

Report on Cheadle Town Council – Virtual Full Council Meeting held on

Monday the 19th of October 2020.

Present Councillors: (With Bracketed initials if they spoke for reference): Ian Plant – Mayor (IP), Ron Locker (RL), Alan Thomas (AT), Jamie Evans (JE), Greg Powell (GP), Richard Alcock (RA), Ian Whitehouse, Hugh Black(HB), Elizabeth Whitehouse (EW), Paulette Upton (PU), Ray Wood (RW), Dave Sargent, Sue Walley, Philip Routledge (PR), Stephen Ellis (SE), Kate Martin (KM), Alex Jackson, Nigel Wood, Rob Slater (RS), Gary Bentley (GB)

Apologies Councillors: Peter Elkin

Clerk: David Mullington (DM)

The following is an [Indexed] transcript of the following sections (with a disclaimer [1]):

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- [Page 8:] Agenda Item 6 – Presentation: Cllr - Miss Sybil Ralphs (SR), Chief Executive SMDC & HPBC - Mr Andrew Stokes (AS) , Executive- Neil Rogers (NR) Cheadle Town Centre Projects
- [Page 10:] Agenda Item 6 – Questions: From Councillors inc question on behalf of residents

DM:

This meeting is, I'm Dave Mullington by the way the town clerk for tonight's meeting.

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So I'd like to say good evening and welcome to tonight's meeting of the full council, the meeting will be initially chaired by the Mayor of the council Ian Plant and then by our chair of the Development Services Committee Councillor Ray Wood. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about a requirement for Cheadle Town Council to use virtual platforms when conducting it's meetings and in order to ensure the accurate recording of meeting of minutes it is preferable standing orders remain in place throughout. Any suspension of standing orders may undermine these objectives and any event. The agenda for tonight's meeting has brought about extended participation and we welcome senior officials from SMDC, members of the local press and members of the public alike. We have 2 members of the public Mr Mark Shaw and Mr David Ottley speaking in the public participation of this meeting. On the agenda as item 5. And these will take the form of a series of questions relating to the Cheadle Town Centre projects. I would advise Mr Shaw and Ottley that whilst councillors may be minded to respond to address your questions at agenda item 5, please acknowledge that it may not be possible to answer your questions directly at this time, however your questions will be recorded and formal responses may have to be given in writing at a later date. This evening we have a presentation from the leader of SMDC Cllr Sybil Ralphs MBE and the Chief Exec Andrew Stokes this is item 6 on your agenda. Please be mindful that this presentation may inform you as to the initial processes undertaken by the District Council in respect of the Cheadle Town Centre Projects but may not answer specific questions, given the extensive consultation period that lies ahead. Councillors will have the opportunity to ask or represent questions after the presentation. In addition to this we are joined by a number of Cheadle residents who have formally requested to attend. This will be in an observational capacity only. It is imperative that the integrity of the virtual platform for this meeting is maintained and operating systems may be affected through excess participation therefore we have limited this participation to a maximum of 10.

Over to you Chair

IP: Welcome to the full council of Cheadle Town Council this evening welcome the officers and Leaders of SMDC, first of all the first item on the agenda is prayers...

(Then the following items are not transcribed: Prayers, Apologies, Declarations of Interest, Section 33 dispensations)

(Item 5)

IP: Public Participation Session we've got Mr Shaw first with the three questions and these questions have already been passed on as David said to SMDC. I don't know whether you wish to read them out again Mr Shaw or whether you just take them as read, hopefully answers will come either from the next session or whether you want to treat them separately.

MS : I'll take them as read Mr Mayor

IP: Thank you, so you're quite willing just to wait and see if the answers come up later on in the presentation?

MS : OK, I'll ask the questions then if I need to make sure they get answered.

IP: You've put your questions in, like the clerk said at the beginning if we haven't got the answers this evening either the Cheadle Town council or the SMDC will certainly get the answers back to you one way or the other. OK

MS: OK

AT : Would it be pertinent to at this point Mr Mayor because I don't think Mr Shaw is aware of our protocol that if he wants to say something in participation he can but once we've done that participation it moves to council and only councillors can speak, he may want to summarize what he wants to say possibly.

IP: OK Thank You.

MS: Yep OK that's fine I'll summarize, I would like to know, why from SMDC the town council wasn't consulted before the town centre plan was produced. I would also like to know why the council wasn't asked for a statement of needs and wants before the plan was produced so that SMDC had an idea of what we as a town would like, and I would like to know how much taxpayers money has been spent on the plan so far including the costs of the consultancy firm involved.

IP: Ok Thank You

MS: Thank You

IP: Do you want to answer any of those questions now? Leader or would prefer just to go through your statement later on? Or Andrew? Or Neil?

SR: Can you hear me now? Thank you very much good evening Mr Mayor, no I think I'll give my presentation and the answers will become clear then.

IP: Ok, thank you very much. The questions received from Mr Ottley obviously we had an abundance from Mr Ottley, is Mr Ottley with us?

AT: I don't see Mr Ottley on the screen

IP Ok.... So if we do the same with Mr Ottley shall we? Obviously SMDC representatives have had both these sets of questions so hopefully it will become apparent a bit later on.

AT: I have Cllr Powell, Mr Mayor

GP: I just want to make it clear there are a number of other people from the community here and I would like them to be given the opportunity to ask questions. Is that possible? I can see there is quite a number of other, ten I think, people allowed from the community can they ask their questions as well. Obviously there was a very tight time scale for some people to get comments in, there is going to be quite a few people who in them ten have probably got questions and a wider group outside that have also got questions so can we accommodate those questions as well from the other people who are present?

DM: Can I advise please?

IP: Yes Thank you David

DM: Unless the questions are on the Agenda we cannot debate or ask them.

IP But were quite willing David, if they want to write them in we can get the relevant answers for them can't we?

DM: Obviously at your discretion as Mayor

IP: OK

AT: I've got 2 more, Cllr Black and Cllr Alcock, I'll take Cllr Black first if I may Mr Mayor?

IP: Thank You

HB: Sorry just to let you know that Cllr Alcock is waving his hand.

RA: We've got no representative on the cabinet who lives in Cheadle it is all made up of conservatives with the same ideas and opinion, cross party representatives would bring a fresh approach instead of this party whip system, there is no democracy on the cabinet. How can 7 people of the same group decide what we have in Cheadle what democracy is there in that? In 30 years on this council it is the most ridiculous idea I have ever heard to knock down a nearly new hospital and build houses on the site is absolutely ridiculous, we're going backwards instead of forwards more houses less facilities, what sort of planning is that?

IP: Thank you Richard it was public participation Richard but we'll just allow that one now.

AT: Cllr Wood, Mr Mayor

RW: Right thank you, well first of all I don't know what Cllr Allcock's doing talking now it's public participation.

