

Tamworth Listens Question Time Event

This year's Tamworth Listens initiative was a question time event held at Landau Forte Academy, Amington on the evening of 26th January 2017. This gave residents of Tamworth the opportunity to ask a panel of the Council's Cabinet questions about Tamworth.

The event was chaired by Mike Thomas, presenter at TCR FM radio and the panel comprised;

- Cllr Daniel Cook, Leader, Tamworth Borough Council,
- Cllr Robert Pritchard, Deputy Leader of Tamworth Borough Council,
- Cllr Stephen Doyle, Tamworth Borough Council, Portfolio holder for Communities & Wellbeing,
- Cllr Michelle Thurgood, Tamworth Borough Council, Portfolio holder for Housing Services,
- Cllr Joy Goodall, Tamworth Borough Council, Portfolio holder for Environment & Culture.

The event was split into three themes;

- Living a quality life in Tamworth,
- Growing stronger together in Tamworth,
- Delivering quality services in Tamworth.

The event was attended by almost 50 residents and businesses and a number of questions were posed by them. Copies of the responses are shown below in order of the appropriate theme.



THEME	LIVING A QUALITY LIFE
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QUESTION	
<p>I live in Dosthill. I have 5 questions for your debate.</p> <p>Q1: Dog fouling is horrendous in the area. What are the council doing about it.? This is dangerous and needs addressing.</p> <p>Q2: Why do the road sweepers start before 7am? They wake people up too early and also the early start means that cars are still parked on the roads so the sweeper only does half the job. Why not wait until 9:30 onwards when most of the cars have all left for work?</p> <p>Q3: Speeding and boy racers in Dosthill. The speeding in Cottage Farm Road is getting dangerous. On the bend by Grayling there is a part where people cross and it's so dangerous someone will get killed. We need speed bumps or cameras down there.</p> <p>Q4: Pelican/Zebra crossings are needed in Cottage Farm Road and Tamworth Road by the park as there are no crossings for families to gain access to the park. How are kids supposed to get to the park safely?</p> <p>Q5: What are the police and council doing about the growing numbers of youths on the streets on their adult mountain bikes with no lights or helmets? They go around kicking cars. When is Tamworth going to get more police on the streets? Crime is rising; anti-social behaviour is getting out of control because of the lack of police.</p>	

RESPONSE
<p>Q1</p> <p>The level of dog fouling in Tamworth is extremely low in comparison with the National averages, Tamworth Borough Councils monitors levels of dog fouling in line with the statutory guidance three times a year and has 96% score, this means that 96% of the land types surveyed are clear of dog fouling.</p> <p>We recognise, however that there are irresponsible dog owners and have recorded complaints from Grayling which have required cleansing and patrols.</p>

Cleansing can only be undertaken on hard standing and the priority areas are the town centre and outside of schools.

We would encourage any member of the public to continue to report levels of dog fouling on public walkways and where possible give intelligence around times of day and/or any owner or dog descriptions. This will allow appropriate patrols as resources allow.

The area can also be checked for appropriate signage.

Where dog fouling is on private property, the Council do not have any powers to enforce Dog Control Orders.

Q2

Streetscene commences work from 6.30am, with the town centre areas and business areas prioritised for sweeping before 8am in order to ensure that the areas are clean when people arrive for work and so that we can gain access with equipment before workers park for the day. Residential areas are indeed programmed to be cleansed when people have left for work and we have more access. With more people living in both the town centre and business areas it is unfortunate but there will be some disruption. It not efficient to wait until 9.30am for all cleansing activities to commence and the vehicle will always have to start sweeping at one particular point.

Q3

There is currently a Borough wide Public Space Protection Order in place which Police officers can enforce should motorists be found to be behaving in an anti-social manner which includes 'racing', speeding or gathering in residential areas.

Speeding can only be enforced by the Police and all incidents must be reported on 101. Any requests to limit speed in areas should be made to Staffordshire County Council

Q4

Staffordshire County Council are responsible for road safety in Tamworth not Tamworth Borough Council. Once they are notified of potential issues they will assess the matter and decide what additional measures if any are required.

Q5

Tamworth Borough Council work with the Police, Fire Service and Staffs County Council and other partners as a member of the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership. Road Safety is a priority for the partnership and cannot be addressed by the Council directly.

Several initiatives are carried out with regard to road safety via Dave Owen Cycles and as part of the Safety Town events in the summer which a number of schools attend at the Fire Station.

