

CABINET – 25 FEBRUARY 2014

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions received from the following Member:

1. From Councillor Nick Hards to Councillor Fatemian

"I understand that the sexual health clinics which provide contraception advice on two evenings a week for Didcot and the surrounding area at Didcot Health Centre, will from 1 April be replaced by a morning clinic and an evening clinic at the Oak Tree Health Centre on the Ladygrove Estate. Please would the Cabinet Member for Public Health explain why these changes are being made?"

Answer

"Public health went out to tender for "sexual health services" at the end of 2013 and the contract was awarded to Oxford University Hospitals Trust (OUHT). The new service will commence 1 April 2014 and will provide an improved integrated sexual health service across the whole of Oxfordshire. This means clinics which could previously only provide either contraception or testing for sexually transmitted infections can now provide both services, thus meeting the changing needs of users in the County.

In commissioning these improved services we have required that the new provider secure premises in geographical locations where previous services were in place."

2. From Councillor Nick Hards to Councillor David Nimmo Smith

"What criteria did the County apply when deciding to preserve in-situ the Roman building at Great Western Park, Didcot, whilst allowing the considerably older and rarer Mesolithic camp and pond barrow to be mitigated, along with the Iron Age village and other well preserved Roman remains and what input did the Didcot community have in mitigation decisions?"

Answer

"The significance of all the archaeological features recorded by the evaluation on the proposed development site were assessed using the Secretary of States non-statutory criteria as set out in annex 4 of PPG16. It was noted that agricultural activity had caused considerable and extensive damage to many of the archaeological deposits and features. The small Roman villa building had also been heavily damaged by both ploughing and the robbing out of the stone walls, probably in antiquity. None of the sites,

including the Roman villa, were concluded to be of national importance or of schedulable quality.

In line with the guidance in PPG16 and local plan policy the then County Archaeologist recommended that a condition requiring that their preservation by record, i.e. the excavation and recording of these features, was attached to any planning permission for the site.

Subsequently the villa site and the other areas of archaeological interest were preserved in situ. This was a decision made by the developer but it was supported by the then County Archaeologist. It was not however a formal requirement of a planning condition or a requirement of the planning authority.”