

Executive Committee 15th January 2025 – Public Questions

Name of person submitting	Annexe A – Public Questions Question
Karen Clayson	<p>I am speaking on behalf of a group of Frome residents who have an interest in the option agreement that Somerset County Council agreed with Live West in 2022 for the sale of Packsaddle Fields in Frome for a proposed housing development.</p> <p>Shortly before the option agreement was agreed and signed by SCC, one of our residents, Stuart Hearn, wrote to SCC to enquire about buying the fields. He was told in writing by Charlie Field from Estates, who was the lead officer on the sale, that the Packsaddle “site is potentially worth many millions”.</p> <p>The proposed development on the fields is currently going through the planning process and the published viability report states the value of the land to be only £811,000. This is significantly less than the sum stated by Mr. Field.</p> <p>So either Mr Field misled our resident about the sale price of the land, or the value of the land stated in the planning viability report is wrong. Both options have serious implications and must be investigated.</p> <p>Therefore, in the public interest, please can the Council now disclose the sale price for the fields which it has kept confidential to date.</p> <p>Or alternatively, confirm whether the £811,000 figure in the viability report is approximately the price being paid to Somerset Council for the land, and if it is not, confirm when the planning team will update the viability report to reflect the true sale price.</p>