The Police are the enforcement agency with regard to road safety concerns

and criminal damage and all residents of concern should report directly to 101 or via 999 if there is immediate danger.

Anti-social behaviour in Tamworth has in fact dropped over the last quarter compared to the rest of Staffordshire and this is widely acknowledged to be part of the partnership approach.

The deployment of Police and number of officers is not something which Tamworth Borough Council can directly influence as this is a matter for the Chief Inspector and Staffordshire Police.



THEME	LIVING A QUALITY LIFE
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QUESTION	
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Could you please tell me, why has Tamworth Borough Council gone against the policy of not redeveloping garage sites if they are more than 50% occupied?
Why then do those sites remain empty, losing the Council close to £400 per month in revenue?
Why has TBC stated that the garages are under-used, but for the past 6 years, the policy has been not to re let empty garages?
Why do TBC Council officials give misleading information when challenged about their policies concerning the garage sites?
Why do councillors give a stock reply when sent an email concerning policy, such as "I will forward it onto the appropriate department and get back to you", but never do or fail to answer email?

RESPONSE

Garage sites are assessed for redevelopment on an individual basis. Typically sites that are over 50% occupied have not been taken forward for redevelopment. However the Council does not have a policy that prevents redevelopment on this criteria. Therefore if a site is over 50% occupancy it is possible that a decision could be made to take the site forward for redevelopment when all other factors are considered.

The Council does not have a policy not to re-let empty garages. Garage sites that are due to be redeveloped are not re-let, as it would be unfair to let a garage that we then repossess. Also we cannot let garages where it would be

uneconomical to undertake the necessary repair or remodelling to make the garage fit for let. The Council has been proactive in seeking to let its garages- indeed prior to Christmas the Council contacted every household who had previously expressed an interest in renting a garage to see if they could be matched with a suitable empty garage.

There are currently approximately 1500 people on the Housing Register who require a home. In addition the numbers of households approaching the Council who are threatened with homelessness is increasing. It is of critical importance that the Council takes every opportunity to make best use its land assets to increase the supply of affordable housing. The Council is currently assessing its investment of retained garages and has allocated resources in its draft Capital Programme to ensure that the Council garage stock is maintained in a manner which ensures it is sustainable.

Sorry to hear that you feel you have been given false and misleading information in relation to the redevelopment of garage sites, this is never the intention of the Council and I believe that we have sought to answer any queries clearly and accurately.



THEME	LIVING A QUALITY LIFE
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QUESTION	
<p>I appreciate that they are the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council but can something positive and speedy be done about the awful state of our local roads?</p> <p>There seems nowhere that does not have potholes, sunken manhole covers, cracks etc. -Quite apart from estate and side roads, what about the condition of vital thoroughfares like Aldergate, Lichfield Street and Upper Gungate?</p> <p>Apart from damage to four-wheeled vehicles, I am concerned about the threat of injury or worse to cyclists and motorcyclists, which would have little chance to avoid these hazards in the dark.</p> <p>What is the position of Tamworth Borough Council in its dealings with Staffordshire County Council? Can't we get one of their wonderful repair machines that they boast about to come to the town and sort things out once and for all?</p>	

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RESPONSE
We work closely with SCC Highways teams to ensure they are made aware of our residents' concerns should they contact Tamworth Council directly.



THEME	LIVING A QUALITY LIFE
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QUESTION	
Can the Leader please outline what safeguards the Council will put in place to ensure that the future growth of the town will not be at the expense of the quality of life for current residents or the level of services they have a right to expect from the Council?	

RESPONSE
<p>The Council's aspirations for growth in the widest sense of the meaning will lead to an improved level in the quality of life for residents. Providing greater opportunities to get on the housing ladder, a range of housing to meet the wide variety of needs, increased number of jobs in the Borough, enhanced leisure offer, and better connectivity within and beyond the town.</p> <p>The Council has a regulatory role too in terms of considering planning applications for development. We consider these in terms of their conformity with our adopted Local Plan. The Local Plan was adopted last year after an examination in public by an Independent Planning Inspector who considered that the Plan met Government Policy and struck the right balance to ensure development was sustainable. This provides the framework for making those decisions on development.</p> <p>Economic growth is a driving factor in the Councils priorities. Increased growth generates more income for individuals and the Council. This additional income is targeted in two ways, maintaining the services expected from the Council and ensuring we can where possible protect the most vulnerable in society.</p>

