

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 7 September 2023

Present:

Councillor Will Rowlands (Chairman)
Councillor Adam Jude Grant (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Felicity Bainbridge, Kathy Bance MBE,
Simon Fawthrop, Alisa Igoe, Chloe-Jane Ross,
Alison Stammers, Harry Stranger, Mark Brock

Tommy Velvick (Bromley Youth Council)

Also Present:

Councillor Sam Webber, Councillor Aisha Cuthbert and
Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P.

23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Councillor Colin Hitchins and Councillor Mark Brock attended as substitute.

Apologies were received from Bromley Youth Council representative Dragos Puiu and Tommy Velvick attended as substitute.

24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Alison Stammers declared an interest as the Secretary of the Friends of Chislehurst Recreation Ground.

Councillor Nicholas Bennett declared an interest as a Board Member of ReLondon.

25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29th JUNE 2023 (Excluding Exempt Information)

The minutes of the meeting that was held on 29th June 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

26 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR THE CHAIRMAN

One written question was received for the Chairman, and this has been published on the Council website.

The question and responses are appended to the minutes.

27 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Five oral questions were received by the Portfolio Holders from members of the public:

The questions and responses are appended to the minutes.

<https://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=127&MId=7683&Ver=4>

28 ORAL QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS FROM COUNCILLORS

Three questions were received by the Portfolio Holders from Councillors. The questions and responses are appended to the minutes.

29 WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Six written questions were received for the Portfolio Holders from members of the public. The questions and responses are appended to the minutes.

30 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were five written questions received from Councillors. The questions and responses are appended to the minutes.

31 MATTERS ARISING AND WORK PROGRAMME

CSD23116

It was agreed that an update on Ring-Go would be added to the Work Programme for January 2024.

It was noted that the new Road Safety Document had not yet been published, however it was anticipated that this would be actioned by the end of the month.

A Member asked why the report regarding the Depot Infrastructure Capital Works Project had been moved from November to January. It was explained that this was because more detailed survey work was being undertaken with the Environment Agency. Updates had been disseminated to residents regarding the proposed works.

A discussion took place regarding the update on the EV Charging Pilot Scheme. This had been scheduled for January 2024. The Director for Environment and Public Protection said that it was his wish (and that of the

Portfolio Holder) that the update be provided as soon as possible, but it was important that enough time be allowed to get things right.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that an update on Ring-Go be brought to the January 2024 PDS meeting.

**32 GLENDALE ANNUAL CONTRACT PERFORMANCE REPORT
2022/23: ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES**

ES20298

The report reviewed the 2022/23 annual performance of the contract for arboricultural services with Glendale Ltd.

Jason Kinsella (Regional Director-South Thames) attended to represent Glendale along with Hannah Jackson, LBB Assistant Director Environment (Carbon Management & Greenspace).

The Chairman stated that in his view, Glendale's performance had fallen below the required standard. In mitigation, Mr Kinsella responded that there had been an increase in the volume of work that had proved challenging. There had also been extensive changes in Glendale's senior management team. Glendale were now working closely with the Council to understand and resolve issues. Recruitment had been another hurdle to overcome as there was a lack of suitably qualified staff. Resultantly, Glendale were looking at various recruitment options which included apprenticeships, fast-tracking trainees and the use of third party agencies.

Members were informed that Glendale had submitted an improvement and recovery plan which set out key actions. The Chairman stated that the Committee were expecting to see improvements and queried if the contract was too large for Glendale to handle.

It was noted that Glendale contracted out work to suitably qualified local businesses.

A Member raised the matter of tree felling. She asked if too many trees were being felled because the maintenance of said trees was too difficult to manage. The Assistant Director Environment (Carbon Management & Greenspace) explained that it was LBB Tree Officers who would use their expertise to identify necessary tree works. This was undertaken in line with the Council's Tree Management Strategy. Any works required would be notified to Glendale. If required, Tree Officers would be able to provide reports concerning any recommended tree works.

It was noted that trees were inspected all year round and that the number of Tree Officers was now four; one post was still being recruited to.

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The Chairman concluded by thanking Mr Kinsella for attending the meeting and by saying that he was expecting to see a serious improvement in Glendale's performance.

RESOLVED that the Glendale Annual Performance Report be noted.

**33 VEOLIA ANNUAL CONTRACT PERFORMANCE REPORT:
2022:23**

ES20305

Attending to present the report from the London Borough of Bromley were Catherine Cook, (Head of Environment Strategy, Technical Support and Commissioning) and the Assistant Director for Environment, Mr Peter McCready. Representing Veolia was Regional Manager, Mr Ben Velmans.

The report was presented to the committee to provide a review of the 2022/23 annual performance of the three environmental services contracts managed by Veolia ES UK Limited. The committee was recommended to review and comment on the contents of the report.

The Chairman stated that he was pleased with the report and with Veolia's performance. He asked if Veolia's previous industrial relations issues had now been resolved and the response was affirmative.

