

MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL – 2 March 2020

AGENDA ITEM 7

QUESTIONS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9

- 1) ***Question to the Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee, from Councillor Jim Snee, Ward Member for the Gainsborough North Ward.***

Throughout the West Lindsey area decaying, derelict, run down Grade 2 Listed buildings are a blot on their immediate environment. They are eyesores, frequently in central locations, which do **no** favours for the local economy. The negative vibes extruding from such buildings (like the former Lea Road School in Gainsborough and the HSBC bank in Market Rasen to name just two) create a level of despondency amongst locals and visitors, causing them to hurry past and move on - taking their patronage elsewhere. The results are areas of decline, which are not conversant with the WLDC and LCC objective of promoting a 'visitor economy', as expressed in the Central Lincolnshire Plan and other officially approved documents.

The physical state of these buildings is usually one of decay and disrepair. They become magnets for the adventurous and inquisitive minds of young people, and also act as 'safe havens' for the vulnerable of today's modern society. They are a clear health and safety risk, which can not be tolerated by The Council and Residents of the district. It is surely a major blessing that the exceptional winds and rainfall of the recent storms, Ciara and Dennis, did not create significant damage to the buildings, infrastructure or more importantly members of the public.

Despite the obvious negative effect these buildings have on our communities there appears to be **no** district wide policies, development plans or financial grant schemes to address the problems created by them.

What is being done to address this lack of policies, on restoring declining listed buildings, and what progress is envisaged to ensure an acceptable, high standard **for all** communities within the district of West Lindsey?

Councillors and residents need to be aware of these policies to be reassured that WLDC is seriously tackling the declining areas of our community, and is taking every available measure to bring about improvements. Even if they do not fit into the 'enterprise', economic affordable model of a balanced budget.

Thank you

Cllr Jim Snee

2) Question to the Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee, from Councillor Matt Boles, Ward Member for the Gainsborough North Ward.

The return of parking to Gainsborough Town Centre has long been supported by local traders, residents, the Town Council, LCC Councilors & officers and the majority of Gainsborough's WLDC members.

Please could you clarify WLDC's position on the subject, does the authority support the re-introduction of Town Center parking or is it opposed to the proposal?

Many Thanks

Cllr Matt Boles