

Public Question – Parkfield Future Options

Council meeting of Thursday 19th April, 2018

Last week the Overview and Scrutiny debated the future options for Parkfield, the £5m state of the art youth facility in Paignton. Or did they debate its' future and engage in a deep analysis of the options available for the site? The debate was more focussed upon the future location of the Medical Tuition Service and NOT Parkfield.

So, for the benefit of those members who were not present last week let us look at what the options are.

- 1) The relocation of the MTS from its current unfit premises
- 2) An exciting and visionary future for Parkfield that puts it at the heart of delivering a bay wide service for the youth of Torbay. One that reaches out and is inclusive, bringing in the work of existing youth providers such as The Acorn in Torquay and The Edge in Brixham.

Members of Torbay Community Partnerships, particularly Paignton and Preston, have been working on the proposals for some two years. We were keen to work in a positive and engaging partnership with the council and several organisations including the emerging Youth Trust as well as the Torbay Community Development Trust to deliver the original objectives of the MyPlace project.

We would request that the Executive Lead for Children Services provides answers to the following:

- 1) Where is the detailed business case which provides evidence of how the prudential borrowing will be repaid?
- 2) What are the projected income and expenditure costs?
- 3) Where are the detailed internal layout plans for the MTS and Parkfield remodelling?
- 4) What Service Level Agreement, if any, exists that guarantee the future provision and access for the youth of Torbay?
- 5) How will any activities or contracts at Parkfield be awarded or tendered?
- 6) Will you publish the TDA report produced in November that examined options for the MTS?
- 7) Why, despite community efforts, have you refused to properly and meaningfully engage to fully explore the Community plan and sit all interested parties around the table?
- 8) Who will lead the Users Participation Group and what terms of reference will it have?

- 9) Are you fully aware of the possible capital sums available through the Torbay Community Development Trust?
- 10) Is it not the case that the MTS does not have to be registered as is the case in many other areas?
- 11) Can you confirm and produce the reports from Ofsted about their concerns for the local MTS?
- 12) Have options of relocating MTS to a site such as the Studio School been exhaustively explored?

Councillors, if there is doubt or uncertainty in any response to these questions, then members should act appropriately and ask for the decision to be deferred and recommend that an Overview and Scrutiny task and finish group should be established to fully explore the options available.

As ever, your community awaits to be properly engaged.

Darren Cowell