

**Council 19 October 2016: Questions submitted from Members of the Public**

Question No.	Question from	Question:	Question to:	Responsible Officer:
1.	Mr Greenhill	<p>The draft minutes of the Swale Council GPC held on 29 September state that in respect of the Motion proposed by Cllrs Baldock and Bonney there "...must be a fairer way of ensuring that local residents could speak as well as organisations" and that "...the proposal would be at odds with the Council's constitution".</p> <p>The Planning Officers Society appears to be more enlightened than this Council and its officers in that it recognises that, for example, in some cases procedures allow Chairs the discretion to allow extended times or numbers speaking in respect of complex or major controversial applications.</p> <p>As the GPC has made the comments as related above and there is now this recognition as far as local residents are concerned surely the way to give effect to what has been said is to revisit, review and amend the constitution.</p> <p>What proposals are there or will there be to give effect to this recognition?</p>	The Leader	Director of Corporate Services
<p><b>Response:</b> This matter is for consideration later on the Council agenda, of the recommendation from General Purposes Committee not to amend the Constitution in respect of public speaking. The minutes show that there was an extensive discussion of the motions at GPC. However, on balance it was considered that the current arrangements were conducive to the effective management of the decision-making process, and that there were ample opportunities for local residents and organisations to make their views known through the consultation process.</p>				