

## QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There is 1 question from a member of the public.

1. **From Mr Perrin to Councillor J Kent**

Further to the part of my question put to you at the 22<sup>nd</sup> January meeting concerning the £611,000 allocated to be spent on the Mardyke Valley, which is land owned by Thurrock Borough Council, you suggested that as the money had been given to Essex County Council, I should look to them for an answer. Essex County Council's reply, printed below, makes no mention how the £611,000 is to be spent:

*“Essex County Council managed the application for the overarching Heritage Lottery project, which includes the creation of new habitats and improving the Mardyke Way for all users, working with local schools and the community. The long term management of the Mardyke Valley rests with the landowner, Thurrock Council who have a Management Plan based on work carried out by the ecologist for the management of the Mar Dyke meadows.*

*Essex County Council and Thurrock Council consistently work together on environmental projects. Both organisations are very concerned about the state of the Mardyke Valley following the exceptional flooding and Thurrock are preparing to review the ecological condition of the valley when the flood waters subside.”*

As Leader of Thurrock Borough Council, do you not feel that you have a duty to the people of Thurrock to enquire and ensure that the £611,000 has been spent for the purpose intended and represents value for money?