



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Question from Cllr Nicholas Housden to Chair of Housing Committee

Stonehouse Town Council recently completing a public consultation on the Ship Inn Site in Stonehouse to see what residents would like to see at the site. This consultation was well participated in, with 9% of the adult population taking part. The results show overwhelmingly in support of community facilities on the site with over 94% of responses voting this way. It is clear the people of Stonehouse whom I represent have spoken on this matter. Can the Chair now confirm she agrees with me that it is time to truly represent the people of Stonehouse whom we are here to serve and remove this site from the HRA Account?

Reply

The District Council is in the process of developing a strategy for the entire canal corridor which will involve key partners and communities across the district.

District Council officers met with representatives from the Town Council to explain this Council's approach to the consultation for the Canal Strategy. At that meeting SDC Officers did not support the Town Council's consultation exercise. In fact, they expressed concerns about its ambiguous wording. SDC is keen to ensure that any future consultation exercises are co-ordinated to ensure we can effectively capture local views on the future of the canal corridor through the Stonehouse area.

The results of the Town Council's consultation on this SDC owned site is noted including the low level of representation. This will feed into the wider consultation for the Canal Strategy which is currently underway. Whilst bearing in mind the limitations of the Town Council's survey, we will take it into account when considering the future use of the site and the surrounding canal area.

As confirmed at a recent meeting of this committee, the site will remain in the Housing Revenue Account and it is expected that a further report on the future proposals for the site and wider area which could include community facilities will be brought back to the committee in the Spring, but this is dependent on the co-operation of a private landowner. We would welcome close working with the Town Council as this progresses.

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