

# QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE COUNCIL ON 22 MARCH 2022

## 1. Councillor Susan Sullivan, Chairman, Springfield Parish Council – to be put in person

The Springfield Parish Council (SPC) governance working group has reviewed the responses to our comments at earlier stages of this process.

SPC continues to object to the way that the consultation was carried out and wish that this objection is put on record. SPC members and officers are not experts on governance processes and requested that an officer of the City Council took time to explain it in person to SPC members, but this was denied. As a result, SPC were not able to request an option to remove properties from the parish in the second consultation stage, despite a number of residents suggesting this in SPC's informal consultation with its residents.

It seems extraordinary that a threshold for an acceptable number of responses was not set at the start of the process. The result of this is that a decision to make radical changes to SPC is based on the responses of fewer than 1% of Springfield's population of over 20,000 people.

SPC has the following questions.

- Will the City Council guarantee that ratepayers will not have to pay additional increases in council tax as a result of the changes?
- How will the assets of SPC be divided up?
- How will the contract and other liabilities of SPC be divided up?
- Will the City Council fund HR/legal support for the possible officer redundancy considerations and cover the costs of the redundancy?
- Will the City council provide the legal expertise and fund the negotiations with the Charity Commission and lawyers to reshape the trusts that run the community buildings in Chelmer Village and Beaulieu?
- How will the representatives of each new parish be selected?

## 2. Julia Jeapes

I am a Beaulieu Park resident and have never received any literature asking for my opinion on the changes being proposed, perhaps one of the reasons for the very low to pointless consultation figures that are now being used to justify the changes. Even those residents who may have been lucky enough to have been asked their opinion will not necessarily have had the full information about the implications. These relate to the cost of the proposals, please could the following question be asked;

It is clear from the minutes of Springfield Parish Council that the Beaulieu Community Centre is loss making and is heavily subsidised by the parish.

Will the Community Centre be transferred to the new Beaulieu parish?

Will the City Council guarantee that no resident of Beaulieu Park will pay increased rates as a result of the proposed change?

I also wish to register my objection to the proposal.