

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 MARCH 2019

**Question to Philip Atkins OBE
Leader of the Council**

By Kyle Robinson

Question

Barnett's Field, also known as Clough Hall Playing Field, in the Talke and Red Street Division was put forward by Staffordshire County Council to be included in the Joint Local Plan process for the future development of 424 homes. The Joint Local Plan is currently delayed by Newcastle Borough Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council for various reasons. Residents are anxious that the development of this field will be a detriment to the local community as it is currently used for sport and recreational activities. There have also been flooding issues with this site over many years. Taking the above into account, will Staffordshire County Council withdraw its support to dispose of this site?

Reply

This former playing field is one of many examples of the changes in facilities required to provide education in the county. There are many other examples though where new facilities are required and these need funding. Not all of that funding is met through government allocations or S106 contributions from developments. Currently we estimate a further £22m will be needed for the projected school places additional demand over the next 5 years. Where possible therefore we need to consider the whole of the school estate and where surplus land is available we need to consider how that can best be used.

For all council assets that are no longer required for their original purposes and are potentially suitable for development we will include those sites in the local plan process and trust that process to allocate the right sites in the local community for the housing need for that area. Local planning policies and procedures will then ensure that any subsequent development is right for the site and immediate local area.