

QUESTION FROM A MEMBER OF PUBLIC

UNDER STANDING ORDER NO.19

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY – 17 JANUARY 2012

QUESTION FROM MR HUGHES

We welcome the establishment of the Forum as a way for Park Home residents to discuss issues relating to the Site Licence. We do have a collective feeling that because we are somewhat separated from the general community by living on a private park, our needs and anxieties are not noticed. People who live in Park Homes are largely in the older age group - Park Homes are ideal for retirement from business life - but we are not ready for retirement from ALL life! So we are delighted that Exeter City Council, particularly our own local Councillors, is showing so much interest and concern in our welfare. We should like to see the Forum become a regular meeting place for people and ideas.

Could it be arranged on a more formal basis, with a clerk to take minutes, a particular topic to discuss and perhaps a guest speaker from a relevant organisation such as NAPHR or the Park Homes Legal Service with a wider invitation to all Councillors concerned with Environmental matters and Park Home Residents concerned in the topic?

Answer

In reply to Mr. Hughes question, I am pleased to learn that representatives from the residential park homes in Exeter found the inaugural meeting of the Residential Park Homes Forum useful. I and the Council, recognise that whilst the many occupiers in the residential park homes share the same needs and concerns of other residents in the City, they also have particular needs in respect of their security of tenure and the management of the park site. It is our intention to continue to host a forum in order for issues to be raised, shared and hopefully resolved. We certainly do wish to invite speakers, such as a representative of the National Park Home Residents Association, and help build up the capacity of park home residents to work with park home owners in resolving issues when they arise.

In relation to the future arrangements of the forum, and whether these can be on a more formal basis, then I think this is something that we would wish to develop jointly with the park home residents representatives, and examine the level of officer support required.