



Public Question regarding market town funding initiative fund – Agenda Item 9

Question from Ms S Bailey, Clerk to Wotton-under-Edge Town Council	Question to Councillor Pickering
<p>“Why is this item allowed to be on this agenda when the information provided by the officers as supporting evidence is factually incorrect?”</p>	<p>It is disappointing that the Town Council feels that the information put forward is incorrect. There seem to be two issues here: that the Town Council is suggesting that they were seeking funds solely for the replacement toilets, and that their funding request has been misrepresented.</p> <p>Regarding the first issue, extensive dialogue was held with the Town Council from May 2018 regarding their priorities for funding and the original deadline for responses was extended as Wotton Under Edge Town Council wanted to hold a further town council meeting, after meeting with officers, to agree their priorities. Indeed, there seemed to be some dissent amongst the members of the Town Council as to whether the toilets were indeed a priority as there are other public toilets available within the town of Wotton Under Edge. It was only once the indicative funding allocations were communicated to the Town Council in September that the Town Council responded that their priority was in fact the toilets. As a result, the bulk of the indicative allocation for Wotton Under Edge has been allocated in 19/20 to reflect the likely timescales for this project. An allocation of £3,900 has also been suggested for 18/19 to reflect the earlier request for funds for the Greenway as this project is well advanced and can achieve spend by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>On the second issue, it seems that the Town Council has perhaps misunderstood appendix A to the report. The columns showing the breakdown of funding per year reflect the indicative allocations, not the funds requested.</p>