

Hedon Town Council
Notes of the Proceedings of
A Public Participation Meeting
Held in St Augustine's Church, Hedon
7.15pm on 22 July 2021

The Mayor welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Written questions had been received from members of the public and the Mayor explained that any questions that could not be answered in the time allotted for the Session would be addressed at the next relevant Committee meeting.

The questions, and the answers given, are attached to these notes.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.30pm in order for the Planning Committee Meeting to begin at 7.15pm; all questions that had been received were answered.

The Mayor thanked those that had attended the meeting for their contributions.

Meeting closed 7.30pm.

Chairman _____

QUESTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION – 22 JULY 2021

The questions have been listed in the order they were received.

FROM:	QUESTION
Ray Duffill	I'd like to ask the Town Council for its support in requesting that ERYC accepts 'Fix My Street' reports once again. The ERYC is one of only 2% of Councils in the country not to recognise the service. In short, in Hedon I think that Fix My Street would play a useful role in public campaigns to highlight 'hotspots' for issues such as fly tipping and dog fouling. Mr Duffill felt that the 'Fix My Street' App was easier to use than ERYC's website especially as it included the ability to use a map to highlight problem areas. Answer: <i>Members agreed that this item should be put on the next F&GP agenda for further discussion; this would give Members time to look into the app.</i>
Joanne Clixby	The litterbins in town are a disgrace with one exception, Church Lane and Souttergate. The doors are either broken or hanging off, the one next to the church is filthy, Ivy Lane is covered in moss, the one on the grassed area on Inmans is falling apart and the one next to Inmans School has got 'twerp' written on it. They make the town look untidy and unloved. Plus I think people just walk past them without noticing them because they don't stand out. So please can they be repaired or replaced. Also, someone asked me to ask for a new litterbin to be placed in Drapers Lane play area, not the skate park but the play area. Answer: <i>There was an agenda item on the F&GP Committee meeting later in the evening to discuss litterbins in Hedon.</i>
Carol Hunter	Watson Park field is really overgrown, so much so that nettles are spilling out into the pavement. Pedestrians have to walk into the road to get past. Who is responsible for maintaining the edges, if HTC could this be seen to, its an accident waiting to happen. Answer: <i>The hedge at Watson Park was cut earlier this week; any further problems please let the Town Clerk know.</i>
	St Augustine's Gate and the Market Place has recently looked rather shabby with small bits of litter mainly cigarette butts. Does HTC or EYRC employ a road sweeper, if so how often is this done, could it be done more to keep the streets clean? Answer: <i>The weeds in the Market Place gutters had been reported to ERYC last week and a request had been put to ERYC for the area to be cleaned up. Hedon Town Council doesn't employ a road sweeper/litterpicker but ERYC does. According to the ERYC website roads are generally swept four times a year. Ms Hunter had highlighted the area outside Lloyds bank and the pathway through to Church Lane car park as areas where cigarette butts and litter gathered and the Town Council would ask ERYC's road sweeper to target this area. An item would be put on the next Property Committee agenda to consider putting ashtray/bins in open areas around the centre of Hedon</i>

James Baron	Can the Council update us on the playing fields leisure area situation? Nothing seems to be happening. Answer: <i>Updates on the discussions are posted regularly in the Property Minutes; the Council has agreed to go ahead with the permeable paving to the entrance of Greville Road community field and is obtaining two further quotes. It was agreed not to go ahead with benches in this area but to move forward with the 'p' barriers – once sites are known for the 'p' barriers discussions with ERYC will begin. Also, the Council agreed to a consultation process, to involve all the houses in the area, on the multi-purpose goalposts with draft document going back to Council for approval in September (after recess).</i>
	Public participation during this Covid period has been at an all time high. Despite the Council creating a working group, can they do there upmost to at the very least stream meetings using a camera and microphone? Answer: <i>The Council did look into the possibility but multiple cameras/microphones would be required; the Council agreed to take no further action at the moment but would review this in the future.</i>
	If Councillors do not intend standing for re-election at the next town election, can they inform the public in good time so those who would like to stand can prepare a campaign? Answer: <i>Whether a Councillor stands again for election is a personal choice and it is up to individuals whether they want to let the public know in advance. Every person has the same opportunity to put in nomination papers and campaign for a place on the Council. A recent by-election had taken place in May but only two candidates had put their names forward.</i>
	Does the Council have any plans to work with developers to create additional affordable housing to the east of Hedon. Also, what plans do the Council have to take advantage of its position close to the Freeport, Energy Park and growing Saltend chemical park? Do they hope to attract investment from the companies using these parks for new local facilities as well as finding ways to attract workers to spend money in the local economy? Answer: <i>The ERYC Local Plan, which is under review at the moment, has no plans for any housing in Hedon because of the flood risk to the area. The Council has been in touch with the Energy Park and is waiting to hear details of when the first forum meeting will be held. ABP has also agreed to consultation with local councils.</i>
Gary Robinson	Could the Council please confirm that three quotations were obtained for the supply of the town hanging baskets and that the cheapest of these quotations were awarded the contract as inline with council procurement policy? If not, why not? Answer: <i>Yes, three quotations were sought, in line with the Financial Regulations, but only two were received despite chasing the third contractor. The Council can award work on 'best value' principles rather than the cheapest quote.</i>

	Also, could the Council confirm the same in regards to the repair of the church wall? Although more specialist work, a simple web search would indicate several companies able to undertake this repair. Answer: <i>The Council carried out a quote process in 2016 and went out to five companies for quotes for the repair work required to St Augustine's boundary wall. Council agreed that the successful company would carry out work every year up to a set budget which would allow for continuing maintenance of the boundary wall.</i>
Gary Robinson	In relation to item 8 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 24 June 2021 - action following damage to vehicles on Ivy Lane from falling trees. Hedon Town Council were cleared of all liability for the damage caused to the cars and hedge, the car owners own insurance companies were willing to settle any claims arising from this accident and yet the council still made payments in excess of £2000 as a gesture of goodwill when they did not need to do so. Was this payment made from the public purse? If so do the Council consider their actions to have adequately protected the public purse in line with local government and the Audit Commission of England policy and procedures? Answer: <i>Although the Council had no legal liability in this instance, Members felt that there was a moral obligation to those concerned.</i>

JM/23.7.21