

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2025

ITEM 6 - QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR T EYNON TO COUNCILLOR N RUSHTON

“In the light the Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024 and the Leasehold and Commonhold Reform Bill, what progress has the Local Plan Committee made towards dealing with the unfairness of Freehold Estate Charges and preparing an Open Space Policy which presumes developers will transfer all public open green spaces to the relevant Parish or District Council?”

REPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR N RUSHTON TO COUNCILLOR T EYNON

There is no reason that would currently preclude Parish and Town Councils from accepting the transfer of public open space on new developments subject to receipt of an appropriate commuted sum for maintenance, secured by S106 Agreement.

The new Local Plan will have a policy on public open space (Policy IF4 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities). Wording could be added to the policy to state that the preference in the first instance is for Parish and Town Councils to accept the transfer of public open space with the payment of a commuted sum for maintenance secured through S106 Agreement. If a Parish or Town Council did not want to accept transfer of the public open space, it would fall to be maintained by a management company.

This is a matter that will be considered by the Local Plan Committee in due course.