A discussion took place regarding recycling in general and particularly with respect to flats above shops. It was noted that the previous recycling pilot in Penge and Cator Ward for flats above shops had failed. A Member commented that the scheme was too complicated and that there should have been just one bag for recycling and then one other bag for all other waste. The Council would provide bins where required for recycling, but sometimes there were problems if the area was commercial land. A recent visit had been undertaken with Clarion on the Ramsden Estate to discuss areas that could be used for bins.

The Head of Environment Strategy, Technical Support and Commissioning said that recycling and waste collections from flats above shops was problematic due to the lack of space--both internally and externally. ReLondon were currently conducting trials in other London boroughs and testing different collection methods for flats above shops. LBB would consider the report once it was released, to see whether the Council could use any of the findings in developing its own scheme.

It was noted that 100% of waste was processed either in the UK or Europe depending on the location of the appropriate infrastructure. Much paper recycling was taking place in Belgium and it was now the case that no paper was being lost.

Mr Velmans said that with respect to missed collections, Veolia was seeking to increase resilience and had spent six months giving consideration as to how this could be achieved in the spirit of continuous improvement.

The matter of POPs was discussed (Persistent Organic Pollutants) and it was noted that items that may contain these pollutants would be incinerated.

The Chairman thanked Mr Velmans for attending and for answering questions.

RESOLVED that the Environment and Community Services PDS Committee note the report.

34 UPDATE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

A written update was circulated to Members by the Portfolio Holder. A Member queried if the Council liaised with the police regarding the vandalism of ULEZ cameras. The Portfolio Holder stated that this was a matter for TfL as the cameras did not belong to the Council. It was noted that the vandalism of ULEZ cameras was an act of criminal damage, and could result in as much as a 10 year prison sentence. The Portfolio Holder commented that TfL vehicles should also obey the law as there had been instances of them parking illegally.

A mention was made of E-bike rentals but the Portfolio Holder's view was that they were not economically viable and that there was little demand in the Borough for these. A Member commented that the gully trial was a good project and she hoped that it would indeed be rolled out. She commended the 'Driven by Consequences' production that had been presented in certain schools and she expressed the view that it should be mandatory in all Bromley secondary schools.

The view was expressed that the frequency of bus routes needed to be improved and that new transport corridors and interchanges were required.

RESOLVED that the update from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be noted.

35 UPDATE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR SUSTAINABILITY, GREEN SERVICES AND OPEN SPACES.

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces had tabled a written update for the attention of the committee. A Member asked if new tree pits would be installed in high streets and the Portfolio Holder said that there was no budget for this.

A new press release had been released with respect to progress regarding Kelsey Park Bridge, along with a video on social media. The design work for a

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new bridge was near completion and it was anticipated that the tender process would be completed by the end of this year. It was hoped that work on the new bridge would be completed by Summer 2024.

It was noted that the Passenger Transport Forum would be meeting in the Council Chamber on 10th October.

RESOLVED that the update from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces be noted.

36 ECS PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

ES20290

A Member asked if any more information was available concerning the cost of using an additional contractor to deal with potholes. The Director said that as it stood, the additional contractor was operating within the annual budget that had been agreed with the original contractor.

The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety said that details could be provided privately to Members if requested, as this was commercially sensitive information.

RESOLVED that the ECS Performance Overview update be noted.

37 QUESTIONS REGARDING THE INFORMATION BRIEFING.

No questions had been received regarding the Information Briefing.

38 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF REPORTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

a QUARTER ONE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT: 2023/24

FSD23048

A Member noted the fall in car parking income and enquired how this loss could be mitigated, and whether or not there would be a reduction in car parking capacity. The Director responded and said that this was a complex question with a number of variables to consider. The Council was reviewing car parking policy and need. There were no plans to change car parking policy at the moment, but ultimately any decision would be a decision for Members.

A Member highlighted that there had been a 350% increase in providing business support for markets. He wondered if the Council was therefore budgeting correctly. The Director pointed out that COVID regulations

concerning how much could be charged for market licences still applied, which had reduced the amount of income received by the Council.

RESOLVED that:

1) The Portfolio Holders endorse the 2023/24 revenue budget monitoring position for the Environment and Community Services Portfolio.

2) The Portfolio Holders agree the release of the amounts carried forward from 2022/23 as set out in section 3.5 of the Budget Monitoring report.

b CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

FSD23053

It was noted that the Council's gritting fleet was maintained by Riney and that the fleet would be fully ready to grit the Borough's roads in the Winter. Some of the fleet may need replacing in due course and various options such as leasing were being considered.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holders note and acknowledge the changes to be put to the Executive on 20th September 2023.

39 ENFORCEMENT OF BLUE BADGE MISUSE

ES20306

The report set out the process used since 2020 to enforce Blue Badge misuse and recommended that the process be retained.

It was explained that the revenue from court fines was paid to the Ministry of Justice. The prosecuting Council could apply for costs. In the past, it was often the case that only token costs were reimbursed, but now Bromley would be pressing for full costs to be awarded.

