet Decision

Question from Mr S

Submission of question/statement to this meeting.

The “rationale” of the call in, provided in a written request to the Director of Connected Chelmsford on the 10th of October is incorrect, John Shennan Playing field is not a “Designated Brown Field Site”, it is not on the register, therefore, is it appropriate that this meeting discusses the validity of the decision to declare John Shennan a Local Nature Reserve, on that basis. i.e. an incorrect foundation to a set of statements that are then based on an incorrect assumption, does this meet the criteria set out in the constitution.

Moreover, the call in arrangements and options for decisions in para 4.5.11.11 b) of the constitution and specifically bullet point ii) where it asks whether the “decision did not take into account information which should have been considered”, I would like to ask the committee through the chair, whether they were aware that Chelmsford has 310 brownfield sites with nearly 200 acres of land that could be considered for development and that could address the housing issues that are raised in the call in, I assume they were and that this was taken into account.

John Shennan is 16 odd acres of the only green space in Moulsham Lodge, Moulsham Lodge has one of the largest deficiencies of green space in Chelmsford, and according to planning guidance on the provision of green space we need at least 25 more acres to cover this shortfall, that's almost two more John Shennans and the Conservatives are suggesting they take it all away from us. The benefit of green space is well known and as far as the evidence that one of the statements say is missing, is actually in the Chelmsford Open Space Study 2016-2036 and long serving Councillors on this committee should be well aware of this. There is great need for this green space as was demonstrated when over 1000 signed a petition that said "developing John Shennan was not a good idea"

In my view, the current administration is taking a pro-active approach to making Chelmsford greener, designating this as a Nature Reserve will allow more diverse and wider use of this green space for the enjoyment of not just the local community but farther afield.

I go back to my question above, is this meeting constitutionally correct, to discuss and decide on a set of questions and statements from the requests, that are based on an incorrect basis.