

## **Councillors Written Questions to Cabinet Members and the Responses**

1. From Councillor Irvine to the Cabinet Member for Housing?

Question –

*Please give figures concerning the sale of Council houses as under:-*

- a) *Number of houses sold.*
- b) *Market value of houses sold.*
- c) *Discount allowed as an amount and as a percentage.*
- d) *Number of houses sold below historic cost and amount below such cost.*

Response –

*The position at 1 December 2017 was:-*

- a) *£10,933*
- b) *£621,295,292.50*
- c) *£264,759,100.75*
- d) *753, & £4,770,472*

2. From Councillor Crow to the Leader of the Council:

Question –

*Crawley Borough currently elects its Councillors over a four year cycle in a system known as 'elections by thirds' where a third of the Council is up for election in three years out of four, with the fourth year being the all-out West Sussex County Council elections where the whole of the County Council is up for election.*

- a) *How much does it cost Crawley Borough Council to run and administer its own local elections under the current system of elections by thirds for an entire cycle of three years of local elections?*
- b) *Over the same time period, what is the estimated cost for Crawley Borough Council to run and administer its own local elections under a system of all-out elections where the entire Council is elected every four years?*

Response –

- a) *The total cost to the council of the last complete cycle of thirds local elections (2014-2016) was £201,301. Each of the three elections was combined with a national election.*
- b) *- The estimated cost of a stand-alone all out Crawley Borough Council election is £120,892.*

3. From Councillor Jaggard to the Leader of the Council:

Question –

*A recent Fawcett Society report titled "Does Local Government Work for Women?" found that Crawley Borough Council is one of only 9 councils out of 306 nationally, that has no female councillors currently serving on the cabinet. The Crawley Observer online also recently reported that no female councillors at all have been*

*appointed to the cabinet since the current Labour Administration took office in May 2014.*

*Since the Local Government Act in the year 2000 when the Leader and Cabinet system was set up:*

- a) *In what year was the last female Councillor appointed to a Labour Cabinet at Crawley Borough Council and in what role?*
- b) *In what year did a female Councillor last serve in a Labour Cabinet and in what role?*

Response –

- a) *Councillor Brenda Smith was appointed to the inaugural Cabinet, then called the Executive, in 2000 as the Executive Member for Community Engagement. Cabinet appointments are made on a gender-blind basis, with portfolios allocated to those best suited for taking on each role.*
  - b) *Councillor Brenda Smith left the Executive and her role as the Executive Member for Community Engagement in 2002. From 2006 to 2014, Labour was in opposition at Crawley Borough Council, however the Shadow Cabinet contained female representation for all except the last few months of that period.*
4. From Councillor Guidera, to the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

Question –

*It is my understanding that there is a covenant on the war memorial that we call 'the memorial gardens'. This covenant says that business may not be carried out on the land, nor money made from it, nor may it to be built upon, nor may it be disposed of without permission from the Charity Commission. The development plans we've seen indicate that the bandstand will be placed within the memorial gardens, along with the foundations needed and that surely constitutes being 'built upon'. Has Crawley Borough Council sought the permission of the charity commission for these planned works?*

Response –

*In 1921 the Memorial Gardens were conveyed to the Council's predecessor authority by Sidney Matthews to be held by it "as public grounds for the purposes of the Recreation Act 1859 (creating a charitable "trust"). The effect of the "trust" is that the Memorial Gardens must be used as open public grounds for the resort and recreation of adults and as a playground for children and youths. It is considered that the provision of the bandstand would be incidental to the recreational use and in keeping with the use of the Memorial Gardens as public grounds for the "resort and recreation of adults" and would therefore not be a potential breach of the terms of the trust. Formal consent of the Charity Commission would be required for any sale lease or transfer of any part of the gardens.*

*In addition to the trust status the Council's land title to the Memorial Gardens refers to a number of historic restrictive covenants which were imposed when the Memorial Gardens were sold in 1920. In general terms (subject to being legally enforceable) these covenants prohibit the use of advertising boards, restrict dangerous, or offensive activities and prohibit the sale of beers, wines and spirits*

and any other trade or business. It is considered that the proposed relocation and use of the bandstand within the Memorial Gardens would not be deemed to be a breach of these covenants.

5. From Councillor Burrett to the Cabinet Member for Housing?

Question –

*"In 2012 the Government relaxed the rules on the use of capital receipts from Right To Buy housing sales by allowing local authorities to keep a greater share of those receipts on the condition that they would be used to fund the provision of new affordable housing on a 1 for 1 match-funding basis, but with the proviso that any such capital receipts which were not spent within three years of their receipt would have to be paid back to the Government with interest.*

*For each of the following financial years, please state the amounts of such receipts which have had to be paid back to the Government due to the Council failing to use them for the provision of new affordable housing. Please also provide separate totals for any interest which has also become payable as a result.*

- (i) 2012/13
- (ii) 2013/14
- (iii) 2014/15
- (iv) 2015/16
- (v) 2016/17
- (vi) 2017/18
- (vii) 2018/19 (projected)"

Response –

	<i>1-4-1 repayment</i>	<i>Interest</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>2012/13 actual</i>	£0	£0	£0
<i>2013/14 actual</i>	£0	£0	£0
<i>2014/15 actual</i>	£0	£0	£0
<i>2015/16 actual</i>	£0	£0	£0
<i>2016/17 actual</i>	£0	£0	£0
<i>2017/18 projected*</i>	£1,236,676	£190,370	£1,427,046
<i>2018/19 projected*</i>	£0	£0	£0

*\* projections are based on forecast spend of relevant projects in the capital programme as reported in 2017/2018 Budget Monitoring – Quarter 2.*