

# Council (24 February 2021)

## Petitions and Public Questions

### Item

#### 2 (a) Petitions

None

#### (b) Public Questions

##### (i) Susan Fitch to Councillor Middleton (08/02/21 – 14.26)

“In the recent budget consultation by Milton Keynes Council, how many of the small number of submissions by members of the public were received that asked for funding to be included in the budget to renovate the Galley Hill Community Centre?”

##### (ii) David Tavener (Chair Galley Hill Residents Association) to Councillor Middleton (08/02/21 – 14.34)

“The recent draft budget from Milton Keynes Council failed to include sufficient monies to renovate the Galley Hill Community Centre. During a recent survey carried out on Galley Hill, the residents association asked if the current residents would be happy to support and possibly help with the running of a refurbished Community Centre. Of those contacted 199 households said they would back the Community Centre & Arts Centre being renovated and given back to the local area for community use, and 77 of those households had residents who were prepared to help with the various duties concerned with the running of the centre. Given this background and the support of such a large number of residents on Galley Hill who wish this to proceed, will the council ensure that sufficient funds are made available to carry out the renovation of the Galley Hill Community Centre?”

##### (iii) Paul Randall (Chair Galley Hill Residents Association) to Councillor Middleton (08/02/21 – 15.03)

“Are members of the council aware that many Galley Hill residents along with the Galley Hill Residents Association (GHRA), and the Stony Stratford Town Council have been lobbying for MK council to renovate the Galley Hill Community Centre along with the attached Arts Centre, which has been left to fall into a terrible state of disrepair since the resident Arts group were asked to leave in early 2018? All that appears to have happened over the last three years is that the estimated costs of the renovation have risen, whilst MKC has released funds to renovate other community centres (in Greenleys and Conniburrow) and the renovations of those have been carried out. Will the council now arrange for funds to be made available to renovate the Galley Hill Community Centre?”

**(iv) Roy Adams (Chair Stony Stratford Town Council) to Councillor Middleton (08/02/21 – 15.27)**

“During recent email exchanges, with the leader of the council, regarding the draft budget for 2021/22 and the funding for the Galley Hill Community Centre , Pete Marland mentioned that "The situation with the building is complex but we are working with Stony Stratford Town Council on a solution that would bring the current building back into proper community use". However, despite MKC having accepted the Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan which included references to keeping the Galley Hill local centre as a strategic asset, there have been very few meetings between SSTC and MKC and no progress made in the last three years. Given that the estate is about to reach its fifty-year anniversary, will the council confirm that they will earmark sufficient funds to refurbish the building and actively work with Stony Stratford Town Council to bring the current building back to a state where it can be used by residents?”

**(v) Ethan Wilkinson to Councillor Darlington (17/02/21 – 15.05)**

"Milton Keynes Council has just received £7.9 million from the government for road repairs including potholes. How and when are you going to use the cash to make our roads safe again?"

**(vi) Bill Walford to Councillor Middleton (18/02/21 – 11.03)**

“In replies to my question on 25/11/20, you said to me that "Heads of terms for the lease are yet to be agreed with Evolve" and that "The Council has recently instructed valuers Bidwells to assess the value of the property for the purposes of the Evolve proposed development lease transaction".

These two statements, which both mention Evolve by name, would imply that, despite much public opposition, and long before any formal planning agreement might be given, Milton Keynes Council are minded to go ahead with the contentious Evolve proposals.

As you and Mr Palmieri have stated on various occasions, Milton Keynes Council are not legally obliged to put this matter to tender. However, a lack of legal obligation does not prevent a Council inviting other interested parties to look at the matter. I would like a straight answer explaining the real reasons why no other potential developer has so much as been invited to make proposals for the future of the course. “

**(vii) Alan Hastings to Councillor Middleton (19/02/21 – 11.14)**

“As a tax payer, I believe that Milton Keynes Council is morally, if not legally, obliged to ensure our money is properly spent and which truly gives value for that money, particularly for larger value projects. To achieve acceptable value for money, I would expect that the Council will always employ accepted procedures when spending our money, that is, to prepare a detailed specification of the requirements and issue it to at least three suitable organisations that are financially, technically and managerially capable.

