

COUNCIL 1 MARCH 2007

QUESTIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION

QUESTION: COUNCILLOR MIKE TAYLOR

Will the Leader confirm that should the PCT decide to close Grantham A&E Department, then sufficient funds will be available to enable a Judicial Review to take place?

REPLY: COUNCILLOR MRS. LINDA NEAL

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I welcome the opportunity Councillor Taylor has actually given me to respond to this question Mr. Chairman. There was no written response circulated because I was hoping to receive a response from the Leader of the County Council but in response to the questions as posed, my answer, Mr. Chairman, is my understanding following a conversation with the Leader of the County Council is this will be the case. I had hoped to have written confirmation for today but this is not yet to hand.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION: COUNCILLOR MIKE TAYLOR

In line with the answer Mrs. Neal has given us, will she make representation to County should it become necessary the PCT do decide to close the A&E and it's proven that a family lose a member of their family through lack of mainstream services, would she approach the Leader to asking for funds to enable the family to sue the health authority.

REPLY: COUNCILLOR MRS. LINDA NEAL

I think that we would probably support the family as much as we could Councillor Taylor, but I don't think it's my prerogative to decide. There would need to be substantial evidence to support the view that you held but certainly if I thought there was something we could assist with I would speak to the Leader of the County Council

QUESTION 1

QUESTION: COUNCILLOR ROB SHORROCK

As the nominated children's champion for SKDC, do you think it is acceptable for the council or any other body to put up signs that bar children merely on the grounds of age from playing in public areas?

REPLY: COUNCILLOR TERL BRYANT

Yes and no.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION: COUNCILLOR ROB SHORROCK

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm slightly disappointed with the contempt that the Portfolio Holder actually shows to this process. This is a legitimate process of scrutiny to get hold of the information and to find out what is happening so I put the question to him again, which is: when do you think it is appropriate to put up signs that discriminate against children in public areas and when do you not think it is appropriate to put up signs, tell us.

REPLY: COUNCILLOR TERL BRYANT

Thank you Mr. Chairman, I welcome the question as now put but I just want to point out I am not the nominated Children's Champion, I am the appointed Children's Champion. Councillor Shorrock, the reason I wrote that answer was because I hadn't got the bit of paper that I now have in my hand, which is this, at the time I wrote it. I am unaware what your employment background is so I took the trouble to look up the play equipment that SKDC use and I read from our suppliers, this is roundabouts, swings, everything that we use and here it says "Crazy Twisters" a huge spinning sensation for 8 to 14 year olds, "Springies", some real cool new designs for six to 12 year olds, further taking advice from Ms. Helen England who is our risk monitor to say as we are seeking out advice on the equipment that is the advice we must make which precludes action. That is why you got the answer, yes it is appropriate to put age limits on when it is appropriate for the safety of the public and the using it.

QUESTION 3

QUESTION: COUNCILLOR STEPHEN O'HARE

When this Council wants central government to change a National Scheme does she really believe this Council stands a better chance of bringing about change by joining forces with other Councils to lobby through a national body, such as the Local Government Association representing hundreds of councils, or by ignoring the far greater political negotiating strength which the Local Government Association has with central government and trying to achieve change as a single council?

REPLY: COUNCILLOR MRS. LINDA NEAL

Thank you Mr. Chairman. My response to Councillor [O'Hare] is that it depends on the scheme as to what might be appropriate.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION: COUNCILLOR STEPHEN O'HARE

Is there any chance Councillor Neal might provide a more succinct and direct answer to the question that was asked.

REPLY: COUNCILLOR MRS. LINDA NEAL

That was succinct and there could well be Mr. Chairman.

QUESTION 4

QUESTION: COUNCILLOR STEPHEN O'HARE

When writing to Yvette Cooper at the Department for Communities and Local Government on the 11th December 2006, what detailed and specific proposals (as distinct from simply setting out a wish list) did she invite central government to make to the National Scheme(s) for housing finance?

REPLY: COUNCILLOR MRS. LINDA NEAL

That's a very good question that's been posed. What have you done about it Councillor O'Hare?

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION: COUNCILLOR STEPHEN O'HARE

Can I perhaps ask Councillor Neal a simpler question: is today Thursday?

REPLY: COUNCILLOR MRS. LINDA NEAL

I believe it is Mr. Chairman.

QUESTION 5

QUESTION: COUNCILLOR ROB SHORROCK

Do you think that the of option of taxi vouchers is an absolute entitlement for eligible citizens in the district or should there be some form of criteria for how they are used?

In accordance with Part 4, Section 10.9 (Written Answers) of the Council's Constitution, Councillor Shorrock requested that Councillor Carpenter supply him with a written answer to his question.