

REIGATE AND BANSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 23rd July 2015

Public Questions

None

Questions by Members

Question by	To be answered by	Subject
Councillor A.C.J. Horwood	Leader of the Council (Councillor V.W. Broad)	Archaeological studies, North West Sector, Horley
Councillor J.C.S. Essex	Executive Member for Planning and Development (Councillor T. Schofield)	Development Management Plan: landscape, green infrastructure and biodiversity

Council Meeting: 23rd July 2015

Councillor A.C.J. Horwood will ask the **Leader of the Council, Councillor V.W. Broad**, the following question:

Archaeological Surveys, North West Sector, Horley

Recently there have been archaeological surveys done on some sites in the North West Sector of Horley. What have been the findings from the local archaeological society? Have there been any sites or artefacts deemed to be of historical and archaeological significance that might be shared with Borough residents in the future, through documented photos, displays and site visits?

OBSERVATIONS

The archaeological excavations at NW Horley are into their fourth week and have been undertaken under the guidance of the County Archaeological Advisor and the Finds Liaison Officer for Surrey and East Berkshire as per the programme of works agreed by this Council.

The works have revealed remains from a number of archaeological periods. Most predominant is localised Iron Age and Romano British settlement remains comprising a number of gullies representing former structures along with pits and post-holes representing outbuildings and refuse disposal. Finds from the Iron Age/Romano British period include animal bone, pottery, a number of coins as well as other domestic finds such as quern stones.

Later medieval activity has also been discovered on the site including evidence of medieval metal working and processing in the form of smelting waste material.

The local metal detecting society has been assisting with the archaeological works and a full report and publication will be made available to the Surrey Historic Environment Record on conclusion of the work, with the possibility a show and tell at a local venue if more significant archaeological remains are discovered.

Council Meeting: 23rd July 2015

Councillor J.C.S. Essex will ask the **Executive Member for Planning and Development, Councillor T. Schofield**, the following question:

Development Management Plans: landscape, green infrastructure and biodiversity

Please can you confirm, that in relation to the Council's production of its Development Management Plans setting out the detailed planning framework for the Borough, that important work currently being undertaken on landscape, green infrastructure and biodiversity will be completed before sites for development are identified, and that the methodology is publicly available and subject to consultation.

OBSERVATIONS

I can assure you that the Development Management Plan will be supported by a thorough and robust evidence base – we will need this if we are to satisfy an Inspector that our plans are sound.

Site allocations in the Development Management Plan will be informed by a detailed assessment of suitability and sustainability, taking account of information about a wide range of constraints including those which you have identified.

These site assessments, including the methodology used to prepare them, will be made available as part of public consultation on the plan.

We closely follow Government guidance on methodologies, where appropriate, and do not consider it appropriate to consult on methodologies in isolation.

The consultation is rightly focussed on the policy decisions we take based on the evidence and the methodologies.