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COUNCIL

Meeting to be held on Monday 23 February 2015

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COUNCIL MEETING

23rd FEBRUARY 2015

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR WRITTEN REPLY

(1) From Colin Willetts, Secretary, Longbury Residents Association to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

I understand that Councillor Nathan will be using an interpreter during Council meetings, can you tell me the approximate cost per meeting & who will be paying for this service (assuming that LBB is legally obliged to provide this support)?

(2) From John Getgood, Chair, Penge Forum to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

The former Lodge in Penge Recreation Ground has been undergoing refurbishment by the new owner for at least 12 years. Residents have complained on several occasions about the waste of this local resource and the untidy state of the grounds surrounding the Lodge. The situation is clearly unsatisfactory.

Please can you tell me when council officers last visited the Lodge and discussed this situation with the owner?

(3) From John Getgood, Chair, Penge Forum to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What action, for example, issuing an untidy site notice, would you support to bring this building (the former Lodge in Penge Recreation Ground) back into use at the earliest opportunity?

(4) From John Getgood, Chair, Penge Forum to the Portfolio Holder for Environment

We were promised that the new public park in Kings Hall Road, created following permission being granted for the construction of houses on the former Cyphers' Sports Ground, would be opened to the public last summer, following the installation of park furniture and notices.

We are pleased to see the tennis courts being well used but why has the work on the park not been completed and when do you expect to see members of the public enjoying Bromley's first new park in this area for many years?

(5) From Mrs Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

Proposal to 11th February 2015 Executive to close Bromley Museum and sell off the historic Priory building and part of the Priory Gardens. The decision to withdraw this report is welcome. The Blue Plaque erected by LBB in 1999 states:

“The Priory Gardens form part of the commemoration in 1946 by the Orpington Urban District Council to those who gave their lives in the Second World War”

Is this statement untrue?

(6) From Mrs Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

Following the Council’s decision to postpone consideration of the item for 3 months, and discuss with local groups, will the people of Orpington and the public be consulted on the final options for the use of the Priory, the future of its Museum collection and their contribution to Orpington Town Centre?

(7) From Mrs Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

When will the Equality Impact Assessment be published and when will a report covering the planning requirements for the sale of the Priory as a Grade 2 * listed building in a Grade 2 listed park in a Conservation Area be prepared by Bromley’s Heritage/Planning Section?

COUNCIL MEETING

23rd FEBRUARY 2015

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Cllr Neil Reddin to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Could the Portfolio Holder please summarise the Council's response to TfL's consultation on the proposed extension of the Bakerloo Line to Hayes, and advise what response, if any, he has received?

2. From Cllr David Jefferys to the Portfolio Holder for Environment

Will the Portfolio Holder list the income received in the last two financial years and the projected income for 2025/16 for the collected

- (a) metal cans,
- (b) plastics,
- (c) waste paper,
- (d) glass,
- (e) textiles,

And for cans and plastic, how much is earned per item (or per ten items) collected .

3. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Leader of the Council

Which organisations have lost funding from Bromley Council this year?

4. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Leader of the Council

What estimate he has of the cost of new legislation and judicial decisions on the council's budget in each of the past three years?

5. From Cllr Ruth Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Education

What information he has as to the number of children who will be eligible for school in the Borough at the age of 5 in each year until 2020 on the basis of live births and recent inward migration to the borough?

6. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

From April onwards, how will the borough deal with shootings and inter racial incidents, such as the recent McDonalds case?

7. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

What progress has been made in making sure that the Council can enforce parking restrictions thus retaining £1 Million a year to the borough's coffers?

8. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Education

If he will give the location of each youth club run by the Council, the hours of operation, the annual running costs of the accommodation (including recharges), the estimated value of the premises, the annual staff costs (including recharges) and the number of different young people using each club each week?

9. From Cllr Ruth Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

What representations have been made to Affinity Sutton to encourage them to regenerate their estates within the borough?

10. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

From April onwards, how will the Female Genital Mutilation task and finish group maintain trusted contact with relevant groups?

11. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Leader of the Council

What efforts have been made to share resources with other public or private sector organisations in the borough?

12. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Education

What estimate does he have of the cost of providing alternative school places following the decision last year to refuse planning permission for the temporary buildings at Harris Beckenham site for a primary free school?

COUNCIL MEETING

23rd FEBRUARY 2015

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What is the largest airplane that

- a) can physically land at Biggin Hill Airport by Volume?
- b) is allowed to land at Biggin Hill Airport under the terms of the lease by volume?
- c) land at the airport by noise levels in decibels?

2. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What is the frequency of public transport service at Biggin Hill Airport at the following times and the destination of the service (nearest railway station)

- (i) between 6.30am and 7.30am on a weekday morning
- (ii) after 9.00pm on a weekday
- (iii) before 9.00am on a weekend
- (iv) after 8.00pm on a weekend

3. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What are the quickest journey times by public transport from Biggin Hill Airport to Bromley South and Orpington railway stations?

4. From Cllr David Jefferys to the Portfolio Holder for Education

When building work will commence on the Kingswood House Free School site and when the school will open?

5. From Cllr David Jefferys to the Portfolio Holder for Education

(a) How many pupils admitted to the Harris Kingswood Free school in September 2014 live in Shortlands Ward , and the number and percentage who live more than one mile from the Kingwood site.

(b) The same figures for the children offered places for September 2015

6. From Councillor David Jefferys to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What plans there are to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the opening of a Bromley College in 2016? If there are currently no plans whether the Portfolio Holder will work with the Trustees to appropriately mark the anniversary of the opening of this architectural gem in the Borough and commemorate the major contribution its residents have made to the life of Bromley over the centuries?

7. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Can you please advise the number of Bromley residents/families being made homeless through no fault of their own in the last 12 months?

8. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

A lot of time and effort has been spent on preparation of the Ward Profiles. In what ways are LBB making use the profiles and are there plans to tackle any of the negative outcomes?

9. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Is it accurate that a £7k invoice to cover the services of the Bromley Winter night shelter for 2014 / 2015 has only been partly paid by LBB at £3k? If so, is this a part payment with the outstanding £4k to be paid at a later date?

10. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Penge West Railway Station had been earmarked for step free access. Can you advise when work or consultation is expected to commence?

11. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Are there any specific scheduled dates for the company who fine people for dropping litter outside Bromley South Train Station to do any work in Penge and Cator.

12. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

With a number of new schools being constructed in the Borough and other schools increasing their intake substantially, what provision is being made for school crossing patrols and other road safety measures where appropriate?

13. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

How much is owed to Bromley in council tax and what is the largest amount owed by an individual?

14. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal & Recreation

As 15% of users to the Upper Norwood library are residents of Bromley would the Council look at contributing to this service?

15. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Following my question at the November meeting of the E&R PDS, can the Portfolio Holder provide:-

- What is the spend to date on the Adecco Agency Worker contract and the forecast out turn for the end of 2014/15?
- Please provide this spend broken down by month for 2014/15 and for as much of 2013/14 as monthly information is available for.
- Please also provide the number of person days provided under this contract by month for 2014/15 and for as much of 2013/14 as monthly information is available for.
- What percentage of the total paid to date for 2014/15 was retained by Adecco as their fee under this contract?

16. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

At the full council meeting on 13 October 2014 I asked the following question:

“How many payments on account have been made to housing benefit claimants for each of the last 12 months and what is the percentage of payments on account of all claims for each of these months?”

In reply, the following answer was provided (Council agenda 8 December):

“Unfortunately, information as to the number of Payments on Account is not available. However, I can confirm that the Authority attempts to make the initial payment on new claims as soon as possible.”

Having had two local residents who were entitled to and not given housing benefit payments on account, I remain determined to pursue my original questions. Therefore, at Executive & Resources PDS on 4th February, when Liberata presented their report on Housing Benefit Administration, I asked for an explanation as to why this information was not available.

Having – in vain - asked the question a total of four times at that meeting, I was finally promised that an answer would be provided. It has not.

Members of the E&R PDS will be aware that I have serious concerns about the administration of housing benefit by this authority, and that this matter is now being addressed elsewhere.