AT Correct

RW: As regards Cllr Powell asking if 10 people can speak. Public participation, the idea of public participation is people can come to council and speak, I've never agreed with it being an agenda item, but if people do ring up we've questions, I know it's not going to be very convenient tonight for people to speak but I think as a town council with something like this if people want to ask a question we should allow them to ask that question I know I probably won't be popular with some people but I really think we do. I'm ?mindful? Public participation from this council a number of years ago and there's no point in having public participation if you've got to write in and put it on the agenda, no point at all, the idea is for public to come and voice their comments. And I don't.. the district council or the town council are doing the public any favour by disallowing them to speak. It may take more time but I think they should be given that freedom. And as regards 7

district councillors nobody from Cheadle, we have got the deputy leader just down the road here and the county councillor in Cheadle so we have got some representation supposedly, Thank you.

IP: Thank you Cllr Wood.

AT: Is it worth making, correcting protocol there under the emergency powers that we've got we did ask the public to submit questions if they wanted to take part in the public participation and as such the 2 gentlemen submitted it we haven't had any other questions submitted, that's why those people aren't on the screen and are down to speak so that would probably answer that question. If the council aren't happy with that then we need to change the protocol that we've set up for that. Back to you Mr Mayor.

IP: Thank you. Like I said if the relevant people do want to send the questions in I'm quite happy to get the answers for them. I'm quite easy if people have got reasonable questions to ask I'll certainly let them ask them but like I said before, we may not have the answers for them this evening. So they must appreciate that as well. But obviously if we've got 10 people and 10 more questions, that was the whole idea of sending the questions in first, so we could possibly come back with some answers, but we might not be able to. Have you got anybody showing on public participation David?

AT: No, it's me, there isn't anyone the only questions we've got are the 2 gentlemen's. I haven't got

DM: The only thing I've spotted on the right hand side is and this is directed at the controller Cllr Thomas is now somebody called Dave (D?) with a green circle next to him is that Mr Ottley who's got the other questions potentially.

AT: Is that Mr Ottley?

D?: No I am not it's not, I only recently found out about this meeting I couldn't have actually submitted any questions anyway, I have got a lot to say but I will keep that in abeyance.

IP: Ok. Thank you. Right we'll carry on then.

AT Right I've got Cllr Powell waving frantically at me

GP: Yes. I've just seen Liz Haines (LH) has got her hand up, I think she wanted to ask some questions? Before you move on.

AT: Mr Mayor. Over to you.

IP: Right OK. Liz Haines, you've got a question please?

LH: Hello I'm just under the impression, I didn't realise that you had to actually write the questions before the meeting, I was under the impression I would be able to ask questions here at the meeting. So is it ok for me to ask questions now or shall I just email them all?

IP: Like I said before you can ask the question, dear, but obviously with not having forwarded the question first hand we might not be able to have the answer for you, but there's a possibility we may have and then obviously we will have to get back to you. But if you want to ask the question go ahead.

LH: Yeah, I am happy to ask the question now and then if you can get back to me.

IP Ok. Thank you very much

LH: I've got in the report submitted to cabinet on the 6th October there is a report from Cushman and Wakefield mentioned, and a Cheadle Masterplan is referred to 11 times, how do we obtain copies of these reports? In section 7.11 there are options missing in the Tape Street Car Park section of the report that's publicly available so that's my first question. My second question was, the options appraisal has been mentioned as supporting the local plan and the local plan says in section 7.68 'it's recognised that a proportion of town centre users travel by private transport and need convenient parking places to encourage town centre use', given the Cheadle town plan submitted on the 6th October the report mentions it will be necessary to undertake a review of proposed parking provision what are the alternative parking options available when the land is built on? And then my final question, was what has been the involvement of Mayor Ian Plant and Cllr Gary Bentley up to the point of this report being submitted to cabinet on the 6th October?

DM: Can I advise you on that please?

IP: Yes, Thank you

DM: Cheadle Town Council standing order 1G states that a question asked by a member of the public during a public participation session shall not require a response or debate unless prior notification has been given on the agenda.

IP: OK. Thank you for that. I think they are going to be all relevant questions here tonight clerk so I think we should accept them and you know we want to work with the residents and the people of Cheadle so in my opinion I think we should take them and try and get the best answer to them if possible.

DM: At your discretion chair.

IP: Thank you.

AT: I have Stephen Thomas Mr Mayor

IP: Thank you, Stephen Thomas (ST)

ST: Good evening Mr Mayor. Maybe a declared interest as well I don't know if it's relevant but I am a member of Cabinet office in terms of employment but also a resident in Cheadle. The question relates to the closing of the hospital and the swimming pool and what value does that add to the local community in terms of overall facilities?

IP: Thank you.

AT: I don't have any more hands up or indicating Mr Mayor, so if you want to move on?

IP: Thank you.

AT: Now I have Cllr Kate Martin Mr Mayor, sorry

KM: I think the only thing I would like to raise is obviously my concern for the staff working down at the Leisure Centre and Cheadle Hospital perhaps got to see this in the press and on social media and I am a little concerned that the staff down at the local leisure centre are having to answer questions that they know nothing about so I think it would be nice if they received an email just to.. how they deal with the public during this time. So that's just something from the staff at the leisure centre and the hospital.

IP: OK, Thank you. Just going back to the lady's question regarding I think it was prior notification regarding when the report came out, what myself and the deputy mayor had involvement in, until that report came out I think all councillors only had the one meeting with Cushman and Wakefield, way back in, I think it was November of last 2019 apart from that we've had no communication, no contact with them whatsoever, so until that report came out I was as amazed as all councillors were. I don't know if Gary wants to add anything to it? Cllr Bentley

AT: I don't have Cllr Bentley

IP Right, Is that It for public participation Cllr Thomas ?

AT: There's no other names, no other faces

IP Ok, so we'll move on to item 6

AT: We've got hands being waved, as long as it's public participation we're ok, if it's not public participation and its statements it should come after the meeting. We've got Cllr Bentley and Cllr Routledge. Ok Cllr Bentley first

GB: Can you hear me? Just to say what Ian said, we had a meeting in the Bethel Chapel where we met that company give them our ideas on what we thought might be beneficial to Cheadle and up until that point we'd never seen the report back. So I was waiting to see, same as everybody else, just make that clear thank you.

AT: I've got Cllr Routledge

PR: I just noticed that David Ottley (DO) has joined us now. Just come up on my phone

AT: Cllr Elizabeth Whitehouse I'll come to you. Elizabeth you're live.

EW Hi, Thank you. I have some questions that have been given to me from members of the public so I think this is probably the best place for them. The first question is from a member of my ward and it says will we have access to the swimming pool as part of the transition and final vision for the town, the pool is vital for my disabled daughter where she can access therapy as part of her EHCP plan. The second question is does the Royal Oak feature on any of the High Street regeneration plans and the third question is not related to the plan but it is public participation, when is the SMDC desk at the library going to reopen?

IP: Thank you. Have you got Cllr Slater on there?

