

QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

Please return your completed question form to Chief Executive's Business Support, Plymouth City Council, Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth, PL1 3BJ or email ChiefExecutiveBusinessSupportUnit@plymouth.gov.uk

Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Question submitted by: Mark Thomas
To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Cabinet Member for Transport, Councillor Jonathan Drean
To be asked at the next Full Council Meeting: Monday 30th January
<p>Question (to be no longer than 50 words):</p> <p>Considering a representative of STRAW Plymouth and the Chair of the Plymouth Tree Partnership were invited to a meeting with council representatives 5 hours prior to the revised redevelopment plans being released, is it fair to say the council had no intention of seriously taking on board concerns and criticisms?</p>
Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question? Yes
<p>Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)</p> <p>On the contrary to the suggestion in the question, once all the information was available from the design team in early January as Cabinet Member for Transport I gave an instruction to officers to immediately invite representatives of 'STRAW' and the Plymouth Tree Partnership to a meeting with me to discuss the modified designs for Armada Way. This invitation was sent on 16th January 2023 at 13:59. At 16:31 on 16th January 2023 there was a reply from the Plymouth Tree Partnership indicating that a representative from 'STRAW' was unable to make the meeting which had been</p>

arranged for 11:30 on 19th January 2023. A reply in response to that indicating that the meeting would be re-arranged was sent at 16:43 on 19th January 2023.

Since the pause I announced at the City Council meeting on 21st November 2022, detailed design work to address the concerns set out in the petition has been on-going. We have also had the Christmas break in between. There would have been little point meeting with the campaigners until the design work looking at how many of the existing trees could be retained had been properly and thoroughly completed. I also wanted to make sure that any technical questions that arose could also be answered and that was not possible until the design work had been completed.

I published a modified plan on the City Council's web site on 19th January 2023, in accordance with the commitment I made to the City Council on 21st November 2022.

I have said all along that I would meet with the campaigners and I re-iterate that commitment again.

It is therefore not at all fair to say the council had no intention of seriously taking on board concerns and criticisms made of the Armada Way scheme because that is exactly what we have done by completing the design work as quickly as we could during the pause I announced last year.