

To: All Members of the Council  
(Other Members for Information)

When calling please ask for:

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**Policy and Governance**

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Date: 20 July 2020

Dear Councillors

COUNCIL - 22 JULY 2020

I refer to the agenda for the Council, on Wednesday, 22 July 2020 and now enclose details of the following agenda items:

6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Pages 5 - 6)

To respond to questions from members of the public, received in accordance with Procedure Rule 10.

**A question has been received from Alfold Parish Council, on behalf of residents of Alfold. This is set out in the attached letter.**

7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

To respond to any questions received from Members of the Council in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.2.

**The following questions have been received from Members in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.2:**

**1. Question from Cllr Mary Foryszewski:**

With the current fiscal situation, can the Leader confirm, following the Chief Executives report that Surrey CC are applying to be a single unitary authority, that no officer time or money will be wasted on a boundary review within the Borough at this time.

**2. Question from Cllr Robert Knowles:**

Can the Leader inform council whether officers or the administration were consulted on the unilateral decision by Surrey County Council to ask the Secretary of State for authority to put the case to become Europe's largest single unitary authority?

**3. Question from Cllr Kevin Deanus:**

Dunsfold Park is situated within the Ward of Alfold, whom I am proud to represent. The planning permission granted to build 1800 homes, and

ultimately, 2600 homes, is the most significant approval in Waverley's history, both in terms of size, but the disruption to local residents over many years.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, some 13 months ago, I emailed the Leader, Councillor Ward, and copied all Councillors, about my concern how the executive planned to oversee the development at Dunsfold Park.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019, when raised at Full Council, the leader stated, "Regular meetings will continue, and we are in the late stages of the process of establishing a Dunsfold Park Garden Village Board".

On the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019, at Full Council, the Leader presented the new Corporate Strategy. He will recall that I spoke on the matter with both dismay and astonishment. I read from the Corporate Strategy, "We shall develop a more open, inclusive approach to communications and decision making", and "we will be an open, democratic and participative Governance, valuing the worth of all residents".

I reminded Councillor Ward that he had failed on all of these Corporate Priorities as I was still waiting for the decency of a discussion about how the Dunsfold Park Governance would work.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019, a Dunsfold Governance Structure was finally presented at Council. I had not been consulted, and my extensive knowledge of the site and surrounding area was clearly not valued, or simply ignored. I pointed out the glaring and obvious omissions. The structure had failed to include the ward member (and members from surrounding wards), the Parish Council, who represent the community at ground level, and members of the public. I reminded Councillor Ward of the Corporate Strategy and how it had failed at every hurdle. Members of the Executive looked extremely embarrassed, and the leader did offer a form of apology, stating it would be sorted.

An informal discussion took place after the meeting, and later I followed this with a further email requesting a resolution. Councillor Ward did respond and promised to send some dates to arrange a meeting. Some 9 months later I am still waiting for this to happen. I also spoken to a member of the Executive, who I will not name, who was embarrassed and apologised.

To summarise my questions are:

1. Since the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to the current date, can the Leader detail the formal meetings with Dunsfold Park senior management he has held regarding the development, and provide me with copies of these minutes.
2. Can the leader detail meetings held within the formal Governance Structure, approved by full Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 to the current date, with copies of the minutes and dates, and additionally, those from the Dunsfold Park Village Board meetings identified and raised by the Leader at Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

3. Having highlighted the blatant omissions regarding participative governance, local engagement and valuing residents, does the Leader believe this is a good example of his Corporate Plan aspirations.
4. As we are now 13 months on, will the Leader confirm he actually will discuss the issue with me and produce an amended Governance structure that includes Alfold Parish Council and Local residents at the appropriate level.
5. Would the leader agree that the community have been dealt with in an unprofessional manner or will he say he is proud of this reoccurring reluctance to engage. After 13 months the issue of local Governance has not been progressed, promises of meetings have been ignored, and the Governance structure from the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 still remains unchanged.

**4. Question from Cllr Richard Seaborne:**

Following recent announcements by Surrey County Council, does the administration agree that in the event that Waverley council is abolished, alternative solutions must recognise that different parts of Surrey have distinctly different characteristics and needs, and that all options for a replacement unitary authority, or authorities OR a combined authority must be fully considered, including options cross border from Surrey, with areas which may have more in common with our area.

**8. MOTIONS**

To receive any motions submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1.

**The Motion set out below is proposed by the Leader of the Council, Cllr John Ward, and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Cllr Paul Follows.**

The Leader of the Principal Opposition Group, Cllr Julia Potts, has confirmed her support for the Motion, and for it being included on the agenda for Full Council.

The Mayor has agreed to accept this Motion for debate at Full Council although it was received after the deadline for receipt of Motions.

The Government has announced its intention to publish a Recovery and Devolution white paper in the autumn and the question of the shape and structure of local government in Surrey is being actively discussed by the County Council and others.

The Motion reads as follows:

***“This Council opposes a single Surrey-wide Unitary Authority; this Council recognises principles of localism many of which are incompatible with a single unitary authority within Surrey, therefore Council, instructs the Executive to urgently investigate alternative forms of Unitary Authorities and the timing of any such reorganisation that may be more advantageous to Waverley and its residents, including any opportunities with neighbouring Counties.”***

Yours sincerely

Fiona Cameron  
Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer

# ALFOLD PARISH COUNCIL

Agenda Item 6.

15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Mr. Robin Taylor  
Head of Policy and Governance  
Waverley Borough Council  
The Burys  
Godalming  
GU7 1HR

Dear Mr. Taylor,

**Re: Public Question for consideration at the Full Council Meeting on 22nd July 2020**

Yesterday Parish Councillors from Alfold were delighted to be able to participate in a Webinar organised by Waverley Borough Council concerning the principles behind Garden Village development. We were encouraged by hearing that these principles include strong local participation at every stage and want to publicly state Alfold Parish Council's commitment to constructively contribute to the development of Dunsfold Park Garden Village (DPGV), where the majority of future residents will be our parishioners.

At a Parish Council Meeting immediately following the Webinar, we noted with great interest the proposal by Officers for a new public consultation to take place on the revised Masterplan. We are already positively engaging with the developer following their own consultation held in November last year. However, participating in a consultation is leaving things too late. We are left with a serious concern and question for the Borough Council; in the two years since permission was given by the Secretary of State, the local community represented by Alfold Parish Council has not been included in any discussions about the detailed shape and timing of this major development. The provision of infrastructure, for example, will have a major impact on our existing community. Governance, thus far, has been through the Waverley Strategic DPGV Governance Board, the DPGV Advisory Group, a Design Review Panel, and continued meetings of the pre-existing Dunsfold Liaison Group. Local people, and the Parish Council, have had no representation on any of these groups.

Our question is; will the Council now consider it time that local Parish representation is invited as a full participating member into the governance and decision-making process, as co-leaders in developing a positive plan for DPGV, and in accordance with national best practice as set out by the Town and Country Planning Association?

Yours sincerely

Julie Flenley  
Clerk to Alfold Parish Council

cc.  
Fiona Cameron

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