

POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 OCTOBER 2020

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) Question from Laura Newman to the Leader of the Council (Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities)

- (a) The council originally assured residents of Lundy Close that none of the established trees on the amenity land would be removed if they were to propose building of houses on the land- since the plans have been put out, it appears that approximately 4-10 trees are now at risk of being destroyed for the planning to proceed? Can you please advise why this u-turn has now come to light?**

Thank you for your question Ms. Newman. The Council has consistently stated in resident correspondence and meetings that any potential housing scheme in Lundy Close would be developed with a view to minimise the impact on local wildlife and ensure that the wooded area in the middle of the Lundy Close sites would remain untouched and still available as an amenity space to residents. The recently released indicative feasibility plans are based on the findings of the ecological and environmental studies and do indicate 3 peripheral trees may need to make way for the development however the plans circulated are merely for feasibility purposes and are not the final designs for the site.

It should also be noted that as per previous Council Housing developments undertaken in the Shoeburyness and St Laurence wards, tree replacement will exceed 2 semi or mature trees for every tree removed as part of the development. As well as this, a number of other community improvements will also be included as part of the development.

(2) Question from Laura Newman to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning

- (a) Leader Ian Gilbert stated not long ago, that Lundy Close is NOT designated as a public open space? Why is this? It is not only used by residents of the close but also from people within the wider community, to walk their dogs, have picnics (seen a lot through the nice weather of covid as it wasn't as crowded as other parks and people drove here to actively use it) and to entertain their children/grandchildren. Surely that is the definition of a Public Open Space. Why is Lundy not designated or is this just a loophole for the council to go ahead with the proposed build, despite residents outrage that this space is used regularly?**

Thank you for your question Ms. Newman. Public open space is a specific designation. Southend-on-Sea contains a variety of spaces which fall into several classifications including highway verge and council housing amenity space. How an area is used does not automatically classify it as public open space and the area at Lundy Close is an amenity area associated with the council housing and as previously confirmed not designated as public open space.