THEME	LIVING A QUALITY LIFE
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QUESTION	
<p>What more is going to be done regarding the potholes on damaged roads in Tamworth considering Staffordshire County Council has received almost £1.6million from the Government?</p> <p>What proposals are being put in place for cleaning out drains out more frequently to stop the outcome of Flooding?</p> <p>Why is the A5 Bypass always covered in litter on both sides.</p>	

RESPONSE	
<p>Staffordshire County Council is responsible for the maintenance of the public highway in Tamworth, to date Tamworth Borough Council has not been notified of any proposals for pothole repairs following the Government’s announcement of additional funding.</p> <p>The cleansing of all highway drains is also the remit of Staffordshire County Council, once again we are not aware of any increased in cleansing regimes , however the Highways Division can be contacted on 0300 111 8000.</p> <p>Unfortunately there are a many irresponsible drivers that use the A5 bypass through Tamworth who believe it is acceptable to deposit their waste from the vehicle onto the highway. It is an offence to deposit litter under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and anyone caught doing so will be issued with a £100 fixed penalty notice. Tamworth Borough Council is then left with the duty of cleansing this high speed and dangerous road at the expense of the Tamworth resident.</p> <p>We aim to litter pick the A5 three times a year, due to the nature of the road full traffic management is required so that the workers can operate safely, where possible we work with Highways England and combine traffic management resources in order to reduce costs. Each cleanse takes approximately one week and is weather dependant for safety reasons, as we cannot allow staff to work on dark wet mornings.</p>	

THEME	LIVING A QUALITY LIFE
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QUESTION	
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With the budget restraints imposed on emergency services, I would like to ask representatives whether the Police are able to cope with the increase in crime that we are currently experiencing across the town and whether our police managers are requesting more officers to deal with them or are they patching up holes to gain the next promotion?

I understand that the police officers on duty are only able to deal with response with no full time police resources being given to prevention based activity and volunteers having to be used.

Are members of the panel pushing for more police officers? The town is growing in population yet our services appear to being eroded without our leaders doing anything about it.

RESPONSE

Whilst we cannot comment on funding arrangements for the police or their recorded crime statistics, I am able to say we work extremely closely with our partners within the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership (of which the Police are stakeholders), and have even co-located this service within the Councils Offices to encourage close links, cross authority working and sound data sharing where appropriate.

We also have a Community Safety Plan (CSP) funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, targeted towards prevention and early intervention to key hot spot areas and priority themes. The current CSP plan is available on the CSP website and an updated plan will be available in the new financial year.

The Police are already subject to scrutiny and it may be more appropriate to raise this question through the Safer Neighbourhood Panel forum.

THEME	LIVING A QUALITY LIFE
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QUESTION	
With the proposed building of 1200 homes in Amington, what is the Council doing to improve the road network in Amington?	

RESPONSE
<p>Tamworth Local Plan was adopted in 2016 following an independent examination held in public in 2015. That plan allocates land for housing throughout the Borough, including 1100 homes on the site of the former golf course. The plan also identifies through the infrastructure delivery plan the infrastructure required to enable that development.</p> <p>Infrastructure, including roads, is provided by a range of public and private organisations. Local Highways are the responsibility of the County Council and they have identified no major interventions in the highway network in Amington.</p> <p>However, there are a number of site specific measures which have been secured through the planning permission for the former golf course site. These include improvements to the Glascote Road / Marlborough Way traffic island, right hand turn lane on Mercian Way, a pedestrian crossing on Mercian Way, cycle and walking links and the provision of a bus service.</p>



THEME	GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER
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QUESTION	
<p>After having a walk around Tamworth town centre for the first time in 12 months, I was dismayed to see it was just how it was the last time I used it. Rubbish shops, some empty. Tamworth has the magnificent castle and some lovely pubs to eat in, so why not make the shops cheaper to rent and more of a tourist attraction like Chester or York? Little craft shops, local bakeries, gift shops, etc. not card shops or phone shops. We have enough of the big shops to visit at Ventura, so make the town into a town centre again. Maybe more people will visit it then.</p>	