RS: I just want to know who thinks it's beneficial to lose the leisure Centre and Cheadle Hospital?

AT: Can we do that under the relevant bit I'm afraid..

RS: You've just brought that up, one or two have brought that up...

AT: It's in Public participation and not in the Agenda

IP: The questions that Cllr Whitehouse has brought up are questions from Public in the Participation session. We will get back to you Cllr Slater during this meeting.

AT: Mr Mayor do you want to go back Mr Ottley now he's with us?

IP: Yes, ask him the same question?

AT: Mr Ottley, can you make your video live for us please?

IP: Yes Mr Ottley, obviously we've been through the questions that Mr Shaw produced and he's quite happy just to hang fire until the report... of the presentation has been done later on obviously you've got an abundance of questions that need answering, obviously they might crop up tonight, but if not either Cheadle Town Council or SMDC representatives will get back to you on them. Cause I wouldn't imagine you want to read all 9 questions here this evening. Are you quite happy with that to listen to the presentation?

DO: Yes I'll happily listen to the presentation and as long as we get some sort of answers on them cause it was a little bit concerning with some of the stuff I was listening to.

IP Yes, yes, I appreciate that like I said the clerk said at the beginning and I've reiterated that we might not get all the answers this evening but in due course you will do.

DO: Ok no problem.

AT: this is going round now, I've got Cllr Powell wanting to come back in

GP; No Its not me its Clare Powell (CP)

CP: Has the fact that Cheadle Town Councillors who also serve on the District Council are advised not to take part in Planning Meetings at Cheadle Town council meetings, resulted in the councillor's lack of knowledge regarding the proposals around the South Moorlands Leisure Centre and Cheadle Hospital? Thank you.

AT: Thank you

IP: Thank you

AT: I have an iPad Mr Mayor, is that Cllr Wood with his hand up?

DM I've Mark Shaw wanting to come back in please..

RW: I just want to tell you that Mark Shaw has been waving his hand for about 15 minutes

IP: Is it just an update Mr Shaw?

MS: Thank you Mr Mayor. It was just to say that you mentioned you had a meeting with the company involved in the plan. I was wondering if the council could update us on what they actually put forward to that company so that we can compare to how that related to what actually appeared in the plan? Please if you don't mind?

IP: I don't think that will be a problem

MS: Thank you very much

IP: Thank you

AT: Ok, I think that's everyone Mr Mayor

IP Right, we can move forward....item 6 we will progress item 6

AT I've got hands up all over the place...Mr Mayor, are we going to move on? Or are we.....

IP: I think we better move on or we're never going to get this presentation and we're not going to hear what the relevant people have got to say. So Leader, Miss Ralphs do you want to come in here?

SR: Yes please Mr Mayor, Thank you very much in deed. Well first of all good evening Mr Mayor and Good evening to the members of Cheadle Town Council and the residents that have taken the trouble to log in tonight. First of all can I just go back roughly 12 months ago, when you very kindly invited myself and a couple of colleagues to attend a Town Council meeting, if you remember that was in relation to the bid that we'd put into government for future High Street funding and I came along with the Head of Regeneration, Sarah Purru and our then director of Place with responsibility for planning, Dai Lerner and Dai Lerner has since retired and in his place is his successor Mr Neil Rogers tonight. Now we came along to that Town Council Meeting and we had a very constructive discussion, it was very positive because by the end of it we were agreeing to work together on the future needs of the people of Cheadle. I remember saying distinctly then and I will say it again tonight, Cheadle is a very very good town, Cheadle is very popular, but Cheadle now has the chance to become a great market town because of what we have put, or intend to put into place. When I was walking back to my car that evening after the meeting a couple of the town councillors walked along with me and they said I hope you're going to keep your word, that you are going to do something because we feel very left out, we feel that everything is co-centred on Leek and sometimes Biddulph and we want you to demonstrate that what you say about Cheadle you actually mean. So how are you going to approach that, what are you going to do and I said give me time, let me formulate a plan, which we have done over the last 12 months. Covid-19 on one side we still managed to do all the work necessary and the plan that we came up with is quite simple, that the future of Cheadle whether it's from an economic, from a health, from a leisure point of view all those things must be decided by the people of Cheadle, so how do we go about doing that and I suggested that we do 2 things. First of all before we do anything else, and this is in the report, that's my report, I presented that report to Cabinet just over a week ago and I stand by that report because I believe in it and I believe that it will benefit everyone who lives in Cheadle, visits Cheadle, or who works in Cheadle and that's the whole purpose of the exercise. First of all I suggested that we set up a Stakeholder Panel, which would be comprised totally of Cheadle Councillors and Cheadle representatives. This Stakeholder panel, and you'll see it in 7.1 of the report, their purpose would be to oversee the development and the delivery of projects once those projects have been decided upon and are ready for implementation. So the Stakeholder panel would consist of 3 members of the District Council from Cheadle, 2 or 3 members of the Cheadle Town Council, a representative from the Chamber of Commerce, a representative of the business section, a representative from the voluntary section, a representative from the Historical Society and a representative from anyone else I have forgotten. All those people will be from Cheadle, because they are deciding or intend to decide, the future provision for the people of Cheadle Town and the surrounding areas. I have mentioned this to you before now because I asked you to serve on it, because I feel that you should be Chairman of that Stakeholder group. The second thing that I put forward for ...in the report, was the project delivery board. On that will be representatives from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Representatives from Staffordshire County Council, because obviously they are a stakeholder and will be a stakeholder on a number of things. We shall also have a member from the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, or as we know the CCG and if you become Chairman, which I hope you will, Mr Mayor of the Stakeholder Panel, you will also be on that panel because you will be bringing the findings of the members of the Stakeholder Panel, who if they do their job properly, will be going out and about in Cheadle asking people what they would like to see for the future of the town, not telling them what they are going to get, but asking them what they would like to see for the future of the Town of Cheadle and the surrounding areas and that's I think (I could be wrong), but I think it's in 3.5 of the report. So the proposals for the establishment of the Cheadle Town Centre Delivery Board, supported by a Stakeholder board and the recommendation was in that report,

