



BROMLEY CIVIC CENTRE, STOCKWELL CLOSE, BROMLEY BRI 3UH

TELEPHONE: 020 8464 3333

CONTACT: Graham Walton
graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

DIRECT LINE: 020 8461 7743

FAX: 020 8290 0608

DATE: 26 November 2019

COUNCIL

Monday 9 December 2019

5 QUESTIONS (Pages 1 - 10)

The questions received for this meeting are attached.

- (a) Questions from members of the public for oral reply.
- (b) Questions from members of the public for written reply.
- (c) Questions from members of the Council for oral reply.
- (d) Questions from members of the Council for written reply.

Copies of the documents referred to above can be obtained from
<http://cde.bromley.gov.uk/>

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COUNCIL MEETING

9th December 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR ORAL REPLY

1. From Fiona Kerlogue, to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

In the light of the Climate Emergency and the 2018 recommendations of the Committee for Climate Change to double the number of new trees planted annually, what changes have been made or are planned to Bromley Council's Tree Management Strategy 2016-2020 which will ensure an immediate and substantial increase in the number of trees on Council-owned land in the Borough?

2. From Katie Lawlor to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

We would like to voice our serious concerns about the safety of our children crossing Nightingale Lane, Homesdale Road, Pembroke Road and Bishop's Avenue on their way to and from Bickley Primary School, as there are currently no pedestrian crossings.

What will the Council do to ensure the safety of our children on their journey to Bickley Primary School?

3. From Pamela Hicks to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

What is the current position regarding the proposed development of modular housing for temporary accommodation in Burnt Ash Lane car park and when is the application for planning permission to be submitted?

4. From Garnet Frost to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Regarding the Council's plans for Beckenham Library, the Beckenham Society, in partnership with local residents' and business groups, have commissioned a professionally sourced report, examining the feasibility as well as the desirability of these proposals. I know that the Council does not usually accept reports that it hasn't commissioned itself, but, in this instance, will the chamber please allow this particular report to be submitted and examined?

5. From Reverend Agnita Oyawale, Bromley Town Centre Chaplin, to the Leader of the Council

The Council have indicated that they want to work effectively with community groups and charities. What measures are in place to facilitate this?

6. From Katie Lawlor to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

We would like to voice our serious concerns about the safety of our children crossing Nightingale Lane, Homesdale Road, Pembroke Road and Bishop's Avenue on their way to and from Bickley Primary School, as there are currently no pedestrian crossings.

Will the Council approve pedestrian crossings on the surrounding roads to ensure our children's safety?

7. From Pamela Hicks to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Report No. DRR19/044a date 02/08/2019- paragraph 3.8 refers to usage data (which is understood relates to a usage survey - carried out over 4 days in June 2019), states that the car park operates below its current capacity. Can the Council confirm if the usage of the car park by Driving Test Candidates (amounting to a maximum of 10 candidates parked in the car park at any given time - see Council document 18/01775/FULL1) attending the Driving Test Centre at 121-123 Burnt Ash Lane was taken into consideration when the decision was made that the car park operates below its current capacity?

8. From Reverend Agnita Oyawale, Bromley Town Centre Chaplin, to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

I have met a number of young homeless, unemployed people while serving as the Bromley Town Centre Chaplain therefore, I would like to know what plans the Council has in place to effectively house young homeless people between the ages of 18 and 25 over the next 3 years.

COUNCIL MEETING

9th December 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Rohan Selva-Radov to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Does Bromley plan on becoming a 2020 “Green Town” as part of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day? If not, why?

2. From Luci Nye-Jones to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

I would like the Council to address the sale of Waitrose Burnt Ash Lane to Lidl’s, in regards to the known Asbestos within the Waitrose building. Can a member of the Council take responsibility for the health of the Bromley residents living all around that site on Burnt Ash Lane, Miller Close and beyond. There are a lot of families with children; nobody wants to be inhaling asbestos into their lungs. We need solid confirmation that either it is going to be removed correctly with everything sealed off, or never touched. Someone at the Council needs to ensure Lidl’s knows about it, and will deal with it correctly, as a matter of urgency.

3. From Luci Nye-Jones to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

I would also like to ask the Council to ensure the residents of Burnt Ash Lane, the houses behind Waitrose, Miller Close and Roslin Way receive documentation as a letter or notice on lamp posts; something to detail the plans so those of us affected by the lorry disruption and building noise etc know what is going to happen when, there have already been multiple lorries along Brindley Way going into the Waitrose loading bay, raising the concerns that somebody is ensuring the asbestos is looked into properly.

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COUNCIL MEETING9th December 2019**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR ORAL REPLY****1. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council**

The officer's recommendation to refuse permission on a planning application for s 10 Hazelwood Road, Cudham Sevenoaks TN14 7QU ref 19/00594 was over-turned by just one vote at Plans 4 on April 25th 2019 and approval was given.

I am told by officers who have investigated this for me that this application was not called-in by a member of this Council.

The property involved is residential, relatively isolated and of no public interest; there were no objections from neighbours or elsewhere.

Please provide a full explanation for why this application was decided at committee and not under delegated authority.

2. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Leader of the Council

I understand that, following preparation by officers, proposals for the care homes options appraisal have been provided to you by the interim director for adult social services. What recommendations have been made as a result of the review?

