

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 24 FEBRUARY 2015**

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – ORDER IN WHICH THE  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL WILL INVITE QUESTIONS BELOW RECEIVED  
IN WRITING IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING**

1. From Mr Chester to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance, Councillor Wensley

**THE FULL DETAIL OF THE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED IS DETAILED  
BELOW**

**NOTE:** The Chairman will invite questions from members of the public who have submitted in writing their questions in line with the Council's Constitution. Chairman will explain that the questions received will be answered by the appropriate Members of the Cabinet or the Chairman of the Overview Select Committee. Chairman to confirm that Public Question Time allows Members of the public to ask one question at a time and that a maximum of one minute is allowed for each question. Chairman is to state that questions will be invited in the order in which they have been received and that if there is time remaining from the 15 minutes allowed for Public Question Time, questioners will be allowed to ask a supplementary question.

**QUESTION ONE**

**From Mr Chester to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance, Councillor Wensley**

**Question**

To ask the relevant Cabinet Member what does Arun intend to do with the Meadview Centre in Lyminster and what has been the cost of the eviction of the occupiers and the security presence at the site to date.

**Response**

I thank Mr Chester for his question and I am happy to respond to set the record straight.

A small group of people illegally occupied the Meadview Centre which is a property belonging to the Council or in other words, it belongs to the people of Arun.

Following a tender process last summer, Meadview this site had been the subject of negotiation between the Council and a local resident who wishes to use it for a market garden/horticultural business which presents a possibility of employment for local people. It is hoped that the lease can be finalised shortly.

The group who occupied the land has no respect of the law, treat the courts with contempt, have caused damage to be done and cost the people of Arun so far over £13,600. This is money that is paid by hard working and law abiding people and the behavior of the illegal occupiers has been a disgrace.

Following two possession applications by the Council to the court, the illegal occupants have been removed and the site has been secured.

**Supplementary Question from Mr Chester to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance, Councillor Wensley**

**Question**

Can you please tell me if the land, or as part of the discussions taking place between the Council and the potential business, is to be sold or leased. I have seen on social media such as Facebook and Twitter various pictures and videos of the mobile accommodation that has been damaged on this site as part of the eviction process undertaken. Can you please comment on this and whether you think that the Council's Bailiffs acted appropriately?

**Response**

Thank you Mr Chester for this supplementary question. I can confirm that negotiations are continuing with the potential leaseholder and that the intention for the site is for it to be used for agricultural purposes. I cannot comment on what has been uploaded to social media sites as I do not look at Facebook or Twitter but can confirm that what has been left on the site belonged to the previous tenants and is therefore the property of Arun District Council. I must say that Officers of the Court would have taken any action as the Court deemed necessary to ensure compliance with the Order made.