and you can see it for yourselves, to approve those proposals for the establishment of those two things Cheadle Town Centre Delivery Board and Stakeholder Panel. The other thing that I need to mention to you, is that work, it's most important that it oversees the development and delivery of Town Centre projects including options, options appraisal for the emerging Cheadle Town Centre Masterplan and the High Street Task Force and to agree the next steps forward. Because don't forget, the High Street monies, we might be able to have a second bid in that so therefore you and your colleagues would be responsible for helping to put that together. Now, what disappoints me, and it really has perturbed me is that throughout the report, you are given options, you are not told that the Leisure Centre is about to be knocked down, or the hospital is about to be knocked down. You are given options. Now the meaning of options in my dictionary is a "thing that is or may be chosen" so it's not obligatory. If you want, let's just look at the South Moorlands Leisure Centre, I've been told time and time again over the last few days that the people of Cheadle are furious because, how dare we at SMDC go in and knock the Leisure Centre down, we have no leisure centre. Nobody is advocating that. What we have given you in that report and read it again because, what can't speak can't lie it's in that report, you have an option. You can leave the Leisure Centre where it is, the fact that it has now served it's useful purpose and seen better days, we could, if the people of Cheadle decide, to have it patched up, we'll patch it up and continues to be on the site that it is now. So that's one option, leave well alone just patch it up and continue with it as it is. Another option is that you rebuild it on another site elsewhere in the town. So you turn round to me and say, Sybil, "Where can we relocate it? Don't ask me, it's up to you and your colleagues" to look at that possibility, that's another option that you could have a brand new Leisure Centre in the town of Cheadle if you can find a suitable site. So that is up to you to consult with the people of Cheadle and ask them whether they want a patched up Leisure Centre, it's up to them, the work will be done well, or whether they want a new Leisure Centre re-located in the town. We also have the future decision on Cheadle Hospital. I have to say to you that there is an option in that report that asks you and your colleagues, that strategic group, to consider delivering perhaps a new community building in Cheadle on a site to be decided by the people of Cheadle that could provide replacement health, wellbeing, leisure and other community facilities from a single location. That is another option. All these are options, there are no hard and fast statements in that report that says that you must do this or you must do that. Why on earth would I suggest putting these two boards together if it wasn't for the purpose of investigating the requests, the requirements, the ideas. There are people out in Cheadle tonight who will have some fantastic ideas, that maybe you and I haven't thought of and it is up to them to make sure they make you and your colleagues aware of those ideas and those requests. This is a town project, this involves not just the elected representatives at SMDC or even the Cheadle Town Councillors, God bless them all. These are ideas, these requests, these projects will originate with the people who live in Cheadle, work in Cheadle and visit Cheadle. It's going to be a hard task, because it's going to be a very inclusive, there's a lot of work to be done, but I'm sure as a representative of Cheadle you will relish that task, and so will your colleagues. But it must all come from you, but please look at that report again and I ask the people of Cheadle when they are talking, and I have sat and listened tonight to people saying "how dare they knock our Leisure Centre down?" Which implies that we have made a decision to do that and we're not going to replace it, couldn't be further from the truth. We can either repair and renovate or we can look, if that is your decision, to having something new and that goes, the car parks, one lady mentioned the car parks tonight. How often have you said to me "something needs to be done, Sybil about our car parking in Cheadle" and I say to you tonight, I agree. I shop in Cheadle. Before Covid-19 I used to come quite regularly and things could be done about the car parking. So my question to you Mr Mayor is what are you going to do about it? You've got the opportunity now, it's there, placed right in front of

you to look at these myriad of things that you can do that is going to benefit Cheadle, that is going to serve a purpose for the people of Cheadle and surrounding areas and is going to take you into the next 30, 40, 50 years. But people now have got this preconceived idea that we are practically going to raise all the buildings in Cheadle to the ground, it couldn't be further from the truth. The ball now is going to be placed well and truly in your park. It's going to be administered by Cheadle councillors and Cheadle representatives and you will bring those, all those ideas to the delivery board, you'll be on that delivery board and together as a team, and I want to emphasise that word "as a team" we take Cheadle and we make a good town, a lovely town into a great town, a town that people are proud to live in, to work in and want to visit. It covers a whole myriad of things. But what happens now, two things first of all I can't answer any of those questions that were asked tonight. I sat here and I wanted to interfere and interrupt and I wanted to say to those people, who had taken the trouble to put those questions together and they are very good questions and those are the questions that you and your colleagues have got to answer. Not me, you are going to tell me the answer to those questions, what you think the people of Cheadle want as an answer to those questions. You deliver that to me, it's up to you. So all those questions are in front of you and your colleagues and I can't answer any of those questions tonight because I don't know the answers, you haven't told me yet, but you will do. And you need to get on and start and do it, with respect. But the other thing, you've called it in, you've actually called the report in which means it stops and the reasons you have given for the call in are nothing whatsoever to do with the recommendation of that report. The recommendation and if from memory I can remember it, because it was quite simple, to approve the proposals for the establishment of a Cheadle Town Centre Delivery Board and also a Cheadle Stakeholder Panel, that is the crux of the matter. That is simply the recommendation, but you have called it in, not you personally, you are one of the Cheadle District Councillors, your leader, Councillor Malyon and the Cheadle District Councillors, six of you have called that in so the work stops now and goodness only knows when we start again. And this is the thing that holds the work up. You have to look at it in its entirety but I'm on film tonight, I'm on audio, you've heard what I've said and I mean every single word. It is so straight forward, it's as easy as falling off a log. Put those two boards together, a strategic board and a delivery board and start to get the work done. Thank you Mr Mayor.

IP: Thank you Sybil, Thank you very much

AT: Mr Mayor, at the moment I've got Cllr Jamie Evans, Cllr Kate Martin, Cllr Ray Wood and Cllr Paulette Upton

IP: Can I just ask if the Chief Exec Andrew Stokes or Neil Rogers wants to say anything on top of what Sybil just said?

AS: I don't really want to repeat everything Sybil's said really to be fair, but obviously the only thing I'd say is that my council's giving a priority to Cheadle and I know talking to the District Councillors on almost a daily basis, all our Cheadle based District Councillors are ambitious about Cheadle, so I think this is an opportunity that we shouldn't miss in terms of setting out our vision collectively for the future. Like I say I can't add anything more than what Sybil has said.

IP: Thank you. Does Neil want to say anything, or is he ok? Neil Rogers

AT: I don't have a picture of Neil, but I believe Neil is there, I'll unmute his microphone

NR: I just want to say that obviously we're keen to set up the Stakeholder panel as soon as possible and also we need to get through this Call in period before we can do that. In terms of how we, what the remit of that panel is in terms of delivery on these projects, that's going to be down

to the Stakeholder panel itself to determine how it should behave and clearly there's a need for it to be the voice of the Cheadle Communities and to inform any decisions that the council, or the County Council and CCG may have around their sites and it's going to be really really important that we have a good relationship between the two boards and I look forward to setting that up and starting the work. But all these questions that have been raised today are questions that are slightly premature. Still at options stage and we need to go out to the community's to ask about their views on the options before we proceed ahead.

IP: Thank you Neil, right Cllr Thomas

AT: So we got Cllr Jamie Evans

JE: I just want to pick up, to be honest with you I'm not trying to say anything bad, but, Cllr Ralphs I've been on the council for 17 months and you've not been to one meeting since I've been here. Can you confirm if that was at Cheadle or at District Council where you spoke to people about Cheadle. I just want to pick up on something else that you've stated as well that you want people to be proud to live and work in Cheadle. I think people are proud to work and live in Cheadle because of obviously the uproar of what's been happening here anyway. So I think, you know, a couple of statements there not great to be honest with you. Thank you.