RESOLVED that:

1) The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be recommended to agree that the process adopted for enforcing against the misuse of Blue Badges in the Borough since 2020 be retained, as set out in Section 3 of the report.

2) The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety is recommended to delegate any minor changes needed in the coming years to the Director, after ongoing discussion with the Portfolio Holder.

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a LOCAL ROAD SAFETY AND HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

ES20307

The Chairman stated that due to a request from Petts Wood Councillors that Birchwood Road be removed, he was recommending that the following clause be added to the end of recommendation 2.2: *'and subject to consultation between the Portfolio Holder and Ward Councillors'*

A Member requested that Clarendon Way, Chislehurst, be added to list of roads benefiting from new measures.

The Portfolio Holder commented that all the schemes that had been listed were good schemes and were worth spending money on. He said that there had been a little local difference in Petts Wood between three Members. He urged that all colleagues in Wards agree with each other before making submissions.

A Member commented that she had previously highlighted that in Plaistow Lane (by the Green), tactile paving was located incorrectly, and was therefore dangerous. The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking said that a walk around would be conducted in that area later in the month, and he would have a look at the Member's specific concern regarding the tactile paving at that time.

RESOLVED that:

1) The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be recommended to allocate £150k from the Members' Initiative Earmarked Reserve for Environmental Projects, to facilitate the introduction of low cost, locally requested road safety and highway improvement interventions, as set out in section 3 of the report.

2) The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be recommended to delegate the programming and delivery of these road safety measures over the next 24 months to the Director of Environment & Public Protection after ongoing discussion with the Portfolio Holder and also subject to consultation with Ward Councillors.

40 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS

a TREEMENDOUS: YEAR 2 UPDATE

ES20297

The report provided an update on the delivery of the Council's 'Treemendous' tree planting programme following the second year of delivery.

Members were informed that the QR codes on the trees were now working on IOS and would be working on Android devices shortly. It was noted that 2500 of the planned 5000 trees had been planted and that there was sufficient funding available to complete the project. If Members wished to report an issue regarding a tree, then they should do that primarily via the QR code and secondarily via FMS.

Suggestions for new tree-pit locations could be forwarded, but sometimes the siting of new tree pits could be a difficult process. It was noted that trees designated as 'distressed' had been allocated onto this year's tree maintenance programme and it was further noted that the spread of fungal tree spores was difficult to contain.

RESOLVED that the Environment and Community Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee note the progress made in the second year of the Tremendous tree planting programme and the revised communications programme to encourage more community led watering.

b ANNUAL STATUS REPORT FOR YEAR 2022 - REPORTING ON BROMLEY'S AIR QUALITY

ES20303

The report was drafted to advise on the air quality monitoring results from the Council's monitoring equipment and to demonstrate the progress made delivering actions against the Council's Air Quality Action Plan 2020-25.

The Assistant Director for Public Protection briefed the committee that Bromley had good air quality, and more air quality monitoring stations now than at any time in the past. Concentration of PM_{2.5} was noted at 10.6 against an objective of 40 so this was good. Indeed, all locations within the Borough were complying with national air quality objectives and standards. The permanent air quality monitoring station at Harwood Avenue had showed that nitrogen dioxide had not exceeded the relevant levels. The Council's Air Quality Action Plan had been positively received by the GLA and had been published on the Council website.

A Member commented that hopefully with the introduction of ULEZ, there would be further improvements in air quality. The Assistant Director for Public Protection said that the trend across the Borough was downward and that there were other measures to consider in addition to ULEZ that could positively affect air quality in Bromley.

A Member commented that the introduction of ULEZ in Bromley would only result in a 3% enhancement to the air quality, and actually the air quality was 70 times worse on the Tube in inner London. He queried if PM₁₀ was a valid measurement, as PM₁₀ incorporated PM_{2.5}; he also wondered if PM_{2.5} was

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composed of naturally occurring particles like pollen, which would mean that Bromley (being a 'green' Borough), would see an increased level of these.

A Member asked how many times the permanent monitoring station in Harwood Avenue had gone down. The Assistant Director for Public Protection responded that she would look into this and provide a response outside the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Environment and Community Services, Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the Annual Status Report for the year 2022.

41 RISK REGISTER UPDATE REPORT

ES20292

The Committee reviewed the Environment and Community Services Risk Register update report.

RESOLVED that the report and the appended Risk Register be noted.

42 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

43 EXEMPT MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee noted the exempt minutes of the previous meeting and agreed that they could be signed as a correct record.

QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN

ORAL QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm

Chairman

ECS PDS: 7th September 2023

Written Question from the Public to the Chairman

1: Question from Ann Garrett from Bromley Friends of the Earth to the Chairman

Bromley Friends of the Earth are appalled to learn that the Council have used £140 k of taxpayers money on the legal challenge to ULEZ expansion when air pollution is such a serious problem leading to increased CO2 emissions. The money could have been used for positive local biodiversity projects.

