

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 5 – QUESTIONS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

QUESTION 1

MR G F TONKINSON will ask the following question:

"Will you please make sure that Shropshire Council is fully involved in the inquiry by all Highway Agencies called for by East Shropshire Coroner Michael Gwynne into the length of the A41 at a recent fatality inquest at which he said "fatalities and injuries were excessive in the Woodcote area? Such an inquiry must not stop at the Telford boundary but must include a further one and half miles to Gorsey Bank in Shropshire. This section of the A41 carries almost 20,000 vehicles a day; many improvements can and must be made."

MR M TAYLOR-SMITH the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning and Transport will reply:-

"Shropshire Council is aware of the recent fatal crashes on the A41 in the Telford & Wrekin area. We will work with Telford & Wrekin Council on identifying appropriate interventions of the A41, in Shropshire and/or Telford & Wrekin, that are necessary to prevent further crashes. This process will take full account of the findings of the inquiry. Initial work has already started and consideration will be given to the A41 beyond the immediate locality of the crash sites."

QUESTION 2

MR G F TONKINSON will ask the following question:-

"Will you endeavour to give support from Shropshire Council through Cabinet or the relevant Committee to the strenuous efforts being made by people living in East Shropshire in opposing SITA UK to build a waste incinerator at The Granville, Red Hill, Telford.

Their reasons are based on it being totally unnecessary when less packaging must be used in the first instance with the initial producer made more responsible for recycling their own packaging. The aim must be to recycle and compost 70 – 80% of all waste; composting and bio digesters create more energy than incinerators without the dangerous emissions.

World medical knowledge now proves that fine particulate emissions are not captured by filtrate systems and cause serious health hazards to young children, in-womb foetus, elderly and all those with other health problems over a longer period. Well people become ill due to dioxin mercury furans and many other emissions".

We are grateful for the support of our two MPs in East Shropshire, David Wright, Telford and Mark Pritchard, The Wrekin who have both made tremendous efforts through public consultation and petitions to oppose this incinerator.

MR M TAYLOR-SMITH the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning and Transport will reply:-

"Each area in the Country must develop a strategy (and the necessary associated facilities) to divert both municipal and commercial waste away from the traditional route to landfill.

It is for the relevant planning authority to then consider the merits of any application - in light of the approved planning policy for that area.

Local people and those who feel strongly about a particular application will have the opportunity to put their concerns to the planning committee that are considering any such application."

QUESTION 3

MR A N MOSLEY will ask the following question:

"Would the portfolio holder please provide details of progress on all elements of the planning application for the incinerator at Battlefield. Would he also give precise details of the future timescale for its consideration, including how the public will be included in the deliberations."

MR M TAYLOR-SMITH the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning and Transport will reply:-

"The planning application for the development of an Energy from Waste Facility at Battlefield is still at the stage of consultation and evaluation. The applicant, Veolia, and their consultants have been requested under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations to provide additional information on such

matters as the control of air emissions, waste throughput and recycling, energy use, traffic and transport and the effects on the natural environment and cultural heritage.

The supplementary information when received from Veolia will trigger a further round of publicity and consultation with statutory and other interested bodies. This will also include those individuals who have made representations on the application. Completion of this exercise and any follow up requirements will take until the end of the year, and the earliest date for the determination of the application by the Strategic Regulatory Committee is therefore likely to be 4 February 2010.

Ultimately these processing arrangements will be for the Assistant Director Strategy and Development, in consultation with the Chairs of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Central Area Planning Committee, to determine, rather than the Council's Executive."

QUESTION 4

MRS M E NICHOLLS will ask the following question:

"Following advice that the Shropshire Link is very well used in Shrewsbury and other areas in Shropshire but quite low in Highley can I please have the usage rates for the Highley Division? The figures provided to-date give blanket coverage only and are therefore not very useful for responding to the forthcoming review".

MR M TAYLOR-SMITH the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning and Transport will reply:-

"Highley is located in Shropshire Link Zone 4 which, since launch, has had continued growth but has fluctuated over the months of operation. In line with other areas, the best month to date has been July with 325 public trips. In addition to the trips undertaken on the public service, the ShropshireLink vehicles also undertake a school transport contract to Claverley Primary School. This accounts for an additional 5,700 passengers per annum.

In total, in the current financial year, we are forecast to undertake over 9,000 trips in ShropshireLink Zone 4. For comparison purposes, we forecast 7,100 and 7,900 trips for zones 6 and 3, which include the rural areas surrounding Shrewsbury and Ludlow respectively.

Although we are happy with this initial take-up we are looking at the wider promotion of ShropshireLink to boost patronage and registered users. A report going to Development Services Scrutiny Committee on 3 November 2009, gives details of a proposed marketing and promotional strategy which will be rolled out over the next few months."