RESPONSE
<p>The Council is aware of the vacancies in the Town Centre and the current offer to residents. Despite perception the current vacancy rate in the Town Centre for ground floor units is 10.6%, which is similar to previous years and below the national average (12%). It is recognised that there are areas where there are groupings of vacant premises and this can portray a more negative image.</p> <p>The Council only owns a very small number of shops in the Town Centre and most of these are let or in the process of being let. The main vacant units are not owned by the Council, so whilst we have made efforts to engage with landlords / property owners, we have little or no influence in setting rents or signing up new tenants.</p> <p>The Council cannot force businesses or individuals to open shops in the Town Centre, as this is all about demand and use from local people. We would actively encourage residents like yourself to visit the Town Centre on a regular basis and explore some of the lesser known niche independents that do exist, similar in type to those you mention in your question. Without footfall and support from residents, the shops can't survive and grow.</p> <p>The Council actively works to create the conditions to encourage people to visit, invest locally and use the Town Centre, some examples are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An annual events programme that attract thousands of people to the Town Centre, including; St Georges Day, Bon Fire Night, Christmas Lights Switch on, The Food Gusto Food Festival.

- Created in Tamworth – a centre to encourage new creative businesses to start up retail led businesses, right in the Town Centre.
- Gateways project - footpath and walkway improvements across the Town Centre to improve access from the railway station and Ventura – Ladybridge / Victoria Road.
- Enterprise Quarter – Town Centre regeneration scheme of circa £6million including redevelopment of Assembly Rooms to make it into a leading Arts Venue, improvements to the library and space around it and refurbishment of Phil Dix Centre into a business enterprise centre, offering office space for 16 new and growing businesses.

The Council is also actively supporting a group of business across Ventura and the Town Centre, who wish to set up a Business Improvement District, where businesses all contribute a small amount of money on an annual basis to a larger pot, to deliver activities to benefit the area.

We'd like to actively encourage people to use the existing strong facilities and shops we have in the Town Centre and speak positively about what is there and not focus on the negative. Hopefully by creating more positive demand in the Town Centre, this will contribute to new shops opening and more people visiting.



THEME	GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER
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QUESTION	
I would love to ask for the panel's views on ways to regenerate the ever declining town centre. I don't see how it can compete head to head with the new Ventura Park development. But reports are that "High Streets" around the country are recovering. From what I see ours is not, and it must.	

RESPONSE
The Council recognises that the Town Centre cannot function in a purely retail capacity as it may have done in years gone by, like everything shopping and retail habits have changed significantly over the last decade, not least with the introduction of online shopping and other technologies. The Town can't, doesn't and shouldn't compete with Ventura, as it has a different and distinct offer. We feel that the Town Centre should instead compliment the offer at Ventura and focus on:

- Independent niche shops
- Improving the night time and food offer
- Getting more people to live and work in the Town Centre.

The Council recognises that some of this responsibility lies out of its control, with property owners, businesses, investors and individuals and is actively working to create the conditions to encourage people to visit, invest locally and use the Town Centre, some examples are as follows:

- An annual events programme that attract thousands of people to the Town Centre, including; St Georges Day, Bon Fire Night, Christmas Lights Switch on, The Food Gusto Food Festival.
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The Council is also actively supporting a group of business across Ventura and the Town Centre, who wish to set up a Business Improvement District, where businesses all contribute a small amount of money on an annual basis to a larger pot, to deliver activities to benefit the area.

The Council is actively engaged with the owners of the former Gungate site, to ensure any development that comes forward meets future needs of the Town Centre.

We'd like to actively encourage people to use the existing strong facilities and shops we have in the Town Centre and speak positively about what is there and not focus on the negative. Hopefully by creating more positive demand in the Town Centre, this will contribute to new shops opening and more people visiting.

THEME	GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER
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QUESTION	
<p>The town centre has seen a decline over many years by various councils led by both main parties. We have seen the reports over the years that meeting after meeting has been held but still the town centre is dying. Ventura is thriving and it's a great way of bringing people into Tamworth but rather than blaming previous councils for not achieving can we please have a simple plan to regenerate the town centre and actually have action to help businesses thrive and bring people back into our wonderful town centre.</p> <p>Let's not have a panel led by councillors to plan or a team from both Ventura and the town centre but let's have people on the panel from the public with passion and vision and local business owners who actually know what people want. The councillors come into it to give support and make things happen rather than thinking of furthering their own careers.</p>	

RESPONSE
Refer to responses to the previous two questions

THEME	GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER
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QUESTION	
<p>There used to be several public toilets in the town. Friends of mine who have travelled to Tamworth by bus find it difficult to get to the toilet; the nearest one is in Ankerside which is quite a way from the bus station and not well sign posted.</p> <p>With several pubs in the town centre now closed, there are no toilets available</p>	

which is very bad for a town of this size.

What can be done about this?

