



FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council 22 April 2021 Questions under Standing Order 2.12

Questions by Councillor P J Davies:

1. Is the Executive Member for Housing aware, that within Fareham North West, there are three council blocks of flats, each containing 12 one bed flats and 12 bedsits and that there are intermittent social problems in these blocks of flats, so can he assure me that the CCTV cameras on each, as advertised, are still active and the footage is looked at, when relevant?
2. Does the Executive Member for Housing consider that the bedsits in these blocks provide the kind of accommodation appropriate to the 21st century in Fareham and that regeneration is urgent and can he indicate when this will start at one of these blocks (Menin House)?
3. Is the Executive Member for Housing aware that the 'bin areas' in these three blocks of flats and bedsits, are frequently used as an informal tip and that the cost of a refuse vehicle making special journeys to clear the 'bin areas' is charged to the Housing Revenue Account and thus tenants' rents?
4. Would the Executive Member for Housing agree that this would be an appropriate use of the CCTV cameras to try and discover the tenants involved in illegal tipping so they could be charged directly, rather than a charge on all tenants?

Responses by the Executive Member for Housing:

1. I can give full assurance that the CCTV at each of the blocks to which Councillor Davies is referring is in full working order and footage is reviewed when incidents are reported.
2. In March we adopted the Fareham Housing Regeneration Strategy and in that we recognise that some Council homes are not to a standard that we are happy with. Some properties, like Menin House, will suit redevelopment whereas others will have to be addressed as part of our ongoing upgrades and

maintenance programme. We would welcome a solution to Menin House sooner rather than later but we also have to recognise that these flats are currently peoples' homes. It is only right that we take the time to work with those occupants to ensure the process is as painless as possible for them, whilst also ensuring the replacement properties are well designed and financially feasible. I am hopeful that Officers will be able to prepare and submit a planning application for Menin House during this financial year.

3. Dumping of excess rubbish in our bin stores across the Borough has unfortunately become more prevalent during the pandemic and when reported, the Housing Team has arranged for Streetscene colleagues to attend and clear the area. Where individuals are identified, they are invoiced for the costs incurred, however where identification is not possible, Councillor Davies' assertion that these costs are recharged to the Housing Revenue Account is correct. I can assure Councillor Davies that the Housing Team regularly reminds tenants and leaseholders of their responsibilities to dispose of rubbish in the proper manner through a variety of communication methods.
4. I can assure Councillor Davies that the CCTV footage is used for this purpose, indeed very recently an individual who fly-tipped a large quantity of waste in the bin area was identified using the CCTV and has been sent a bill for the costs incurred by the Council to remove it.