

Cabinet – 14 October 2021

Questions from the Public

1 Alan Leverett to Councillor Michael Hardware (Portfolio Holder for Strategic Growth):

Regarding the Town Centre Masterplan can the council for the sake of transparency tell us the cost of the Interim Planning Guidance Report for the Town Centre which was provided by consultants for presentation this evening?

Reply from Councillor Michael Hardware (Portfolio Holder for Strategic Growth):

The Council has invested £93,000 to produce a substantial, detailed master plan for the town centre. It will become an important material consideration in planning terms for projects in the town centre: for applicants when producing proposals, for officers when considering those proposals, and for members when deciding the applications.

This is the first of its kind and will ensure that we attract the right investment into the town centre in keeping with our regeneration plans.

Supplementary question from Alan Leverett:

There has been a struggle to protect green space in the town. What will you do to protect them?

Supplementary reply from Councillor Michael Hardware (Portfolio Holder for Strategic Growth):

The masterplan will bring back green space into the town centre.

2 Alan Leverett to Councillor Michael Hardware (Portfolio Holder for Strategic Growth):

The residential planning applications already approved by the Council in the Town Centre have reduced parking provisions. The proposals in the report suggest that Post Office Road carpark will be lost in the scheme. Does the Council consider this lack of parking the right approach to revitalise the retail business in the town when the competition from out of town retail provides an abundance of free parking?

Reply from Councillor Michael Hardware (Portfolio Holder for Strategic Growth):

At present there are no firm proposals to remove the Post Office Road car park – the masterplan provides a planning framework and not a set of detailed proposals. However, the masterplan does indicate that this site may be suitable for future development.