RESPONSE

After much deliberation the Council chose to close the under-utilised toilets at Aldergate, both to save cost and to allow the conversion of the Phillip Dix centre into serviced office accommodation as part of the £6.1 million regeneration of the assembly rooms and surrounding area. Once this is completed it is envisaged the assembly rooms will be able to open more regularly during the day, and will have a café and access to wc facilities.

There are free public toilets in both Ankerside shopping centre and the castle grounds, as well as many cafes, bars and public houses in the town centre all of which welcome trade



THEME

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

QUESTION

Each month we hold meetings at St Editha's Church Hall in College Lane in the town centre for our monthly meetings. These are attended by a guest speaker who brings various bits of equipment so parking close to the venue is imperative.

However, access has proved difficult due to the bollards in Colehill which we were informed would be lowered on request. Access has only been allowed with a great deal of inconvenience and difficulty.

Please look into this matter.

RESPONSE

It is regrettable that the U3A are not able to access Colehill via the bollards for your meetings, however Tamworth Borough Council and its CCTV staff are not able to allow access for any motorists after 11am and before 3pm due to

traffic regulations put in place by the highway authority, which in this case is Staffordshire County Council. To do so would be contrary to these regulations.

Allowing access outside of these hours would set a precedent for other users which may incur liability for the Council and indeed is not in the gift of this council to agree.

Access to private car parks and rear of properties in College Lane also fall within this traffic order (except for Sunday).

If the bollards are not functioning, the liability rests with the motorist as to whether they decide to access the area in the knowledge this is against regulations in force.

I understand your concerns, but given Tamworth Borough Council is not able to disregard traffic regulations, I would recommend further correspondence with Staffordshire County Councils highways team to see if they are prepared to make any amendments.



THEME	GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER
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QUESTION	
What is the Council doing to support local businesses and the residents in those businesses?	

RESPONSE
<p>The Council's Economic Development team work closely with local businesses to provide support and signpost to further support that may be available through others, be that advice, guidance or grants or loans. We are currently developing the Tamworth Enterprise Centre at the Philip Dix Building that will promote the creation and development of business enterprise and job creation within Tamworth.</p> <p>When completed the building will have 16 serviced offices, broadband (network & Wi Fi), 3 meeting rooms with Wi-Fi touchscreen whiteboards, break-out areas and touch-down areas for visitors and, guests. The offices range from 10 sq. m to 36 sq. m and will offer cost-effective business accommodation on inclusive and flexible monthly licence terms.</p>

THEME	GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER
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QUESTION	
What is the expected increase in footfall once the works are finished at the Tamworth Enterprise Centre?	

RESPONSE
<p>Given the varied nature of the project it was not possible to come up with a meaningful estimate of increased footfall. Some background research into the project indicated that public realm improvements do increase footfall. A report published in 2013 by Living Streets, which reviews some of this evidence, concludes that improved walking conditions can increase footfall and the takings of shops by 40 per cent.</p> <p>The bid for The Tamworth Enterprise Centre states that the following will be delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29.3 FTE construction jobs (gross), • £1.4 million of construction-related Gross Value Added, • 98 ongoing jobs (gross), • £13.5 million of economic value.

Delivering Quality Services in Tamworth



THEME	DELIVERING QUALITY SERVICES
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QUESTION	
<p>Although I give credit to the hard work done by the volunteers at the community radio would the thousands of pounds spent by Tamworth Council on giving TCRFM free transmitter location & electricity each year be better spent on front line services ?.</p> <p>Is it correct that the community radio receives free rent & electricity from the council for its transmitter on top of Strode House & how much is this costing the taxpayer?</p>	

RESPONSE
<p>The Councils Cabinet approved a lease for the use of part of the roof of Strode House for the location of a radio transmitter in August 2008.</p> <p>Given the radio station is a community station and not for profit, Cabinet agreed there would be no charge for the lease.</p> <p>In addition the minimal consumption of electric used would be paid for in kind by the provision of free advertising for Council events and functions, therefore saving the council money on advertising.</p> <p>The station is a fantastic local project. As well as being a passion for many local residents, getting school children on air in their first experience in the studio, it also gives local people the opportunity to get a head start in the media industry. Individuals have gone on to work for radio stations and other media sectors as a result of their experience at TCRFM.</p> <p>So, no I (Cllr Pritchard) don't agree the small amount of money could have been better spent on front line services.</p> <p>It is a very worthy investment in both the community of Tamworth and the future of our younger residents.</p>

THEME	DELIVERING QUALITY SERVICES
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QUESTION	
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Recently the Conservative led Surrey council said, it was left with no choice but to increase council tax by 15% because of cuts in funding by central government.

