

## **APPENDIX TO COUNCIL MINUTES: 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2005**

### **MINUTE 21: QUESTIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION**

#### **QUESTION 1 (Councillor Vic Kerr)**

Could you please advise me what steps have been taken so that the recycling containers are emptied promptly to stop another fiasco as did happen at Claypole Village Hall Car Park two weeks ago, when UK Recycling was told the container was overflowing every day, for a week. The weekend was very windy and plastic bottles and paper were blown all over the car park and into neighbours gardens, which was collected by the Clerk to Parish Council and employees of the UK Recycling the next day.

#### **Response: Councillor Ray Auger**

There was a meeting between Dawn Temple, the Sustainable Waste Management Policy Officer and Chris Mountain, Managing Director of Mid UK Recycling Limited. Discussions took place about the various problems we were having with the Recycling Bank scheme including the Claypole village hall site. We have had to rework the collection frequencies for many banks especially from those where no facilities previously were existing and we underestimated their success as they are collecting 20% more than the previous style banks. Any report from Mid UK that a bank has become full must be actioned by them within 36 hours. This is a contractual clause which we feel is essential to overcome such problems in the future. My apologies to Councillor Kerr and the villagers of Claypole but we have ensured that Chris Mountain and his staff know that the banks must be emptied quickly upon the request of the Council, and that any spillages and overload must be cleared.

#### **QUESTION 2 (Councillor Mike Williams)**

Does the portfolio holder agree that this Council should be giving far more support, both financially and with more member support, to our excellent officers and Guildhall staff who involve themselves in targeting young people by using performing arts to steer them away from involvement in anti-social behaviour?

#### **Response: Councillor Mrs Cartwright**

I'd just like to say thank you for the question but technically speaking I am not the portfolio holder for culture any more. I would just say that I would encourage all members to support the excellent shows that you will find at the Guildhall. The staff work very hard to provide a variety of interesting programmes and I would urge every member to support them.

#### **Supplementary Question: Councillor Mike Williams**

I have made comments earlier about anti-social behaviour but I would ask the Portfolio Holder, whoever it may be, to look at the staggering success rate of the Rock Challenge

which uses performing arts to steer young people away from anti-social behaviour. It is well worth looking at. I hope that as a Council we can perhaps put more resources into performing arts and give our staff who are employed in performing arts the support they need. I would also ask as many members as possible to be in the Guildhall ballroom tomorrow afternoon at 2.30 pm to start the process.

**Response: Councillor Mrs Cartwright**

I would just say I did have tickets for the Blues Brothers for Thursday night but got delayed in Peterborough by anti-social behaviour – a bomb scare – so I didn't make it. I was very cross.

**QUESTION 3 (Councillor Mike Williams)**

Does the portfolio holder agree with me that it is totally unacceptable to expect elderly people and people with special needs to have to wait for over a year for home conversions, especially when the need involves something as basic as personal care and hygiene?

**Response: Councillor Peter Martin-Mayhew**

Unfortunately, if it was a perfect world, we would be able to do just what you say. It is totally unacceptable to expect lots of elderly people with special needs to have to wait. If we had £500,000 or £600,000 we could actually clear the backlog. Because the number of debilitating illness have expanded so quickly we have not been able to cope with this. This has meant that we have to means test the tenants. We are trying to get to more people in the situation that Councillor Mike Williams is talking about, simply because we cannot get to them because we have so many that want to so much – and we just cannot do that. We are trying to work with Social Services to bring this down if we can and to actually categorise them. Of course the question is really about categorisation of the people in most need who really want that work doing first. I think that covers what Councillor Mike Williams is saying.