

Extraordinary Meeting of the Council, Wednesday, 19 June 2019
Public Question Under Standing Order A24

Public Question (1) from Sally Baglin to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey).

Torbay Council have failed in their duty to protect an important wildlife corridor within Edginswell. This site was an acre of ancient woodland within Edginswell Lane which has been completely felled. This woodland supported a maternity roost of local lesser horseshoe bats which reside 50 yards away, falls under a Cirl Bunting Zone as identified by the RSPB and many other priority species nested within these woods. I again ask what actions are the Council going to take to ensure this internationally important wildlife site is restored?

Public Question (2) from David Watts to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long).

The Paignton community is deeply concerned to discover that the Council has not yet submitted the application to the Charities Commission that will allow a Trust to be established to progress the restoration and return to use of Oldway Manor.

This is a matter of the highest importance as we are fully aware that current maintenance of the building is being financed from capital that runs out during the next few months and will thereafter fall back onto revenue income that is not currently available. Failure to maintain a listed building in a wind and watertight condition could become a criminal offence under the relevant legislation.

We therefore wish to know from the first meeting of the new Council the answer to the following questions.

First - exactly why the application to the Charities Commission has not yet been made.

Second - exactly how essential repairs to the listed building will be funded when the capital sum currently being used runs out in a few months time.

Public Question (3) from Maggie Loates to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long).

I recently became aware that the application of the Oldway Trust has not yet been submitted to the Charities Commission. I believe the initial Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been completed by DCA Consultants and is ready to go. It is imperative that the Oldway Trust be set up and active in order to submit an application to the NHLF for funding.

The Charities Commission requires approval of the Council to set up the Trust and the NHLF requires the consent of the landowner to accompany the Oldway Trust application for funding.

I would like answers to the following questions to be addressed at the first meeting of the new Council:

1. Why has the Council not yet authorised the setting up of the Oldway Trust and submitted the application to the Charities Commission, and will it provide a date certain by which this will be done?
2. Why has the Council not yet provided the consent letter to DCA Consultants to enable it to submit the Expression of Interest to the NLHF, and will it provide a date certain by which this will be done?

Public Question (4) from Chris Robson to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long).

Can the Council confirm that it will shortly issue a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as required by the Charities Commission confirming that, as Freeholder, it is content to work with “the Oldway Trust” (when established) to seek a long-term, sustainable future for the mansion and estate?