What is the committee's opinion of this and will they make any recommendations for reparation for such an environmentally damaging decision?

Response to Question 1:

We need to remember that Bromley's air is already amongst the cleanest in London already, 2nd to only Havering, with air quality already improving as well, with our environmental green credentials something we are rightly proud of.

It is a great shame the Mayor of London pressed ahead with this scheme to raise taxes, leaving the Council with little option but to act. When compared with the £thousands that residents will now each need to be pay in additional taxes for years to come, the £140k was a price worth paying to protect residents, with this cost not new news but announced in February's council meeting: [Council 27 February 2023 - Minutes](#).

Furthermore, the Council minimised its costs by sharing costs with coalition councils and given the same circumstances, we would do the same again.

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Questions from the Public for Oral Response:

1) Question from Dermot Mckibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces:

What are the financial savings and reductions in carbon emissions for the proposed installations of the solar panels at the council owned Spa and Pavilion centres and will the Council use its influence to ensure that Mytime signs off this project?

Response to Question 1:

There are no financial savings to the Council arising from the installation of solar panels at Beckenham Spa or the Pavilion Leisure Centre, as the Council are not responsible for utilities at these sites, which are leased to Mytime Active on a full repairing and insuring basis.

Any question on potential savings or on the reduction in carbon emissions, which are not measured by the Council, should be directed to Mytime.

Officers met with Mytime and SELCE in August and have agreed that the Council will, as Landlord, provide its consent should Mytime wish to proceed with this project.

Supplementary Question:

The savings to the spa as I understand it are in the region of £456.00k The cost to the Council and the Spa would be nil as the cost will be borne by public share offers as has occurred elsewhere in Lewisham and Greenwich. If the spa is unable to sign off this agreement then they may come back to the Council to ask for more financial support. This is going to generate substantial carbon savings and should be in line with Council policy. Do you have any influence with My Time to enable the project to be signed off and to subsequently present a report to committee concerning the making of all of My Time and properties owned by the Council climate change friendly?

Response to the Supplementary Question from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces.

I believe that this matter sits with the Property Team. I would suggest contacting Councillor Bear to see if she could bring this matter to the Renewal & Recreation Housing PDS Committee.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Igoe:

Would you discuss this matter with Councillor Bear and Councillor Marlow as the matter covers several portfolios.

Response to the Supplementary Question from Cllr Igoe from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces:

I am always open to discussing issues with Cabinet colleagues where matters crossover different briefs and I will do so as and when required.

2) Question from Teresa Steele to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

This question is in respect of the Equality Impact assessment (EIA) relating to the removal of cash payment for parking in council controlled parking areas dated September 2022.

Would the Council please advise what procedures and methods were used to gather information about the impact of this policy on protected groups, to ensure compliance with Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (EqA 2010) and the specific duties under section 153. Who signed off the EIA at the Council?

Response to Question 2 from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

The Council followed its internal procedures to conduct a full equalities impact assessment on the removal of cash payment for parking in Bromley to ensure full compliance with PSED.

This process highlighted the potential impact on the age and disability groups. Those with disabilities who are part of the Blue Badge scheme will be unaffected by this service change. People of all ages who use parking bays are motorists who have demonstrated they have the skill to drive a vehicle, which is considered more demanding than using a mobile phone or computer--was a mitigating factor in the age category.

We fully evidenced our thinking, several methods were used to gather information including trend and data analysis from a range of data sets including census, UK finance, TFL, to measure impact on the identified groups. Focus has been placed on those without bank accounts, computers or smartphones, but data showed that car owners and those with disabilities were likely to have bank accounts due to the requirements of vehicle administration and benefits and allowances.

A public information campaign was put in place before implementation, including FAQs for residents informing them of the various ways of booking a session, including by computer, not just via a smart phone and that they can go to libraries should they need help with using computers, not to be digitally excluded. Leaflets were also provided in community settings to raise awareness amongst equalities groups. Market testing of the service change took place in 2020 and 2022. The EIA was completed by an impartial Council Officer from the Culture and Regeneration team and was signed off by the Director of Environment and Public Protection.

Supplementary Question:

Could you supply me with a list of the stakeholders consulted with respect to the Equality Impact Assessment please?

Response to the Supplementary Question from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

I will see if a list is available.

3) Question from John Perkins to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

Although progress has been made in clearing the backlog of pothole repairs, there are still many outstanding. I understand that the contractors are now switching their attention to footway repairs. Why is this being done when there are still many longstanding pothole repairs to be dealt with? How many crews will still be dealing with pothole repairs?

Response to Question 3 from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

Pothole repairs will continue to be undertaken in accordance with Council policy. Our contractors are currently employing 15 gangs in the borough. Of the outstanding reactive repairs, two-thirds relate to footways, and the resources deployed will reflect this.

Supplementary Question:

From my observations there are still a large number of potholes that have not been repaired, some for as long as six months. The performance schedule that is part of this agenda does not contain any data on the 35 day tasks since April 2023. Can you give any confidence that the contractor will be addressing long outstanding pothole repairs in the immediate future?

