



Members of the Public's Questions to Council

Question from Marcus Dixon to Chair of Housing Committee

Why is the Ship Inn site included in the HRA budget when there are no feasible or practical plans for housing on this site and there has been an established desire for community use including Stonehouse Town Council Design Statement documented in 2005?

Question from Debbie Curtis to Chair of Housing Committee

Why, in the Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 – 2024/25, does a budget continue to be included in the Capital Programme, for the provision of new-build housing on the Former Ship Inn site when the community consultation on this stretch of the canal as part of Phase 1B hasn't yet taken place - this site is a key strategic location on the canal in Stonehouse and has been identified in the Cotswold Canals Connected Activity Plan as a potential access gateway between the town and the canal?

Reply to both questions

The former Ship Inn site has been included in the new build programme and Housing Revenue Account budget since March 2016 as an alternative to the original development site at Wharfdale Way. This is now a public open space with wildflower planting, seating and access onto the canal towpath and has been transformed in partnership with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Stonehouse Town Council.

The request that the former Ship Inn site be considered for community use was noted in a report to Housing Committee in June 2019, in which it was stated that 'further updates will be brought to committee, but the budget will remain in the Medium Term Financial Plan for this scheme until a final decision is made'. The report also stated that 'these sites along with the cycle path, woodland and boat house owned by Wycliffe adjacent to the former Ship Inn site, all present a considerable and exciting opportunity to link Stonehouse to the canal and the canal to Stonehouse, with boat moorings along this stretch of the canal'.

The Housing Committee, on December 8th 2020, agreed to recommend to Council that a budget continue to be included in the Capital Programme for provision of New Build Housing on the former Ship Inn site. This recommendation will be considered at Full Council in February 2021.

The Council continues to explore the benefits of opening up a wide range of strategic possibilities, with a variety of positive outcomes along this stretch of the canal, including the former Ship Inn site. This includes housing as well as consideration of other community benefits, maximising the opportunities arising from the recent successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid.

No final plans for this stretch of canal have been agreed. The Council will consult and engage with the community during 2021, as part of the exploration of strategic possibilities referred to above.