

Cabinet – 15 October 2020

Questions from the Public

1 Nicholas Taylor to Councillor Mark Ingall, Leader of the Council

In the 1950's and 1960, many companies relocated to Harlow and part of the incentive to relocate here was that the Harlow Development Corporation would provide rented homes to the company's workforce. In the next five years or so many hundreds if not thousands of people will be expected to re-locate to live in the Harlow area when Public Health England occupy their new premises at The Pinnacles.

Has the Council been approached by Public Health England or indeed given any thought as to how those workers who are secure council tenants will be expected to uproot their families to come to live in Harlow?

Reply from Councillor Mark Ingall (Leader of the Council):

The Council has worked with Public Health England of a number of years regarding the relocation to Harlow.

One of the advantages of the exciting move of Public Health England to Harlow is that many of the jobs will become available for existing Harlow residents, however we are encouraging and expect some employees to make the move to Harlow. Our ambitious Local Plan allows for the building of accommodation that ranges from flats to executive houses and everything in between, which will provide sufficient stock for any employees of Public Health England that do choose to make the move.

The housing requirements of affected staff has been raised with Public Health England, however at the current time they are unable to give an indication of what those requirements might be.

This matter will remain an item for discussion as the requirements of PHE and their staff becomes clear.

2 Nicholas Taylor to Councillor Mark Ingall, Leader of the Council

It is now some two and a half years since residents were invited to see plans for the future of Elm Hatch. Since then, residents have apparently not heard anything.

I note the recent announcement that the council is going to spend some £12 million on purchasing homes on the open market, will this affect the plans for the future of Elm Hatch, indeed when can residents expect work to commence on site?

Reply from Councillor Mark Ingall (Leader of the Council):

The Council is committed to remain in active discussions with those who have an interest in the redevelopment of Elm Hatch. This includes local residents, Place Services of Essex County Council and, due to the development being adjacent to one of Harlow's historic gems, English Heritage.

During these unusual times the discussions and processes that would normally take place have been disrupted and are taking longer than we would have hoped , however we are looking at a number of different designs in order to ensure the requirements of both Places Services and English Heritage are met.

We will contact residents as soon as we have more information to share with them. At this stage it is not possible to say when residents can expect work to commence on site.

The Council purchasing homes on the open market will not affect any proposals for Elm Hatch.