Response to the Supplementary Question from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

A second contractor was brought in to assist the first contractor as they were having problems getting enough staff. From my observations (after coming back from holiday), I was pleased to note that many of the potholes that I had reported had been dealt with. There are still many to do but we are getting on top of it. I anticipate that the remaining pot-holes will be repaired by the end of the month. Winter is coming and so let's hope we don't get more pot-holes because of Winter.

4) Question from Tim Webb to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

Despite many comments from residents and councillors, the Highways Dept remain unable to give any idea of timescale for dealing with potholes or to explain why your contractor does not deal with all the defects in one location at the same time. Why is this?

Response to Question 4 from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

Repair works are programmed by our contractors to make the best use of resources. Our contractors have been reminded that all defects within a location should be completed at the same time, but there are locations when this is not possible, such as when traffic management is required.

Supplementary Question:

The question is really regarding the updating of notes on 'Fix My Street.' I recently reported 3 potholes by the roundabout in Orpington. The last official update saying that traffic management would be required was on the 13th May. We are now in September and what I am disappointed with is not with the efforts of the contractor, but rather I would like to ask if the Highways Department could be more forthcoming and more current with putting updates on FMS.

Response to the Supplementary Question from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

There are at least three officers here listening to your reply and your reputation as the 'Pot Hole King' goes before you. I am sure that Mr Brand will ensure that you receive a reply to your question.

5) Question from Richard Gibbons to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces.

Parliament has concluded England is arguably the most littered nation in Europe, and LB Bromley is no exception. Speaking to idverde operatives, I understand that their litter picking team has been disbanded. As a consequence, is the Council surreptitiously outsourcing the job of litter picking our parks and greenspaces to the volunteer workforce?

<https://www.euronews.com/2023/03/15/welcome-to-a-filthy-littered-dump-called-britain>

Response to Question 5 from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces:

No. idverde are contracted by the Council to provide a programme of cleaning in parks and open spaces in the borough. The cleansing teams have not been disbanded.

Supplementary Question:

Thank you Portfolio Holder for your answer.

Before my supplementary question, as Veolia are in the chamber, may I take a moment to thank them for their support for Street Friends, providing these striking vests, litter pickers and purple sacks; and to Maria for promoting Street Friends and organising a regular forum.

As we are providing a 'green service', may I request 'green' rather than 'yellow' vests? Wearing a 'green' vest would also avoid our volunteers being mistaken for the

yellow-vested protestors associated with The Stop ULEZ Coalition, which lists Cllr Fawthrop amongst its members.

Portfolio Holder, our 'litter walks' in Green Street Green cover around 23 hectares, a small part of Chelsfield Ward, about the same area as Norman Park. Since local elections last May Friends of Green Street Green have spent 459 hours collecting and recycling 10,886 bottles and cans, 2,254 nitrous oxide canisters, and filling 192 purple sacks with non-recyclable litter.

If we extrapolate the numbers across 22 wards, a conservative estimate would be 10,000 hours spent picking up 250,000 bottles and cans, 50,000 nitrous oxide canisters, and filling 4,000 sacks with litter.

Whether idverde are litter picking or not is debatable. Are they doing a thorough job? Clearly not. Therefore, would you acknowledge that resident-led community groups have become a de facto contractor which, since May 2022, has provided a service worth over £100,000 at National Living Wage?

Response to the Supplementary Question from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces:

There is no denying that the Friends Groups do an enormous amount of work. I can only speak from my experience that whenever I have visited parks I have seen idverde operatives working hard and their trucks full of rubbish. It begs the question as to why we have such a litter problem. I don't think its fair to criticise idverde.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Simon Fawthrop:

Can we refer the matter of littering to the Education Portfolio Holder. It is important to ingrain into future generations the fact that littering is not acceptable?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces:

I think this is a cross portfolio issue. Veolia have been working on their own educational initiatives and indeed were recently nominated for a national recycling award. I think that there is more to do for sure and that it is important that this education is encouraged in secondary schools.

Supplementary comment from Councillor Allison Stammers:

I concur with the observations of Mr Richard Gibbons. The Friends of Chislehurst Recreation Ground are constantly picking up litter after idverde operatives have left the area. There appear to be some ID Verde operatives who are conscientious in their work and others who are not.

Response to Councillor Stammers from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces:

Please report any issues of this nature to your Commercial Manager, Myself or to Hannah Jackson. We do need to know about these issues so that they can be monitored.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Chloe Jane-Ross:

Do we have the right amount of bins and in the right places?

Response to Councillor Chloe Jane Ross from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces:

I am not against installing additional bins in new areas, but in some instances it appears that more bins can attract more litter. We can put in more bins if required. Please direct any queries of this nature to your Commercial Manager for assessment.

