

MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL – 4 March 2019

AGENDA ITEM 7

QUESTIONS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9

1) Question to Cllr Sheila Bibb, Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee, from Councillor Trevor Young

“Disabled Facilities Grants are aimed at supporting and assisting the most vulnerable individuals especially the frail and elderly in maintaining their independence to help them either remain living in their own accommodation longer, or to help facilitate earlier discharge from hospital settings.

Timeliness is therefore essential, and in a lot of cases it is critical?

Could the Chairman of Prosperous Communities Committee please explain why in West Lindsey it takes 12 months to process a DFG application?

Are we not failing the most vulnerable people we serve, and impacting on other key services such as the NHS and Social Care?”

Councillor Trevor Young

Gainsborough South-West Ward

2) Question to Cllr Jeff Summers, Leader of the Council, from Councillor Gillian Bardsley

“I am writing this on 22nd February 2019, the day that yet another report, this time from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, warns that land use changes, pollution, and climate change are all causing biodiversity loss, and apart from anything else that “places the future of our food system under severe threat, because “the plants, animals and micro-organisms that are the bedrock of food production are in decline.” Bees and other pollinators, worms, soil fungi which work to keep soils fertile and purify the air and water, all provide essential services to support life as we know it , but they are globally a rapidly dwindling resource. Urgent action is needed to reverse the worrying implications highlighted in this latest warning.

The current Government issued its 25 Year Environment Plan last year, but can we as District Council begin to look now at where we can have an impact straightaway, however minor, on these huge issues, to reassure our residents that we are aware and willing to act, changing current best practice if need be.

Reviewing management of green space and grounds maintenance regimes to provide opportunities for pollinators to thrive, focussing more on biodiversity? Looking at the

Local and Neighbourhood Plans for opportunities to connect vestiges of wildlife habitat to create corridors to support declining populations? Should all new houses be fitted with swift bricks as standard? Pressing home the message that discarded litter impacts adversely on wildlife with environmental costs far beyond that of our waste collection service. Can this District Council within its restricted area of activity help reverse the habitat and food supply loss that together with global warming threaten our very existence?

Working with partners wherever it is appropriate to support initiatives? Taking advice on what can be done now, from the many charities and other organisations who are suggesting ways of reversing these increasingly alarming trends?

Do you agree with me that there is now an urgency to act and be seen to act, at all levels, to reverse the threats now facing the natural environment on our planet, as this UN report states ?”

Councillor Gillian Bardsley

Gainsborough North Ward