In the meantime however, please could the Portfolio Holder assure me that he will now give his personal attention to my questions and ensure that I am promptly given adequate and accurate answers?

17. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

What are the current electoral registration figures in % terms for each ward in the borough?

18. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Leader of the Council

What are Bromley doing to commemorate 50 years of the borough in May?

19. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

How many people in the borough have been sanctioned?

20. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If he will list by Plans Sub-Committee the number of applications since May 2014 which have been recommended for;

- i. approval
- ii. refusal
- iii. and the number in each case where the committee took a contrary view and the number of appeals registered as a result and where available the outcome of the appeal?

21. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What information he has as to the average number of applications dealt with by a single planning meeting in 2014-5 at the following boroughs:

Bromley
Hillingdon
Kensington and Chelsea
Wandsworth?

22. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If he will list the reasons which require a planning application to be automatically referred to a Planning sub-committee for decision?

23. From Councillor Ruth Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If he will provide in table format the monthly average and annual figures for 2013-4 and up to the latest available date the following information about each library:

- i. Number of visitors
- ii. Number of book issues
- iii. running costs
- iv. Cost per visitor
- v. Cost per book issue?
- vi. What has the percentage increase or decrease in book issues since 2007?

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COUNCIL MEETING

23RD FEBRUARY 2015

MOTION

Petts Wood Area Of Special Character (ASRC)

To be moved by Cllr Simon Fawthrop and seconded by Cllr Douglas Auld -

This Council agrees that the existing statement in the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) in relation to the Petts Wood Area Of Special Character (ASRC) should be supplemented with the following updated statement which should also form the basis of any descriptions within the Local Development Framework (LDF) including any future reports to Development Control Committee. This supplement should take place with immediate effect, subject to any statutory or technical considerations, which should be expedited.

1.3 Petts Wood Supplement to the Descriptions in the UDP:

The original plans for Petts Wood date from the late 1920s and early 1930s. While Houses were built over a number of years, in a number of similar though varied styles, the road layout and plot sizes were established in an overall pattern. Today the layout remains largely intact. Within the overall area the Conservation Areas of the Chenies and Chislehurst Road already stand out.

The plots were originally designed on the garden suburb principle by developer Basil Scruby, with large plot sizes spaciouly placed. The characteristics of the Petts Wood ASRC include an open feel, predicated by low boundaries and visible front gardens, set back from the road; there is also spaciousness between the houses which is of a superior standard. This allows many of the trees and greenery which prevails throughout the area to be seen from the street scene giving the area its open and semi- rural feel in line with the garden suburb principle. This open and suburban aspect of the area underlines the special characteristic of the area. Development which erodes this special character will be resisted.

The separation between building and the rhythm and pattern of the houses adds to the special character. In many cases there is a much wider separation between houses than in other parts of the Borough which demands a higher degree of separation between buildings to maintain the special character, the openness and feel of the area. Where there are pairs of houses that complement the rhythm of the street scene there is also a prevailing symmetry between the houses. This symmetry

can also be seen between neighbouring pairs. The plots are set out in such a way that the spacious character is one of a clear detached and semi-detached nature.

The front building and rear building lines are also of importance in defining the area. The buildings are of a 1930s design, for example some built by the distinguished designer Noel Reece, which adds to the character of the area. Whilst there have been some changes post war this design aspect of the area remains intact and future development should respect this characteristic. The front roof lines are also of a nature which enhances the characteristic of the area being largely untouched by roof extensions and conversions at the front.

The plot sizes and rear gardens are mostly of a size which is commensurate with the Garden Suburb principle and this characteristic also forms part of the amenity value which makes the area special.

When considering future development within the Petts Wood ASRC, the main focus will be on the impact of any proposed development on the ASRC, taking into account the design and spatial standards including the low density of existing development. Proposals which undermine the character, rhythm, symmetry and spatial standards of the area will be resisted. Likewise new dwellings proposed on gardens and infill will also be strongly resisted. In this context special is used in the dictionary sense to mean distinguished from others of the same category, because it is in some way superior or held in particular esteem.