

EXECUTIVE – 21 MARCH 2024

QUESTIONS

Executive Summary

The following questions regarding The Vyne have been received under Section 3 of the Executive Procedure Rules. The replies by the Portfolio Holder are set out below.

1. Question from Mr Philip Stubbs, Chair of Knaphill Residents Association

“The Vyne, there are known major faults with the building, poorly fitted solar panels, leaking roof, failed heating system, etc. Will the Council confirm that all faults with the building are rectified by their own staff or responsible third parties and accept ongoing responsibility for the building.”

Supporting Statement

“Knaphill Residents Association (KRA) are aware of the transfer of management responsibilities of The Vyne to Dramatize under a CAT and we, as the residents association, hope this works in the best interest of the users of The Vyne. The Vyne is a vibrant and busy community centre at the heart of Knaphill and all residents value it. This transfer of responsibility does not remove the residents concerns, this CAT is a significant step up for Dramatize and we hope the appropriate Council officers and Councillors will retain a watching brief. As you know the KRA organised a petition which basically asked that any changes to the Vyne and to our community transport will not disadvantage the users of The Vyne. This petition gained 1627 signatures.”

Reply by Councillor Ellen Nicholson

“A building condition survey is being completed at The Vyne to give a clearer understanding of the responsibilities under the Community Asset Transfer (CAT). The upkeep of the building is being split as per a responsibility matrix with the Council staying responsible for the fabric of the building. Creating a sinking fund from future income generated will enable the community group to set aside funds to pay for future maintenance requirements of the building. In addition, the Council has made some provision within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) for essential repairs to be undertaken to the community centres to prepare them for transfer.”

2. Question from Mr Philip Stubbs, Chair of Knaphill Residents Association

“The Vyne, can the Council confirm that, on behalf of the 1627 people who signed the petition, the KRA will be consulted on the various steps of the handover of the part of the building being transferred to the NHS and that the current services (such as mother & children sessions) will continue.”

Supporting Statement

“Part of the Council’s plans for The Vyne are to transfer part of the building to the NHS. We deliberately use the phrase NHS and not the name of the owners of the adjoining Medical Centre. It is essential that the current NHS related services, Children & Family Health service, Foot health care, CAMHS, etc are retained. Residents, of all ages, value these services being available locally in Knaphill.”

Reply by Councillor Ellen Nicholson

“Council Officers and Members have been keen to work with KRA on the future proposals for The Vyne. A joint meeting was held in order for KRA to find out about the provision that Dramatize have proposed, which was welcomed. The negotiations with the NHS are still ongoing and as yet, we cannot confirm the details of what is proposed for this space.”

3. Question from Mr Philip Stubbs, Chair of Knaphill Residents Association

“The transfer of the management of The Vyne to Dramatize is a first for the whole of a community centre. Will the Council outline what their role will be after the transfer of control on 1st April 2024.”

Supporting Statement

“The Vyne is a vibrant heavily used community centre and the aim of the KRA is to retain the vibrance of the much loved community centre. This is a first for Dramatize and we will work positively with Dramatize and we hope that the Council will retain an active involvement.”

Reply by Councillor Ellen Nicholson

“Dramatize are taking over the whole of the Vyne, excluding those areas to be leased to the NHS. There will be some changes to the facilities and service offer provided by Dramatize. However, their intention is to continue to offer a hot meal to former day care customers, alongside meeting their own charitable aims to work with people with Special Educational Needs. They will safeguard as many of the existing hirers as possible, whilst needing to deliver a viable business model. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) for community centres will include the Council employing a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Broker to support the transitional arrangements with new transfers.”

Background Papers:	None.
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Date Published:	21 March 2024