

Agenda Item No 13 (iii)

Written Question received from Councillor Rita Egan

Central Bedfordshire Council Meeting January 24th

**Question to Councillor Spurr
Kirton Way, Houghton Regis Play Area**

It is almost two years since I asked that the play area in Kirton Way, Parkside, Houghton Regis, be demolished. I have attached my oral question to Council in September 2011. To date this monstrosity still scars the landscape. Can I ask when Central Bedfordshire Council plans to do the right thing and provide an appropriate facility for the area.



ORAL QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members can address **oral** questions to the Leader, Deputy Leader, the Portfolio Holders, the Chairman of a Committee, the member representing the Bedfordshire Police Authority or Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority, and they must be relevant to matters for which the Council has powers or duties or which affect Central Bedfordshire or its residents.

Questions must not:

- relate to an item elsewhere on the agenda
- exceed two minutes in length
- be incapable of being adequately answered in three minutes
- divulge or require to be divulged confidential or exempt information.

Name:	Cllr. Dr. Rita Egan	Date:	22/09/11
Question addressed to:	Cllr. Carol Hegley. Cllr. Ken Matthews		
Question:	<p>In July of this year I alerted the Council to the condition of a playground area in Kirton Way, Houghton Regis. Attached to my initial report were 8 graphic pictures of this concrete monstrosity. Although this is private land owned by a well known local property developer there are many Central Bedfordshire tenants living in houses he built. Hence my request for the Executive member for Housing to become involved. I have already walked around this area with officers from Highways thus, the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development should also be aware that this particular developer, once having built his houses and pocketed his profits, appears to have had no further concern for the environment he created. The concrete playground area is in a parlous state and a health and safety hazard. In September I met with the Director of Adult Social Care and Housing to see if an officer could meet with this developer to deal with this playground and to negotiate an understanding as to his responsibilities as a developer. To date I have heard nothing. What discussions have taken place with the gentleman concerned regarding the upkeep of amenity land owned by him in Parkside? Who within the Council should be taking responsibility for ensuring that developers do not abandon their developments once housing is completed.</p>		

Cllr. Dr.Rita Egan. Parkside.