3. From Cllr Marina Ahmad to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

What safeguards do we have in place to monitor and protect our children who are placed in unregulated and unregistered homes?

4. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

In July I submitted a written question asking for details of planning applications which had been called in for decision by committee, including the name of the councillor who called them in. All of the information requested was provided with the exception of the name of the councillor who called each application in.

Please explain why this information was not provided?

5. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Is the Portfolio Holder aware that the Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Elm Road Conservation Area describes Beckenham Library as -

Number 22 Beckenham Road (the Library) is a good example of late Art Deco architecture and was built in 1939. A large multi stock brick building with large vertical metal framed windows with concrete surrounds. Fine decorative bust in keystone in the surround on the window above the main library road entrance. There is also a large decorative keystone above the large window facing Beckenham Road. The entrance facing Beckenham Road has an imposing pair of geometric panelled wooden doors with a moulded concrete coat of arms above it.

6. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing:

Can the Portfolio Holder explain why with the funding High Street Penge received from the New Homes Bonus and TfL for regeneration the effects of the money spent has shown no improvement to the High Street? Officers have been allowed to agree to losing a perfectly mature tree and provide two unsightly trees planted into huge tree pits, 2/3rd too big and which take up so much of the concourse. The seating is too close to filthy bins and electricity cases and face the oversized tree pits.

7. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

What is the justification of the description of Beckenham Public Halls as "underutilised" given in the paper on the relocation of Beckenham Library discussed at the last Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee?

8. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Enforcement

LBB's CCTV service is responsible for the management and operation of cameras installed in crime hotspots and town centre. Penge Traders and BID team recently attended the CCTV Control Room where it was clear that Empire Square (McDonalds) is a known black spot in our High Street, yet there is no CCTV cover. Would the Portfolio Holder meet the Penge BID team halfway with the cost of installing a CCTV camera?

9. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

What events, initiatives or other communications did council officers undertake to mark or raise awareness as part of National Road Safety Week (November 18th to 23rd)?

10. From Cllr Marina Ahmad to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

Why is Bromley paying more than other boroughs to place children in the same unregulated children's homes?

11. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

The government has recently relaxed legislation relating to the sale of housing stock by registered social landlords or housing associations. Previously RSLs were required to seek the permission of the local authority who had formerly owned these properties before they put them up for sale.

There is clear evidence of RSLs in the north of the borough selling off homes which are desperately needed by this Council, and our housing team report reductions in the number of properties which they have been offered by our in-borough housing associations.

Will he agree to make the strongest representations locally with RSLs and nationally with the government to be elected later this week?

12. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Leader of the Council

Can you please explain why the Council permitted a backlog of £400,000 in maintenance to build up at the grade 2 listed Beckenham Public Halls?

13. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Waterman's Square is part of the Heritage in Penge. Can the Portfolio Holder confirm that LBB is responsible for the historic aspects of Waterman's Square? If he is, is he also aware that Clarion's processes for reporting faults are ensuing that Waterman's Square slowly falls into disrepair and will he agree to a joint inspection with LBB and Officers to address the issues on this historic site?

14. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

What is the Portfolio Holder's view of the motion passed by CILIP members (the librarian's professional body) against the decision to admit GLL into CILIP's 'Employer Partner' scheme?

15. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

The security lighting in Queen Adelaide Court is fixed to the portals of the facade has not worked for 18 months despite regular reports. Clarion have not yet accepted responsibility nor have LBB. This is a Health & Safety issue as one resident has already fallen in the dark. Can you advise when action will be taken to identify whose responsibility this is and to implement repair/replace of these lights or issue notice to Clarion to do so?

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9th December 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management

Please provide a breakdown of the Council's use of Agency Staff, showing person days and net cost, by month from April 2018 to as recently as figures are available, broken down by Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, other EHCS, ECS and other. Please also show the number of employees in FTE with the same breakdown.

2. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management

Please provide the value of the maintenance backlog and the date it was last assessed for the following properties; Beckenham Spa, Beckenham Public Hall, Crofton Hall, Biggin Hill Leisure Centre, The Pavilion, Darrick Wood Swimming Pool, The Great Hall at the Civic Centre, the remainder of the Civic Centre, Anerley Town Hall, the Walnuts Leisure Centre, West Wickham Leisure Centre, the Kentwood Centre, the Widmore Centre, Central Depot, Churchfields Depot and each Library.

3. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management

Please provide the justification for the Council applying the same price:quality ration of 60:40 when assessing such diverse contracts as Waste Services, Domiciliary Care and professional services for architectural design work.

4. From Cllr Marina Ahmad to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

Please provide the ten highest monthly rates paid for children in care for 2018 and 2019 to date.

5. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Can the Portfolio Holder provide a timetable for occupation by tenants of the modular housing schemes currently in progress?

6. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Would the Portfolio Holder please supply details of the expenditure on consultancy fees on housing projects within the housing department in the last twelve months?

7. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Given that the government announced funding to address the problem of non-fire-resistant cladding on blocks of flats in May of this year, please provide an update on what the Council has done since then to expedite repairs to Northpoint Tower. Please also provide an anticipated start date for remedial works to take place.