IP: Thank you

AT: Cllr Kate Martin

KM: Just a couple of questions. Obviously when we talk about the Stakeholder and the process of consultation, I think it would be good to involve the local schools, six form and high schools, I think they should fit in somewhere there, because obviously they are the future, their the young people that are going to be watching it. So that would be one of my recommendations that we have a couple of representations from schools. The other thing is, is obviously, as regards to patching up the leisure centre, we have to be very sensitive here because that swimming baths was given to the town and although it's now with District, people are very proud of that swimming baths and obviously just to patch it up, I think is not really the right word. I think if Cheadle decide they want to invest and make it a better place, invest money, I think that would be more appropriate. And the other thing is, is there was one question that Mark Shaw asked how much has been spent on the plan and that consultation day which not all town councillors were at when it was held at the Bethel centre, I wasn't there and there were a couple of others weren't but I just wondered how much that did cost, the process so far? Thank you.

IP: just before you move on. Or else we are going to get inundated with questions with no more answers. How many people have we got to ask questions?

AT Cllr Ray Wood Cllr Paulette Upton and Cllr Greg Powell and Cllr Ellis and Cllr Alex Jackson

IP: Can I go back and these questions answered if possible? That Cllr Evans and Cllr Martin have asked. Is there anybody free?

SR: Thank you very much indeed. I come to Cheadle Town Council when I am invited, I am always happy to do that. I don't think it is 17 months since I last came, I think it was last autumn, but I can look it up to make sure, but I am always happy to come along if I am invited to a meeting. As far as the cost of the consultation exercise is concerned that is still ongoing that is part of the procedure. That is what we do, we have consultants who do exactly that. If we are going to do the job properly, and why should we alter that for Cheadle? If other places get consultants and a report

from the consultants then we jolly well make sure that Cheadle does too. I want Cheadle to have everything that other people have.

IP: Thank you.

AT: Do you want to add anything to that Mr Stokes?

AS: We can get back to the council with the cost to date. But I just remind everybody that we are transparent about all of what we spend every item of expenditure over £500 is published on our website, so you know there is the opportunity for members of the public to look at that, but I will specifically get back to the Town Council on the cost.

IP: Thank you

AT: Cllr Wood?

RW: Right Thank you. I've got that many things written down on my bits of paper, I'll just have to go through and cherry pick the ones. Cllr Ralphs, very good speech. You said that the people out and about Cheadle they would decide on what was best for Cheadle, does that mean they have to decide from the projects that you've been given by the consultation people, and while they were consulting why didn't they ask the people? Or why didn't they ask the Town Council? I was at that meeting, I don't know why Kate Martin wasn't there or whatever, but I was there, and I don't think anything came up about the Leisure Centre or the hospital or whatever, or the suggestions that were made. So are these projects got to be A, B or C or is it that the people of Cheadle decide what's going to happen? That's one question. The other question was the price of the consultants that's already been asked. I mean you've got the best consultants anywhere, presumably you've got district council officers that must know a little bit about Cheadle, you've got the Town Council that know quite a bit about Cheadle. I certainly know about the market, you don't own the market, I know that bit. The Leisure Centre, we could have that done up or rebuilt somewhere else. Well we all know where the other site will be. Something you never mention at all is the excess houses that we'll have to suffer through all this. Well I've got a site for it, the one that it's on now, rebuild it knock it down and rebuild it and we'll have to have the houses then but the fly in the ointment is the houses.

I don't believe that the people of Cheadle will have a say on this, I think we have got to pick out from these projects and you'll have another meeting for two or three years, I've been on the town deal for 3 years and got nowhere, I think it's been over 2 years since you've been to Cheadle Town Council, by the way. I just feel, and the way this has been done and the Mayor's had a terrible amount of flack from various people and particularly to remove him. We've got district councillor's spouses on social media saying things that have really got legal repercussions and I hope they are. It's really had an effect on town councillors, and all the flack that we've had. I know the newspapers are really got their part to play in that by cherry picking the controversial things in this. I want to know really if these projects are set in stone, it's got to be A, B, or C and all these projects, or will it truly be the Cheadle people who decide. Thank you.

AT: Do you want to take that one Mr Mayor?

IP: Yes if we could.

AT: I ask Councillor Ralph to comment again please?

SR: Do you know I thought I had explained it as explicitly as I possibly could. There is nothing set in stone in that report there are a series of options which you can use as a guideline when you go out

and consult with the people of Cheadle and the different organisations. If you want the Leisure Centre to remain where it is, then, if that's the consensus of opinion, it will stay where it is nothing is set in stone. Otherwise, what's the purpose of setting up the strategic panel to consult if we are not going to use the results of your investigation? **And the people of Cheadle and the organisations are going to be the ones that give you the answers. I have heard tonight people asking the questions those people will participate if they are given the opportunity and this is going to be the one opportunity where anyone, everyone can take part in this particular exercise.** I won't answer Cllr Wood's comments on the market, he wouldn't expect me to because obviously he must realise he's got a vested interest, so I couldn't possibly comment on that. But I thought it was very negative. He's been on the town deal for the last 3 years and nothing's happened. That's nothing to be proud of is it? Why hasn't anything happened, why haven't you moved it along? **And I tell you something Mr Mayor, if you don't take this opportunity that is being given you now it'll be another 2 or 3 years before anything is done, if at all. But for goodness sake, get started.**

AT: Thank you Mr Mayor.

IP: Thank you

AT: Cllr Paulette Upton

PU: Thank you Mr Mayor. Can you hear me? A couple of comments really. The town plan bears little resemblance to the Cushman Wakefield report that was discussed at the Bethel last year. I think that's why it's taken councillors and residents by surprise. We were completely on the back foot with that, because, as I say there was no mention of the Leisure Centre for instance and things that were good suggestions in that report we don't seem to have addressed at all. But I would like to thank the Leader for making it quite clear that we will have a Leisure Centre in some format or other and would want assurances from her that any new Leisure Centre would be up to a high standard and it would be taken into account where people want it. My only worry is that if we rebuild the existing Leisure Centre, which I do believe a rebuild is the only way forward for the building the town's going to be without a Leisure Centre for X number of months and I think that is a worry. The question I would like to ask as well is when will we actually see the full masterplan. I would like to see what else is in plan for the town? Thank you.

AT: Mr Mayor

IP: Thank you. Do you want to come back Cllr Ralphs on them?

