

Formal Council Questions and Responses

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1 Question to the Cabinet Member for Streetscene : 2019/3 - Demolition of wildflower meadow at Great Oaks Park

Councillor Chris Evans asked:

Dear cabinet member, please see below, can you explain how this happened on your watch? how much money as been wasted - establishing the bee garden, officers time, wages only for it to be destroyed a few weeks later, also, can you answer:

- 1) how did this happened? surely there was a hand over period between one officer leaving and another starting?
- 2) why didn't the line manager know about the establishment of the bee garden and prevent its distraction?
- 3) why weren't residents informed?
- 4) will a apology be issued and delivered urgently in the area? signed by you, as the cabinet member
- 5) can you confirm if and when the bee garden will be restored?
- 6) that it will be restored, at no expense to residents?
- 7) that it will be restored without the assistance of locals, many work full time and may find it difficult to again commit
- 8) that adequate records will be kept in future to ensure this doesn't happen again
- 9) that, the bee garden will be maintained by the council at no extra cost to residents
- 10) As the cabinet member were you briefed on this?

Regards

Chris

Councillor Roger Jeavons responded:

The area was needed by the contractor as part of the resurfacing works, public notices regarding the resurfacing have been publicised on site and in the local paper. Once the works are complete the area will be reinstated by the contractor as normal for such works. The is no additional cost to the council and the site will be returned to its previous state and maintained.

I can confirm that I was briefed on the resurfacing works, but the detailed operational plans of contractors would not be part of a cabinet member briefing and dealt with at junior officer level.

The countryside officer has recently begun work on the establishment of bee friendly sites and information will now be held within the team to plot the locations of the bee friendly sites.