ECS PDS: 7th September 2023

Oral Questions from Councillors:

1) Question from Cllr Alison Stammers to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

RingGo only payment for parking in the borough has been in place since 1st April 2023.

Please may I have the Portfolio Holder's assurance:

- a. that there will be a full and comprehensive review of the impact of this implementation on residents (and the elderly, vulnerable and digitally excluded in particular); that other methods of payment (e.g. contactless/scratch cards) will be considered and costed and that this will be presented to Environment Committee on 16th November;
- b. that committee members will receive full statistics (usage & revenue) for each council controlled car park/off street car parking per ward for each ward on a month by month basis from April to August inclusive with comparable figures for 2022, and thereafter on an ongoing monthly basis to April 2024;
- c. that the committee will receive data about enforcement notices issued in each of these Council controlled parking areas on a monthly basis since April 2023, again with comparable data for 2022.

Response to Question 1 from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

As promised, a full report based on the first six months of cashless parking will be made to the January 2024 meeting of the committee.

Supplementary Question:

Do you recognise that usage in all of Chislehurst's three car parks has declined since RingGo implementation. This is to the tune of 7184 users and is a loss of revenue to the Council of over £6k if one assumes a one hour stay. This revenue would have significantly offset the cost of the contactless machine I requested in June and would have generated more income for the Council. Do you acknowledge that RingGo has had a negative effect on footfall, spend and on well-being generally of our residents?

Response to Councillor Stammers from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways, and Road Safety.

No, is the answer I will give to parts two and part 3 of the question. As for part one, I look at the figures for the whole of the borough and after a decline in April and May, there was an increase in June and July.

Comment from Councillor Alison Stammers:

As you know I represent the Chislehurst Ward. This is the information that I have received from the Parking Department with respect to Chislehurst and also the information that I have received from local businesses and residents. They are telling me that they are no longer coming to Chislehurst because they cannot get to grips with the RingGo.

Response to Councillor Alison Stammers from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

Trade can move up or down for various reasons.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Alisa Igoe.

How much would it cost to implement a scratch card system?

Response to Councillor Alisa Igoe from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

The cost of this would be prohibitive and you would need ten different tariffs for on street parking. Ten scratch cards would cost the Council £11 to produce. These costs would have to be passed on to the motorist. We have eight different tariffs in car parks. If someone was parking for three hours in an expensive location would have to have a whole windscreen full of scratch cards. Looking at what other local authorities have reported, they have reported nil or minimum take up of scratch cards. The cost of doing it would be very expensive and you would need a separate accounting system, and only a very small number of people would be likely to use it.

Comment from Councillor Simon Fawthrop:

The uptake of Ringo has increased in the Petts Wood Ward, so it might be the case that there is a better business offering there than in Chislehurst.

Comment from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

It may be the case that there is a fear of downloading the App, but it takes just three minutes to download it. Its actually a very simple system to use. I don't think that it is a big ask, to ask someone who drives a tonne and a half of steel on the road, where they have all the hazards relating to other motorists and people walking out into the street, to spend a few minutes downloading the App and using it on their phone, or making a phone call.

Comment from Councillor Alisa Igoe:

Not everyone has a phone.

Response to Councillor Alisa Igoe from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

Well, anyone who drives a car and does not have a phone will find it very difficult if they break down as there are not many phone boxes around. I don't believe that there are many motorists who will not have a mobile phone of some sort; this is the

reality of life. It is estimated that 94% of the population possess mobile phones and it is likely that anyone who drives a car will possess a mobile phone. We need to be very clear, that this Council is facing a £35 million deficit in 2026, and here we have the opposition asking us to spend extra money, when the existing system has already been put in place and is working.

2) Question from Cllr Alisa Igoe to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

On 29 June you said behavioural change was required (to reduce KSIs), noting the following reasons: cyclists running red lights, cycle lanes not being used. Pedestrians crossing roads whilst using their phone. Scooters being ridden in the dark, with no lights. Vehicles being driven under the influence of alcohol, of drugs, when using mobile phones, drivers not using seatbelts, having no insurance.

Why did you not mention speed, when TfL reported speed was a factor in 48% of fatal collisions in London in 2020?

Response to Question 2:

There are many causes of road collisions, the causes I gave were, of course, not an exhaustive list. Speed is a relevant factor in many collisions and drivers need to drive at appropriate speeds, which will vary according to the weather, the presence of pedestrians and many other hazards.

Supplementary Question from Alisa Igoe:

On page 173 of the agenda we have a list of highway improvements which include 12 vehicle activated signs reminding drivers about speed restrictions, and also 13 flashing signs outside of 13 schools. All these are designed to slow drivers down. In your view, does this mean the Bromley has a speeding problem?

Response to Councillor Igoe from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

We do have a problem in certain locations and people need to be warned when passing schools regarding the school opening and closing times. We don't have the 20 MPH zones in force outside of those times, unlike some authorities. We do of course have to warn motorists who step over the speed limit. Having warning signs is very useful.

3) Question from Cllr Alisa Igoe to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

On 25/01/23 you said an application had been approved for 5g aerials on lamp posts.