SR: Yes. Than you Mr Mayor. Cllr Upton is quite right, Whether or not you renovate the existing Leisure Centre or whether you build new, it is still going to mean that there's going to be a period of disruption. We can't do the renovations that are needed there without having to close it so I'm afraid whatever decision you come back with it's going to mean a disruption and as part of the exercise that you and Town Councillors are going to undertake **Mr Mayor, you will have sight of all the documentation, whether it's masterplan, town plan, consultants brief whatever you will have all of that, you need all of that to do your work properly.**

IP Thank you

AT: I have Cllr Greg Powell now Mr Mayor

IP Thank you. Cllr Powell

GP: Yes I think, I mean what I have real concern about is, we've just had the local plan passed and Cheadle faces 1200 new houses plus another 100 as proposed in the plan. At the same time, I

don't feel that what's being proposed is being driven by the community. I mean, the fact that there's been two rounds of consultation now that have been done, and I take on point what Cllr Ralphs is saying why would those things be done if there wasn't some sort of original brief as to where we wanted to go. Now what concerns me is, I've looked at the history of this and it looks like there was an asset management plan back in September 2016 that really I think predates all of this and it talks about how we aren't investing enough in the Leisure Centres, it talks about asset rationalisation, use of shared assets, generating additional capital receipts, reviewing public conveniences and car parks, so to me I am worried that this plan is being driven by a cost cutting drive and an asset reduction. Because I haven't spoken to anyone in Cheadle that's ever said to me that they are not satisfied with the facilities at the Leisure Centre. So, I accept that it needs renovation and it needs input, but I'm really struggling to see, and we didn't discuss any of this at the Bethel chapel, like other councillors have said, I don't believe any of this is driven by what the community wants. The community really values the facilities of the pool the size of the pool, it's locality to the playing pitches. They value the car park in Tape Street they don't want a situation where there is going to be no parking. And we feel that, I feel that the residents I have spoken to, these are assets that should be protected, especially if the town is set to grow by an estimated 25% is what the Local Plan is saying to 2033. So I am really struggling to buy into the sort of sentiment that it is all on us to make these choices. I feel some of these choices have already been done and they have been driven by cost cutting and asset stripping to be honest. So I am struggling with it and I am struggling to see how we are going to win back that from the community, so I am levelling that at you Sybil, that I really don't feel that this is driven by a need or desire from the community.

AT:Cllr Ralph, Sorry Mr Mayor, I should have asked you

IP: You are alright, Thank you.

SR: I would say to Cllr Upton my answer to him is. **Only time will prove me right. It is what we are doing in the future, it is not a cost cutting exercise because that is something that you would recognise straight away** and it is what we are taking forward now whatever comes back through the strategic panel. Whatever is decided there and if it was cost cutting exercise, I am sure that would raise it's head and would ask Mr Upton to take part

AT: Mr Powell

SR: I am sorry Mr Powell, I would ask him to take part in the exercise the Mayor and his colleagues are going to undertake, become involved in it, make a difference, that's what it's all about making a difference and you can make that difference. **Don't go back to the past think of the future.**

AT I've got Cllr Ellis to follow that one

IP: Cllr Ellis

SE: Thank you very much. Firstly can I congratulate Mr Stokes on his appointment as Chief Executive a very worthwhile appointment and value to SMDC and High Peak as well. **From my point of view, I am disappointed by the way this has been received** and I think the SMDC whilst it started with a laudable aim **the masterplan is such a key document that it took over from the area action plans they do have weight in terms of planning terms so they do shape development for years and years to come.** So it is an absolutely key document and I think the thing where people are struggling at the moment within Cheadle is we started off with **the consultation as with any local plan to identify, it should identify what any issues are, or what the problems are,** and then we should come together

and put some solutions together. And **we seem to have gone from step A which is the consultation part and we're suddenly on step C.** Which is the bit where we seem to come up with some worked out options and things like that. We don't seem to have had the narrative or the story in terms of what specific issues there were, what came out from that feedback and in light of that feedback and the issues, what do we then start to do at step C in terms trying to tackle those issues. Now I think that's where we've suddenly gone from, that all of a sudden we've got issues here where we're talking about flattening the hospital shutting the Leisure Centre things like that, but we haven't actually identified the problems. And I know from my time on SMDC that **the Leisure Centre itself, is an ageing building, it's a bit like, what's often termed in planning terms the elephant man there have been different bits bolted onto it over the years, it's in many respects not fit for purpose in terms of its design and layout,** but also, I think, as other councillors have alluded to, is the value[break up of sound]

AT I am sorry, I think you were looking for a response,

SE: No it's your microphone,

AT I beg your pardon, Sorry about that. I've got Cllr Alex Jackson, I'll bring Alex onto the screen

DM: Cllr Ellis hasn't finished,

AT: I beg your pardon Stephen

SE: Not a problem. And I think what the council alluded to is the issue with **the Leisure Centre is very emotive locally because, as you will know the way it was funded and sourced and provided by funds raised by the town's people and that's why there is such an emotional connection to that building.** Therefore any suggestion that anything is going to happen to it that would adversely affect the service it provides or the way it operates, certainly ignites peoples passions locally. I think that's what driven a lot of this. Also, I think SMDC as well hasn't learned the lessons of things like the Sainsbury development in Leek. The district council came in for a lot of flack over Sainsbury's because of the road layout, which it was never responsible for, but because it formed part of the planning application, got wound up in it and here we are talking about the hospital being flattened and the use of the hospital and whether the hospital will exist or not, which is a matter for the CCG to decide, and again the SMDC have been wrapped up into that as well. I think, if I can also just comment as well, **I know Cllr Powell mentioned about the asset management plan.** That, the District council is required to do, **I used to have cabinet responsibility for that and that always looks at the way the district council can manage its assets and best use its assets.** There's nothing driving that, it's that there has to be an asset management plan before every single year, 2016 was no different to any other year, **the district council has to look at its assets, the condition of its assets, what it's planning on doing with those assets, how it can improve them, dispose of any, rationalise any,** that is no different that has gone on every year. But I think the SMDC needs to look at the narrative of this. **I am very disappointed to hear that's it's been called in because I think that is an absolute frustration that stops the process, and particularly at the moment while we've remote working, is not helpful because we should be setting this board up as soon as possible to get cracking on this and get things done.** And as has been said, when you read the report, I don't think it is helpful we have gone to an options stage already, it would have been better if we would have raised some of the issues and then let this board work out some of those options. Because it sets a lot of hare's racing that didn't need to be set racing at all. And it's caused a lot of anger, a lot of resentment, a lot of fear and worry in Cheadle for something which is absolutely a positive news story that the **SMDC is investing heavily in Cheadle trying to develop a number of things, a number**

of sites, bring them right up to date and it's completely, within the community landed on its backside and SMDC needs to do a lot of PR now to put a positive message on this. This is a good news story for Cheadle and that seriously needs to be looked at.

AT: Mr Mayor?

IP: Thank you Cllr Ellis

AT: I've got one more Cllr Ron Locker

IP: if you've only got one more then...

AT: Cllr Locker and myself and Cllr Bentley wants to come in....

IP Does Cllr Ralphs want to come back on what Stephen's just said?

SR: Yes please,

AT: Can I just remind Cllrs, you only speak once. Thank you.