Just how far off is Tamworth Borough council from being forced to do this?

RESPONSE

Absolutely nowhere near.

Since around 2006 to today the Conservative controlling group has had every single thing Tamworth Borough Council does under review. We changed it, we downsized, we privatised it, we brought it back under the public umbrella, we re-structured it, we re-aligned it, re-financed it and more.

These decisions are now paying off. We are on a good route to self-sufficiency from government money without cutting services.

Councils who ranted at all that would listen since austerity started are in trouble today, not Tamworth Borough Council because we didn't play politics, we played town management with a long term view.

THEME	DELIVERING QUALITY SERVICES
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QUESTION	
<p>We have a council dwelling Rental Income of £21 Million, but set against this we have an item “Supervision and Management” of £6 Million (nearly 30%). It would seem that, as a proportion of rents collected, the top eleven employees are not alone in doing well out of us taxpayers.</p>	

RESPONSE		
<p>‘Supervision and Management’ refers to costs associated with the management of council housing as opposed to specifically the salaries of supervisors and managers.</p> <p>A breakdown of the Housing Revenue Account for 2015/16 is shown in the table below:</p>		
Expenditure Breakdown		Total Cost 2015/16 £
Employee Expenses	Staffing costs – Salaries	2,416,972.52
Other Service Expenses	Running costs – grounds maintenance, electricity, lighting, road maintenance, insurance etc.	1,646,015.97
Retirement Benefits	Pension costs	248,103.70
Support Service Recharge	Professional support from Finance, HR, ICT etc.	1,964,539.45
Grand Total		6,275,631.64

THEME	DELIVERING QUALITY SERVICES
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QUESTION	
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For each house where planning permission is granted on an application for 4 or more houses, about £12,000 from the Applicant and £9,000 by the Government is paid to Tamworth Borough Council: that makes roughly £21 Million per 1,000 houses.

Can the Panel advise which part of subsequent years' accounts specifically, we will be able to keep a close eye on in respect of what happens to all of this massive influx of planning applications cash?

I hope that because these sums are so large, they will be kept in detailed focus by both taxpayers and auditors – and perhaps even generate the dismissal of suggestions that Council Tax need be increased, at all, for some significant period?

RESPONSE

Planning applications to the Borough Council generate a planning application fee. This fee varies depending on the type of application and the size of proposal. For example, a full planning application for a residential property is £385 per dwelling (up to 50 dwellings). This fee goes towards the cost of determining the application including officer time, publicity, site notices, councillor time at committee etc.

Some planning applications are subject to a section 106 agreement, which is a mechanism which makes a development proposal acceptable in planning terms that would not otherwise be acceptable. Planning Obligations are used for three purposes:

- Prescribe the nature of development. For example, requiring a given portion of housing is affordable,
- Compensate for loss or damage created by a development. For example, loss of open space,
- Mitigate a development's impact. For example, through increased public transport provision.

This may result in a payment to the local authority but this is linked and should

be used for what is needed to make the development acceptable. For example, the provision of play equipment.

In the future the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will replace the majority of s106's. The CIL will raise monies from developers to be used to fund infrastructure provision or improvement required as a result of development. In September last year Cabinet approved a rate of £68 per square metre for schemes between 3 and 10 units and developments of 11 or more units the rate would be £35 per square metre. This proposed rate will be subject to a public examination later this year before it is hopefully adopted before the end of 2017. Monies received and spent on both s106 and CIL will be reported on annually.

New home bonus grant is calculated based on the average council tax for 2015/16 which is £1,529.56 - and Councils in the future will receive this amount annually for 4 years (under the revised scheme from 2018/19). District Councils receive 80% (County 20%) which equates to c. £1,224 p.a.

1000 houses would therefore generate £1.224m p.a., **£4.896m over 4 years**. The latest budget report **transparently** each year sets out our new homes bonus forecasts - for the next 5 years:

Base Budget	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
New Homes Bonus	£	£	£	£	£
Revised forecast	373,156	331,365	667,177	754,150	870,767
<i>Revised Risk Weighting applied</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>50%</i>

This is used to support the General Fund budget – in lieu of the 50%+ (£3m p.a.) cuts in government grant since 2010/11.

The new homes bonus is also detailed within the annual accounts.

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