

Council 7th March 2018

Item 3 (a) Questions submitted by the Public pursuant to Rule 8 of the Council Procedure Rules.

- i) Question submitted to Cllr Ann Syrett, Leader of the Council by Dorothy Mellors

*There are approx. 20 families in Blackwell who are being encouraged to sell their homes to HS2 Ltd or face compulsory purchase, and those families are experiencing great difficulties in getting a fair valuation from HS2 Ltd, and in finding comparable properties at a similar price level. The consultation documents promised that those homeowners in the Blighted or Safeguarded zone could sell now to HS2 on the basis of a Pre Blight valuation plus 10%. It is quite clear that HS2 Ltd valuations are **not** being made on a Pre Blight basis. One Newton family has already left, suffering a financial loss, rather than face continuing stress and uncertainty.*

Will BDC ensure that HS2 Ltd are pressured to examine the valuation process and reveal the actual valuations being given, in order to compare them with similar property sold prices from 2015?

- ii) Question submitted to Cllr Ann Syrett, Leader of the Council by Tony Mellors

We are told that the North East Derbyshire Council will see significant economic gains from a HS2 train stopping at Chesterfield Station, while Bolsover District will see significant negative impacts economically, environmentally and socially.

Do Bolsover District Councillors agree that there is a conflict of interest for the Joint NEDC and BDC Chief Executive, who is your representative in meetings with HS2 Ltd?

- iii) Question submitted to Cllr Ann Syrett, Leader of the Council by Graham Heasman

I have recently been informed by Councillor Simon Spencer of Derbyshire County Council that they, along with other councils along the route of HS2 have been asked by HS2 Ltd. (which is an offshoot of the Department for Transport) to sign a confidentiality agreement. This may well prevent councils from disclosing to homeowners and council tax payers information that could well be damaging to their communities and place them at a disadvantage in their dealings with HS2 Ltd. and the Department for Transport.

Have Bolsover District Council, or any of its representatives, been asked to sign any such or similar agreement and have any discussions taken place around this subject and if so what is, or would be, Bolsover District Council's position with regard to signing this type of confidentiality agreement?

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Extract from the Council's Constitution

**PART 4
RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Council Procedure Rules

8. Questions by the Public

8.1 General.

- (a) Members of the public may ask questions of members of the Cabinet at ordinary meetings of the Council.
- (b) Time allowed for questions and answers shall not, without the consent of the Council, exceed 15 minutes, or in the case of one questioner, 5 minutes.
- (c) Questions and responses shall not be a matter of debate.

8.2 Notice of Questions.

A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing or by electronic mail to the Monitoring Officer no later than midday seven clear working days before the day of the meeting. Each question must give the name and address of the questioner and must name the Member of the Council to whom it is to be put.

8.3 Number of Questions.

At any one meeting no person may submit more than one question and no more than one question may be asked on behalf of any one organisation.

8.4 Scope of Questions.

The Monitoring Officer may reject a question if:

- (a) it is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the District;
- (b) it is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- (c) it is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months;
- (d) it requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information;
- (e) it breaches any procedure rule;
- (f) it relates to an item on the agenda for that Council meeting; or
- (g) it relates to a District Council planning application that is in the process of being determined.

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If a question is rejected the person who submitted it will be notified in writing before the meeting and given the reasons for the rejection.

8.5 Record of Questions.

The Monitoring Officer will enter each question in a book open to public inspection and will immediately send a copy of the question to the member to whom it is to be put. Rejected questions will include reasons for rejection. Copies of all questions will be circulated to all members and will be made available to the public attending the meeting.

8.6 Order of Questions.

Questions will be asked in the order of which notice of them was received, except that the Chairman of the Council may group together similar questions.

8.7 Asking the Question at the Meeting.

The Chairman of the Council will invite the questioner to put the question to the member named in the notice. If a questioner who has submitted a written question is unable to be present, the question will not be dealt with.

8.8 Supplementary Question.

A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original request or reply. The Chairman of the Council may reject a supplementary question on any of the grounds in rule 8.5 above or if the question takes the form of a speech.

8.9 Response

An answer may take the form of:

- (a) a direct oral answer
- (b) where the desired information is in a council publication or another published work, a reference to that publication; or
- (c) a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

8.10 Reference of Question to the Executive or a Committee.

Unless the Chair of the Council decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Councillor may move that the matter raised by a question be referred to the Executive or the appropriate board or Committee. Once seconded, such a motion will be voted on without discussion.