SR: If I could just come back on what Stephen has said. He said we've gone from A to C because B involved the consultants. Well of course it did and the panel will take into consideration what the consultants did say. But it's, we could have been accused of following the dictate of the consultants, rather than going out to discuss this to get the views of the people of Cheadle. We have been accused of that in the past, that we haven't listened to what people want, we've told them what they're going to have and as Stephen knows, every report of this kind must have options otherwise we would be accused of saying well, you haven't put anything in front of us that we can look at we can investigate or take forward. Options are always in every single report as Stephen knows, and those options were very well put together in the report, it's just the fact that someone took advantage and decided that they were going to, perhaps, cherry pick to perhaps make it more interesting. But I'm very disappointed and I'm very sorry that some of the people in Cheadle have been upset by this. This should have been something that they appreciated and welcomed and were excited and pleased about that, rather than being taken aback and afraid of what we're doing. But surely, surely your guarantee Mr Mayor and the people of Cheadle to be sure that they are not going to be short changed. You are going to lead the strategic panel to go out, again, I am repeating myself here, but you will take on board what people are saying and this is their opportunity to do that.

IP: Thank you

AT: I've got Cllr Locker and myself, Mr Mayor, if I may?

IP: Thank you

AT: I'll just bring Cllr Locker in....

RL: Ok. Good evening Miss Ralphs and Mr Stokes I have already congratulated you on your appointment and I know that you will do a good job. I think the biggest problems we've got Miss Ralphs, in Cheadle is the amount of disappointments we've had over the years and your suggestions, this new board tonight is good, but I've served on about 3 recently, boards, well, over the years and lots of plans for Cheadle, lots of ideas and they've all very much come to nothing. This isn't a criticism of you, this is a criticism of the County Council who did see fit to knock down our care facility in Cheadle in Well Street. About 12 years ago that was going to be knocked down and replaced with new facilities. It never materialised, and we've spent a lot of time over the last

3 or 4 years talking about the demise of Cheadle Hospital. And we were led to believe by the County Council and we've had loads of meetings on a newly formed committee, "Cheadle Town deal", which was made up of the District Council, the County Council and the Town Council in partnership and then all of a sudden it ceased to exist. We've had no meetings for, I think, about 18 months to a year possibly and that is a great worry, because nothing seems to get replaced. The particular criticism over the Lightwood homes is very sore in the memory of us older people because they took away a facility that the Cheadle people deserve and elderly people of Cheadle have struggled because they have had to go out of town to care facilities and of course, the County Council wash their hands of the responsibility of providing a new one. Not only that, they knocked it down and the land is still vacant and I know it was handed over to the District Council, who then passed it on to Moorlands Housing, as it was then, and it's just been lying there, taxpayers money where we could have had 20 possible bungalows built or something that would have benefitted the town. These are the sort of things that really irritate, because, these are the sort of promises that were made, but were never fulfilled. Cheadle hospital, I mean, there's enough been said about the Leisure Centre, I've actually got a photograph in front of me here tonight where Cheadle people actually spent a lot of time and a lot of money with a lottery type thing to raise money for the Leisure Centre, or the swimming baths in particular and that was in 1966. We had a very very good councillor at that particular time in the name of Tom Willis and his wife and Fred ?Rose? Another one, these were all stalwarts who worked so hard for the town to provide these facilities and then you can imagine the shock when we saw that there was a proposal to knock down both of the most important buildings in town, in real terms. But we've done enough about the Leisure Centre because we know now that there is going to be moves afoot to make things right there one way or another, but then we still come back to the hospital. The hospital is owned by the NHS, and we know that the NHS is going to be struggling for money and may be looking for the big penny now, but we still haven't got any care facilities for our elderly we haven't got a hospital that can be used by the people of the town and one of the problems of Cheadle is, of course, its 12,000 population which is going to be increased considerably by the number of houses that are going to be built, but when you look at the, as I said so many times, the hinterland of Cheadle and the parishes surrounding it that 12,000 becomes 30,000 very quickly. It's not fair that the people of Cheadle and district have to travel as much as they do and we're all getting older and I can speak from experience. It's not very useful having to go to Stoke all the time and try and find a car parking space by the time you get there and found a space, you know what it's like, the frustration's there and the blood pressures gone up and you get the wrong reading when you go in. Now that we've got this new, new again, a new board which is going to be made up of Cheadle town councillors and you suggest led by, it's good, but I honestly want to see something happen with it, because we've been having these promises. Quite a few months ago, I nearly had to call the paramedics because I heard a comment on the Midlands television which said Cheadle in Staffordshire Moorlands has just been awarded millions for the High Street and I couldn't believe it and I was probably right not to believe it because a few days later we found out that it wasn't Cheadle in the Staffordshire Moorlands, it was Cheadle in Cheshire and that's been the story of our life in Cheadle and for a long long time we've been neglected and now it looks as if there's a possibility, but you know, we're getting older, you and I Miss Ralphs are getting much older and we want to see some action before we leave this planet. So we'll take you on your word and we'll support you from Cheadle Town Council as much as we can. But please don't knock the Leisure Centre down until we've got another and let's fight like fury to save that Cheadle hospital which was built in 1963 and probably one of the most modern buildings in Staffordshire and it would be a sacrilege to knock that down. Thank you.

AT: Mr Mayor?

SR: Can I

AT: Sorry Mr Mayor, I didn't get you, your microphone was turned off go ahead Mr Mayor

IP: Do you want to come back on that Cllr Ralphs?

SR: Yes please. I just want to say thank you and it's good to see Cllr Locker again and it's always interesting to hear what he's got to say and I think that he recognises, like a lot of people must recognise tonight, that we're giving the people of Cheadle the opportunity to advance. He's highlighted a number of issues that you Mr Mayor and your team are going to have to deal with. One thing I would say this is happening under my watch, that report 10 days ago that went to Cabinet had my name on it and therefore, when I put my name to something I like to see results. I can see people rocking backwards and forwards with laughter probably with that "Oh well, she would say that wouldn't she?" but Mr Mayor we have to start somewhere and let's start from tonight. You've heard all the comments, we need to start and we need to start from tonight. It's going to be a task and it's going to be quite an arduous task, but I'll give you all the support I possibly can.

IP: Thank you Cllr Ralphs

AT: There's myself and Cllr Bentley to go Mr Mayor

IP: Ok. Then we'll draw a line under that...

