

**QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF FCR 12 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

QUESTION 1

Question from Councillor Hannah Dalton to the Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee, Councillor Eber Kington.

I note that South Western Railway has been successful in their bid to obtain funding to provide Stoneleigh Station with step-free access. Will the Chairman of Strategy and Resources provide an update on the bid process and what action is required now by Epsom and Ewell Borough Council given its funding commitment of £500k to a successful bid.

Reply:

Stoneleigh station is the only railway station in Epsom and Ewell and within walking distance of the Borough border that does not have step free access or work in train to address this. This means that it is completely inaccessible for disabled people and anyone who is unable to confidently navigate stairs, which can include older people and parents with young children and buggies.

The Council and local ward Councillors have therefore been engaging with South Western Railway to explore how Stoneleigh Station could be made accessible. An opportunity arose last autumn through the Department of Transport's "Access for All" funding programme. This was a competitive process where the Council worked with South Western Railway to ensure that a strong bid was submitted for Stoneleigh Station. To meet the match funding requirements of the national bidding process, Strategy and Resources Committee agreed a Borough Council contribution from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding of £500k. This is funding collected from developers that can only be spent on local infrastructure such as this.

I was of course delighted when earlier this month, the Department for Transport confirmed that Epsom and Ewell's bid had been successful and that we would get the inward investment that our residents need.

As the funding that the Council has secured covers the next five years, we are seeking to have South Western Railway undertake the building works as early as possible in the programme and to ensure that the station stays fully operational throughout. South Western Railway will be responsible for preparing the design and specification, procuring the build contractor, and supervising the quality of the works. The Council will continue to engage closely with South Western Railway to ensure that local residents and commuters are kept fully informed.

Council
30 April 2019

QUESTION 2

Question from Councillor Liz Frost to the Chairman of the Community and Wellbeing Committee, Councillor Barry Nash.

With the recent confirmation of the sale of valuable land at Epsom General Hospital (EGH) to a consortium headed by Legal & General (L&G), can I request that this Council enters into meaningful discussions with both the Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals Trust (ESHUHT) Board and the consortium headed up by L&G, to get these parties to stick to the commitment made to residents last year by ESHUHT, to provide a social care facility, dedicated, in part at least, for use by NHS patients, especially those elderly residents currently taking up precious beds in EGH? These patients do not always need the specialist in-patient facilities and could instead be discharged to a recuperative unit, which could form a discrete element of the otherwise private social care facility, now to be constructed next to EGH.

Reply:

The Council clearly set out its opposition to the sale of the hospital land at the Community & Wellbeing Committee in June 2018, when the sale was first announced. In opposing the sale, we wanted to safeguard the land for additional health and related services for the residents of Epsom and Ewell and East Surrey.

We are disappointed that the trust went ahead and sold the land, despite our serious concerns about the future provision of health and related services in the local area. But now the land has been sold, it remains the Council's position that this land should still be used to accommodate additional health and related services, such as social care provision open to NHS patients and the local community.

We will now seek to work with the Trust Board and the new owners of the site, to ensure that the clear commitments made to both the Council and local residents are delivered.