

QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth:

1. In June 2018, Property Manager of Trinity Estates, Rebecca O’Neil wrote to the Head of Newcastle Borough Council’s Planning department, Mr Guy Benson regarding the failure of Housing Developer, Taylor Wimpey to rectify problems with public open space on the Bluebell Croft Estate, Butt Lane. The developer failed to install public open space to a correct standard and in line with the planning permission granted.

Newcastle Borough Council has failed to enforce planning restrictions in relation to this public open space. Trinity Estates cannot justify completing the works on this public open space via the service charge paid by residents to rectify an issue that will cost up to £30,000. The NHBC warranties in place for the site do not extend to the external common spaces.

Independent soil sample analysis were sent to the Newcastle Borough Council planning department confirming all of the above. The main public open space has sand below the soil, which stands on a heavily compacted substrate. In periods of heavy rain, water pools as it has nowhere to drain. The trees in this area are all dead as the roots cannot penetrate the sand.

Will the Cabinet Member for Planning and Growth take swift action by working with the planning department at Newcastle Borough Council to ensure Taylor Wimpey are held to account over this issue and that they immediately act to resolve the matter?

Cllr Kyle Robinson

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To the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth:

2. Can the Cabinet Member for Planning & Growth please outline exactly how much funding has been secured via 106 agreements for parks and play areas in the Talke & Butt Lane ward over the last two years? Please can this amount then be broken down by each individual park/play area?

Cllr Kyle Robinson

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To the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency:

3. Could The Portfolio holder for Finance & Efficiency inform the Council what mechanism is in place for monitoring the implementation of the Council’s Capital Programme?

Cllr Andy Fear

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