

## Questions from 2 October

At the last Forum attendees were invited to note their outstanding questions. We have compiled answers to these questions below

<p>Provision of non-paved parking to allow for drainage?</p>	<p>Planning permission is not required if a new or replacement driveway of any size uses permeable (or porous) surfacing that allows water to drain through, such as gravel, permeable concrete block paving or porous asphalt, or if the rainwater is directed to a lawn or border to drain naturally.</p> <p>If the surface to be covered is more than five square metres, planning permission will be needed for laying traditional, impermeable driveways that do not provide for the water to run to a permeable area.</p> <p>Please note: the permitted development allowances described here apply to houses not flats, maisonettes or other buildings.</p> <p>See link to the Planning Portal interactive house which is useful if you are trying to understand whether planning permission is needed for various works to your house:  <a href="http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/permission/house">http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/permission/house</a></p>
<p>Will there be any corner shop provisions? Have any retailers committed to occupy?</p>	<p>The Bovis proposal includes the provision of small retail units. At North East Bexhill it is for the developer to seek retailers for their proposed units. No specific retailer has yet been identified and no planning permission has been requested.</p>
<p>Kiteye Wood is a scout campsite frequented by 6 to 18 year olds – what is going to be between the boundary of Kiteye and the road which is very close?</p>	<p>An objection from the Scouts on this point, explaining why they believe a fence is necessary on this boundary has been received. We expect the applicant (Sea Change Sussex) to respond to this and other objections. Sea Change has the option to alter or add to their proposals in response. Objections such as this one are material considerations and will be taken into account in the decision-making process.</p>
<p>Should it be agreed in the future that the number of new build houses has to be reduced, would that have an immediate impact on the building of the North Bexhill Road development?</p>	<p>The road itself is first and foremost to open up already allocated employment land north of Sidley, while also relieving Sidley high street from the build-up of through traffic as the town grows. While the Local Plan Core Strategy involves significant housing growth, it is still less than the full demand for housing, so this is a very unlikely, if not remote, scenario.</p>

<p>NHS surgeries and dentists?</p>	<p>The responsibility for doctors and dentists is with a combination of NHS England (surgery contracts) and the local East Sussex NHS Trust. Local doctors' surgeries in Bexhill have advised that they have the capacity to expand to accommodate the expected increase in patient numbers.</p>
<p>In view of the loss of leisure facilities (ie Sidley football and cricket club site) what do these building companies offer by way of playing field facilities?</p>	<p>The Council has received an application proposing housing on this site. No decision on it has yet been taken. A key determining issue is the impact of the loss of this leisure facility. The developer has offered a contribution of £350,000 to improve other existing facilities in mitigation. The consultation period is currently ongoing and the views of local people, and the advice of our parks and amenities officers and Sport England, will be very relevant in considering the proposal. The Council points out that its planning policy for recreation grounds is to safeguard such facilities against development, except where it results in improved provision, in terms of quantity and quality, elsewhere in the locality.</p>
<p>How all of these developments are going to affect secondary education provision and give Bexhill real choice instead of merely increasing the size of the existing 'solo' school?</p>	<p>The County Council plans for sufficient school places and does this based on the Council's Local Plan policies. They have advised that the existing secondary schools have sufficient capacity to meet the projected needs of all of the new housing planned for up to 2028. There are no current plans to increase the size of either of the existing secondary schools.</p>
<p>Plans to attract more inward investment to the town from businesses and large companies?</p>	<p>The provision of attractive, modern business space is a key part of plans for Bexhill, including both that adjoining the Bovis development, for which Sea Change Sussex has planning permission, and further large sites to the west of the Link Road, that will be opened up by the new road it is currently seeking permission for.</p>
<p>Proposed housing development along North Bexhill Access Road?</p>	<p>The Council's Local Plan Core Strategy envisages development in this locality, but this is not yet at the stage of identifying site specifics. Draft proposals for development – and for open spaces and supporting infrastructure, should be prepared for public consultation by next Spring.</p>
<p>The stopping up of Watermill Lane South – why can't the roundabout include an access to Sidley – this was not really discussed at all – more traffic will go through tiny Freezeland Lane as well.</p>	<p>This point has been noted. Rother will be advised by the County as Highway Authority on this issue and it will be considered as part of the decision-making process.</p>

<p>Cycle ways?</p>	<p>The County Council is working-up plans for a Bexhill walking and cycling strategy. At this stage they are liaising with key groups such as the Bexhill Wheelers, local schools and Bexhill Hospital, as well as council officers and councillors. When ready, they will consult on these proposals more widely. Developing a cycling and walking strategy for Bexhill is an important part of the strategy for Bexhill and for the approach to the design of new developments such as North East Bexhill. Bovis's proposals include shared cycle- and foot-ways on busier roads, and leisure routes through their proposed open spaces, which would link up with routes planned for Bexhill.</p>
<p>Will social housing be of equal external appearance to the housing – ie not stand out? % of affordable housing?</p>	<p>Council policy is that the external appearance of dwellings is the same whether it is market or affordable housing. The Barratt planning permission (next to Pebsham) accords with this. The proposals by Bovis do not differentiate between market and affordable housing. (This application is yet to be determined.)</p> <p>In Bexhill new housing schemes of 15 or more dwellings should include 30% for on-site affordable housing (Policy LHN2 of Core Strategy 2011-2028).</p>
<p>Has a public transport provider committed? Public transport frequency, daily start and finish times?</p>	<p>Yes, the Council developed its masterplan for North East Bexhill with the advice of Stagecoach. They have advised on the financial support they would need to establish viable services through this new area. This is discussed in the Barratt planning application committee report (RR/2014/1223/P) and contributions to its provision have been agreed with Barratt as part of their planning permission. The Council would expect Bovis to agree to similar pro-rata contributions to initially fund bus services for their application to meet planning policy.</p> <p>Public transport operators such as Stagecoach and Southern Trains are responsible for timetables: in North East Bexhill the developers will provide monies to ESCC to pump prime a new bus service.</p> <p>East Sussex County Council also has a role in organising a Quality Bus Partnership, currently in Hastings, and soon to be expanded to Bexhill, then rural Rother – this looks at improving bus services in the local area.</p>