

Chichester District Council

Full Council

22 November 2022

Public Questions and Answers Sheet

Question from Jane Towers:

With ref to Agenda item 9 it is no surprise that there were only 8 responses to your request for views on evening meetings. I hesitate to call it a consultation. The only way you would have stumbled across it would have been a couple of posts popping up on social media. There was no engagement with Parish Councils on their flexibility on this. Some of the reasons given against evening meetings, by members, are quite frankly extraordinary. Those responses for, cite the, not unreasonable reasons, that having day time meetings is not conducive to attracting a diverse range of people to the Council, the difficulty for those who are working or have young families and caring duties. A start time of 4pm would do little to address this. A real opportunity ahead of the May elections has been missed. I would like to ask the following questions:

- 1. Will you re run this as a proper consultation ie through Have Your Say, engagement with Parish Councils and other organisations, which would reach a much higher number of people?*
- 2. Can this be reviewed in May 2023 when the Council will have new members who may be a little more responsive to moving in line with practically every other council in the country?*

Answer from Cllr Lintill:

Thank you for your question. The Council carried out a cross party exercise for some months which was made known to the public, parish councils and other organisations in the same way as many other exercises. This consultation was expanded into various social media routes to increase public awareness by the Council press team through that period. A wide range of sources of evidence were taken as outlined in the report and considered by the members involved in coming to their recommendations. It will be open to a future Council to reconsider any matter though no earlier than six months from a previous decision. Any methods of consultation could also be amended if they chose.