

Public Question Time

Paul Elstone

Question 1

The last Council appointed 3 Rivers Director resigned on the 9th May. This administration has still to appoint a replacement, Director. A Council Director appointment which is key to protecting the interests of both the Council and Mid Devon Residents. Will this administration please appoint someone, with a strong commercial background, as a 3 Rivers Director?

Answer

The administration has not yet taken a decision on this, as previously committed to, it will await the findings of the externally commissioned report before making any decisions in regard to the company, but notes the request.

Question 2

It was stated, in answers to Public Questions at Cabinet, that part of the additional £4.5 million 3 Rivers loan impairment was due to the 3 Rivers Working Capital Account. It has also been stated, by the S151 Officer, that the 3 Rivers Loan interest payments to the Council are paid from the same 3 Rivers Working Capital Account.

This would indicate that 3 Rivers has already, or is forecast to, enter interest payment default and is, or will be, operating while insolvent. Can a public explanation be provided?

Answer

The Council has agreed to fund to completion the development schemes at St Georges Court, Tiverton and Haddon Heights, Bampton, the company can therefore pay all of its liabilities (inclusive of the associated loan interest payments), as they fall due, in regard to these ongoing developments.

Question 3

I have seen that Sales Marketing for the St Georges Court Development has ceased. That the marketing agent Hall and Scott have removed all reference to St Georges Court from their website. Is this development being sold to a Housing Association or similar entity?

Answer

No decisions have yet been made on individual developments or the future of the Company, the administration will wait to receive the externally commissioned report before making any decision.

Question 4

The Government Statutory Minimum Interior Space Standards 2015 were introduced as a requirement to prevent unscrupulous developers from building undersized properties to the detriment of the health and welfare of residents.

The Council has recently approved its own application for the installation of a modular house that, it is believed, falls well below these Statutory Minimum Interior Space Standards. Will Full Council ask for a full investigation into this matter and that any remedial action required is taken to ensure this module meets all housing standards? Also, the modules for Shapland Place?

Answer

No, the council is unable to investigate decisions made by the planning committee.