Can the Council assure me and my fellow tax payers that it has fully implemented all aspects of normally accepted procedures in selecting Evolve to go ahead with its ever changing development proposals for Windmill Hill Golf Course, thus giving the essential requirements of financial, technical and managerial certainty?”

**(viii) Alderman Bartlett to Councillor Darlington (19/02/21 – 15.50)**

“On what legal basis is Milton Keynes Council using race and ethnicity as criteria in the appointment of elected Parish and Town councillors to the Parish Advisory Group and how does such a policy adhere to and reflect the Council's equal opportunities policy and the Equalities Act?”

**(ix) Tarun Goel to Councillor Middleton (19/02/21 – 18.46)**

"Milton Keynes Council policy is to plant two trees for every tree cut down. But Evolve are only proposing “no net tree loss” in the re-development of Windmill Hill Golf Course. This is Council land – so will Milton Keynes Council insist on any developer following Council policy, and planting two trees for every tree cut down?"

**(x) Iain Layden to Councillor Middleton (21/02/21 – 10.49)**

"We have seen no real effort by Milton Keynes Council to involve the local community in determining the future of Windmill Hill Golf Course - to find out what local people, golf course users and staff at the golf course think should happen to this important green space.

We local people are the ones who will be most affected by these changes, and we are Council Taxpayers - so surely we should be regarded as key stakeholders. Yet the only engagement with us by Cllr Middleton has been in the context of the proposals from Evolve – where he sits alongside the developers while they talk about what THEY want to do, and he supports them.

The Council must be well aware that local people are very concerned about both the proposals and Evolve. These concerns have been repeatedly expressed to Cllr Middleton.

To my knowledge, Cllr Middleton has never reached out to local people, golf course users or the staff at the golf course, to find out what we think should happen. Will he agree to do this now, before going any further with the Evolve proposals?"

**(xi) Scot Balazs to Councillor Marland (21/02/21 – 18.42)**

"Blakelands residents have been trying to get to the bottom of how one of the largest planning mistakes this council has ever permitted, was made. Last week a judgement was passed down that saw a judge say senior officers of this council's statements regarding data handling and the release of the Blakelands data 'beg as many questions as they answer'. Does the leader of the council agree with the judge that the officers responses 'beg as many questions as they answer'?"

**(xii) Shazna Muzammil to Councillor Darlington (21/02/21 – 19.21)**

"Following the recent introduction of the online booking system to the HWRC's there has been a 16% increase in fly tipping. While this is not the only reason, it is not a coincidence.

What are the administrations plans to tackle this noticeably increasing problem?"

**(xiii) Joseph Hearnshaw to Councillor Darlington (22/02/21 – 09.55)**

"Can the council promise that it will resurface roads in the Stony Stratford ward, where there is significant road damage, such as Wolverton Road and Vicarage Road? "

**(xiv) Charlotte Hall to Councillor Darlington(22/02/21 – 11.28)**

"There have been 4,300 reports to MKC with regards to Fly-tipping in the 9 months of April to December 2020 .

Could you please tell me how many of these incidents have council employees responded to and at what costs for collection and disposal of the waste?"

**(xv) Jonathan Street to Councillor Darlington (22/02/21 – 13.20)**

How much is the current administration investing in sorting out potholes in redways?

**(xvi) Dr Simone Pitman to Councillor Middleton (22/02/21 – 14.15)**

Can I ask Councillor Middleton, as member responsible for Resources and Innovation, to explain how the MK Council's current development strategy will be shaped by the 'biggest economic, social and cultural shock\*' the pandemic is likely to create, for planning future commercial, retail and leisure infrastructure and how this will guide an opportunity to invest and develop the Windmill Hill Golf course, because the current proposal is very unlikely to fulfil that need?

**(xvii) Dr Mark Pitman to Councillor Middleton (22/02/21 – 18.59)**

“The Councils vision statement aspires for Milton Keynes to be the ‘greenest and most sustainable city in the world’. Given that 2.69 acres of land at Campbell Park is up for sale with permission for housing, and over 9 acres of land already designated for commercial development including a hotel at Newton Leys is being advertised for sale (which is just over 2 miles from Windmill Hill golf course), can I please ask when the council is going to start protecting its existing green leisure spaces such as Windmill Hill Golf Course as a low carbon leisure facility for everyone?”