How many small cell equipment have been installed on lamp posts as of 07/09/23, in which wards, and has there been an audit of all street furniture held within the Environment Portfolio that would be suitable to host digital infrastructure?

Response to Question 3:

To date, 27 small cells have been installed on lamp columns in Bromley, Beckenham, Penge, Orpington and Chislehurst. Most lamp columns would be suitable for small cell transmitters, although the rollout is driven by the service providers who are currently only considering sites within busy shopping areas.

4) Question from Cllr Bance to both Portfolio Holders:

Many of us are aware that there is a climate emergency even though we as a Brough have not yet declared one. Does Bromley except there is a climate emergency?

Will Bromley use its powers to ban high carbon advertising on Council-owned ad spaces?

Response to Question 4 from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces.

I don't think that it is appropriate to create unnecessary concern for residents by declaring a climate emergency. I would rather talk about various things that we have done in recent years in response to climate change. We have initiated the Grass Verges Trials, the Tremendous Programme and the Borough Parks Fund. The Council also won an award for recycling. There was also the Woodlands Project for Sustainable Planting. This Council's stance towards the environment is based on actions and not words.

Supplementary question from Councillor Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces:

There is no argument from scientists regarding the fact that we are in a climate emergency. Why are you reluctant to agree what the whole world knows--that we're in a climate emergency?

Response to Councillor Bance from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces:

What would it achieve. It doesn't help the problem and will not achieve anything. I'm particularly mindful of people with mental health issues. I would rather focus on solutions which is what we are doing.

Response to the second part of Question 4 from Councillor Bance, from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

The Council does not own any advertising spaces as such, but it does have an agreement with JCDecaux (and others, i.e. advertising on roundabouts etc.) for digital screen advertising. Even if we were minded to support this in the JCDecaux contract, following Executive approval, we have just extended our contract with JCDecaux, with this now ending in 2032 and this was not part of our extension contract agreement.

For background, you will see the Green Party have called for a similar ban for a little while now <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2020/10/11/green-party-to-end-advertising-for-%E2%80%9Chigh-carbon%E2%80%9D-goods-and-services/>.

You may recall that at PDS in January when the contract extension proposal was scrutinised, that there was a Member comment about the environmental impact of digital advertising. We were able to reassure members that JCDecaux had considered the environmental impact of their infrastructure. The minutes confirm some of this

<https://cde.bromley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=127&MId=7423&Ver=4> but the JCDecaux digital information screens: use 100% renewable energy, only operated at 70% brightness in the day and 20% brightness at night and are switched off between midnight and 6am. They also avoid the need to print advertising on paper and there are consequently less vehicle journeys to the sites to service the screens.

The issue of high carbon advertising did not come up at PDS, but the contract has very much taken the view that as long as the advert conforms to the ASA standards, then it is acceptable, and therefore we do accept high fat food adverts for instance.

Response from Cllr Bance

I think that we missed something in the contract by allowing high carbon adverts.

Comment from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

I am not sure if I have correctly understood your question. We follow the standards set down by the Advertising Authority and only accept adverts that are lawful.

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ECS PDS—7th September 2023

Written Questions from the Public to the Portfolio Holders:

1) Question from Brendan Donegan to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

If Bromley's residents establish an independent road safety forum as a broad, diverse, inclusive body to replace the Council's Road Safety Panel (which Councillor Bennett disbanded), will the Portfolio Holder engage with this body?

Response to Question 1:

The Road Safety Panel had not met for three years. I judged that there were more cost-effective ways of considering road safety improvements. In addition to 58 ward councillors who know their wards intimately, we also receive many helpful suggestions from residents which are examined by our officers using their expertise.

2) Question from Carrie Heitmeyer to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

In a response to a question submitted to the previous Environment Committee meeting, the Portfolio Holder stated that Bromley Council does not see value in many of the measures included in the Healthy Streets Scorecard.

Please can he explain what is meant by this statement in relation to specific measures?

Response to Question 2:

We published in November 2022 a comprehensive document setting out our policies. The Healthy Streets Scorecard contains several policies that are not, in my view, a good measure of success or failure. We do not, for instance, believe that blanket 20 MPH zones or Low Traffic Neighbourhoods are a cost effective way of reducing road casualties.

3) Question from Richard Hart to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

How many electric charging points are needed in the Borough?

Response to Question 3:

It is impossible to estimate how many EV charging points will be needed, as it will depend on how quickly residents change their cars for this mode and how many will charge their cars at home or service stations. We will encourage companies to work in partnership with the Council and TfL to provide on street charge points and we will shortly launch a trial of 45 charge points using three different technologies.

4) Question from Michael Titheridge to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

Many residents in the Crofton area have commented that they do not feel safe using the zebra crossings that were installed as part of the cycleway scheme, partly because of lack of visibility by motorists and partly because of the removal of the central islands. Despite efforts by Crofton Residents Association and individual residents to meet with council officers to discuss safety issues officers seem unwilling to take any action.