AT: Cllr Bentley

GB: I'd like to say Thank you leader for giving us the update, and hopefully, like you say it probably could have been handled a bit better but we are where we are. We are fortunate in Cheadle both of the sites are big and lend themselves for expansion of any description. So the Leisure Centre, I wouldn't bat an eyelid in doing it up where it is, because you can just do it in phases, you do the swimming pool one side, when that's done you do the Leisure Centre the other side, I mean it hasn't got to be shut down has it? It can just be done in phases. You going to have to finish, struggle without the swimming baths for a few months, I should imagine, but apart from that you can get on with that. And the hospital, I sit both ways with the hospital. We fought and fought to try to keep the hospital with CCG I think it's called, or whatever they are? If we can't keep it as an hospital is it possible, because it's on none of the reports, that we can look at the hospital being used as a hotel. We're the only town, wherever I go I see an hotel, there's a brand new one in Hanley, Leek Premier inn wants an extension, they've just extended the one down in Uttoxeter. We are the closest town to the biggest Theme park in Europe and we're the only town without an hotel, whichever way I'm looking it doesn't seem to sit right with me and if we do have an increase in the population, hopefully the hotel chains will want to come. So what I'd like to see at the hospital, if it can't be a hospital is an hotel chain, ask if they'd take that site on with a purpose built square building and an hospital where we could do wedding receptions, because we've got the best church in England as we're told Pugin's Gem, "discover the secret", but we haven't got one place to have a wedding reception in Cheadle apart from the Guild Hall. So I'd like to think that the leaders and the officers would request of these hotel chains to see why they won't come to Cheadle and if it's about the land, we could offer them the land, because we've just admitted we've got lots of land so surely the most full thing to have in the middle of the town is one way or the other is an hotel. Thank You Very much for your time and I look forward to working with whoever. Thank You

IP: Thank you Cllr Bentley. Cllr Thomas, leave the last one with you.

AT: I don't want to pour cold water on this, I thought the report that was put out by the District council was a very poor report from the point of view of Cheadle. We're now starting from a place of disadvantage, we're at the back, when we're trying to go forward. A presentation should enthuse people, it has done the exact opposite to the people of Cheadle it has switched everybody off, to the town council, attacks on the Mayor for failing to do his job properly, nothing to do with that and you now turn round and say it's down to the town council to move this forward. If that had been the case at the beginning, if the town council had been given the opportunity, if it had been presented in such a way that we could drive it forward, we wouldn't have all these people sitting here tonight frustrated that we're talking about demolishing the hospital, demolishing the Leisure Centre and words like, "bodge it up" to get it back working again, we can't bodge it. Cheadle deserves a proper Leisure centre, deserves something, if we're going to lose the hospital we need something there and this throwing around these things on the table about using part of the car park building a hub in the centre of the town, all that is actually worked to our negative and your saying we've got to drive this forward. I'm saddened that we're watching this now and thinking, alright, from a position of advantage, we're now at a disadvantage because we've got to work our way through all these problems and it was highlighted today when a member of the council was talking to a member of the public about an issue and all they could say was, "are you still going to knock the swimming bathes down?" It doesn't matter who said it, where it came from but the perception is that we've got it in for Cheadle and we shouldn't have, we should be driving this town forward and there are people on this council that want to drive the town forward and we all went to that Bethel meeting and we all listened to what they said and it's been said already tonight, that there was not mention of the swimming baths, there was no mention of the hospital and yet now it seems to be front centre of anything that is going on in the town. Disappointed to say the least, I'm sorry to have end the meeting on a negative with you Miss Ralphs, but that's how I saw it. Thank you.

IP: Do you want to reply to those? We forgot Cllr Slater but we'll bring Rob up later. Do you want to come back on those 2 councillor Ralphs?

SR : Yes, I am sorry that the councillor feels that it was a poor report. I, of course, disagree with him, I think that we were open and honest and we gave you some directions in which you might want to go. Those were options, there was no recommendations, there was no directives, they were purely options to see where you wanted to go. Now someone said to me today, you see, I always accept that whatever goes in the press, they have a right to print a story. But my reason for coming along tonight was to say how it actually was. People are saying that, Oh well, the paper's got hold of it and just ran with it, I can't criticize them, whilst I am criticizing them, they could be criticizing me. But I thought, if you have a fair and honest look at that report I think it gives hope to the future. It gives a sense of ownership, it shows you the direction of travel in which people want you to go and I think that only time will prove us right. But you'll always have your detractors. But to say, to say that it was a poor report what's poor about wanting to approve 2 panels in a town and saying to them they must be manned by all the people who are going to form those panels are all going to come from the town, from Cheadle, that was the recommendation, there was no other recommendations, the others were options. So I would advise the councillor perhaps to look at it again, because I haven't had that said to me that they felt it was a disappointing and negative report. People are saying well we're glad that some long last time we're going to start to move forward. This is an opportunity for Cheadle to improve itself with the team that you will be leading

Mr Mayor. But no, I **totally, totally disagree and refute that that was a poor report and that it had a negative effect. I think you read it how you want to.**

AT: Thank you

IP: Thank you

AT: We've got Cllr Slater and the last one was Cllr Black, if you'll take it Mr Mayor?

IP: OK. I'll draw a line then now

AT: Cllr Slater

RS: Well about Cheadle hospital, what's up.. the doctors getting their heads together and having a walk in centre? Also a care centre, all the facilities are there it wouldn't take a lot to make that a first class, it would take the work off the Royal Stoke who are understaffed and overworked and also we have plenty of B&Bs in this town and surrounding areas. If you build hotels there you're taking work off local people. That's how I see it. But I think a walk in centre would be absolutely marvellous for this town. The doctors are complaining that they are overworked, but if they could work rotas and that, surely, surely it stands to sense.

IP: Thank you. Cllr Slater

AT: Cllr Black and then over to you to sum it up Mr Mayor, Cllr Black

HB: Yes, thank you. I am not going to talk about any of the details proposed, I take the point that those are yet to be done. But, I would like to make the point that any good project must have a good communications plan and if I expand on what Cllr Ellis said the communication in this case has been atrocious and that is the real problem. If we are going to move forward with this we must find a way to correct the miss-communication that has taken place and to make sure that doesn't happen again because that would be crucial to any success, or indeed to guarantee any failure. Thank you.

AT: Thank you. Mr Mayor?

IP: Thank you very much. Thank you to all councillors for taking part in the debate. Thank you once again Cllr Ralphs for your attendance and presentation tonight, Andrew Stokes. Thank you very much and Neil as well. Like you say I think we've got to get rid of the negativity in the town we've got this opportunity now to move forward and try to create what the people of Cheadle want. So I look forward to leading the groups and getting as many people on board as we can, and listen to them and take, hopefully, the plans forward. This can only be good for Cheadle and I look forward to working with everybody. Thank you very much.

SR: Thank you Ian.

DM: Before we move on to the next section maybe we could invite people who don't want to stay for the reports and minutes may leave the meeting.

IP: Yes. Just to those people who have raised the questions, we will get back in touch, one way or another. Whether it has to be left until the panel sit, but the answers will be there for you in the near future.

AT: Mr Ottley has just messaged me with a question about the questions he asked and I said that we will go back to him, to the clerk.

IP: Yes. Thank you.

(Members of the public are then invited to leave and the meeting goes on to Item 7. Confirmation of minutes)

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CP/GP Nov 2020