Why is the Council unwilling to engage with residents to discuss these concerns?

Response to Question 4:

The crossing, as with all significant highway improvements, was designed in line with the latest design guidance and was subject to a thorough safety audit. It is not accepted that there is a problem with visibility or with the absence of a central refuge. The safety record of the new crossing is monitored and no problems have been identified.

5) Question from Sonja Perkins to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

Crofton Road, from Ormonde Avenue to Locksbottom, is in dire need of resurfacing having been dug up and patched countless times over the last 30 years. I understand that this is classified as a Principal Road and that resurfacing of such roads has historically been financed by TfL. However, it seems that TfL are providing negligible funding at present. Given that Westmoreland Road was resurfaced recently out of council funds, why can the same not be done for Crofton Road?

Response to Question 5:

It is correct that this and other major road resurfacing has been financed by TfL. Unfortunately, apart from two small schemes we have received no money from TfL since 2018. The Council has therefore used some of its scarce resources to resurface part of a few roads, including a section of Westmorland Road.

Dependent on condition surveys and finance we will continue to resurface where possible.

6) Question from Sue Sulis to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

The Greenbelt site owned by Land Improvement Holdings in St Mary Cray generated serious Surface Water Flooding on 20/10/2021. A ditch runs across most of its western boundary, leading to a Drain (Ordinary Watercourse) in the lowest corner of the site.

When was the drain cleared prior to the flooding?

Response to Question 6:

The drainage ditch is on private land and responsibility lies with the landowner and we therefore do not have this information.

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ECS PDS 7th of September 2023

Written questions from Councillors with answers.

1) Question from Councillor Sam Webber to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

When did the extra contractor to help with the backlog of road repairs start work for Bromley Council and how much has their service cost to 31/7/23?

Response to Question 1:

Our second contractor started working in the borough on 17th May 2023. Payments are commercially sensitive but can be supplied to you on that basis as a member of the Council.

2) Question from Councillor Sam Webber to the Portfolio Holder for Transport Highways and Road Safety.

At 1 August 2023, how many potholes were waiting to be repaired according to FixMyStreet, which location was the oldest and how long have repairs been outstanding? Please confirm that this analysis includes the potholes at the bus stop by Bromley South which were first reported in November 2023.

Response to Question 2:

“We do not record potholes separately, but rather reactive carriageway repairs. On 18th August, a total of 467 reactive carriageway repairs had yet to be completed or the jobs recorded as completed, which includes the outstanding repairs in Bromley High Street. The oldest job is in Cray Avenue, St Marys Cray, which was raised on 10th November 2022, and requires a road closure to.

3) Question from Councillor Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

Has LB Bromley paid any compensation to drivers for damage to cars caused by poor road repairs. If so, what is the total for years 2021/22 & 2022/3?

Response to Question 3:

The amount of compensation paid for vehicle damage is as follows:

2021/2022: £1,072.93

2022/2023: £9,237.71

This information relates to claims that have been settled in full and compensation paid.

4) Question from Councillor Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

In the period 1 March 2023 - 31 July 2023, how many parking sessions were purchased on Ringo at car parks where paying by RingGo is now the only option? How many sessions were purchased at the same car parks in the same period in 2022?

Response to Question 4:

Month	2022 – Total RingGo and P&D sessions for all car parks	2023 – Total RingGo sessions for all car parks
March	135,772	136,085
April	114,636	103,206
May	121,356	103,871
June	116,733	102,728
July	119,646	105,514
Total	608,143	551,404

After an initial reduction in parking sessions following the increase in charges and the introduction of cashless charging, in June and July for all locations, sessions were above the 2022 figures.

5) Question from Councillor Will Connolly to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces.

Can the Portfolio Holder please update us on the plans for investment in public toilet provision and maintenance across the Borough?

Response to Question 5:

Through our Culture and Regeneration Team, the Council has been successful in securing grants through two rounds of Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities funding--to install six new Changing Places toilets. Two of these are being delivered directly by the Council in Crystal Palace Park and High Elms Country Park.

The remaining four will be in partner locations: The Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH), The Warren Sports Club, Biggin Hill Leisure Centre, and the Pavilion Leisure Centre. The PRUH is complete and operational, and the other five are scheduled to be completed by the end of this fiscal year. In addition, there is the Community Toilet Scheme (CTS), both operated directly by LBB and those via the London-wide scheme for publicly accessible toilets through the borough. Locations on the CTS are reviewed periodically, and new locations may be considered as appropriate and where available budget to include them is available.

6) Question from Councillor Will Connolly to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

Can the Portfolio Holder please inform us on how LBB is working with neighbouring Boroughs and TfL on improvements and coordination for cycling infrastructure across Bromley Borough?

Response to Question 6:

LBB is currently working with TfL and LB Croydon on the development of the next section of the Penge to Croydon Cycleway between Kent House Station and South Norwood Country Park with proposed implementation late 2023/24.

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