

COUNCIL MEETING

20th FEBRUARY 2012

WRITTEN QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- 1. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for Resources (was addressed to the Environment Portfolio Holder but by agreement with both now changed to Resources Portfolio Holder)**

Who is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the sewer in Rays Road, West Wickham and what steps are being taken to ensure that it is in good repair and that the repeated flooding affecting users of the downside entrance to West Wickham station is ended?

Reply:

Under the terms of the lease between the Greater London Council (now this Council) and the tenant of the Build Centre, the tenant is responsible for the maintenance of Rays Road, including the surface water drainage. The Valuation and Estates Division has frequently reminded the tenant of its responsibilities and the tenant has agreed to a monthly regime of road sweeping and gulley clearance. Also, following a CCTV survey last year which identified that two pipes had collapsed, the tenant undertook some repair work to the drains and cleared out the soakaway pits. The situation is being monitored and only time will tell if this work has had a significant impact in reducing flooding or the time taken for the flood water to recede. The tenant's responsibility is limited to repairs and any improvements to the drainage system, if required, would have to be undertaken by the Council as landlord, should it choose to do so."

- 2. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Leader of the Council**

What assistance is available from the Council to local groups who are organising events to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee?

Reply:

An easy to read guide has been prepared for the Diamond Jubilee for local people which explains how to organise community events including Street Parties and this is available via the Councils web site. The guide refers those interested in staging community events to the Licensing Team who are able to provide advice on the requirements that need to be met when considering a community event. In addition, officers from ESD have met with a number of community groups who have expressed an interest in holding events in the boroughs parks and open spaces.

3. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People

If he will give in table format the percentage of free meal pupils in Bromley secondary schools who gained 5 A*-C grades, including English and maths for each year since 2005 by ethnic group.

Reply:

A table is attached as Appendix 1 which presents the data indicating the percentage of pupils who are eligible for free school meals in Bromley schools who gained 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths by ethnic group, from 2006 to 2011. The data was not previously available in this format.

4. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

What is happening at each individual school where funding for a crossing patrol has been withdrawn? Please list them.

Reply:

Please see attached Appendix 2.

5. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Is he aware that Lewisham under their new waste contract will be able to recycle crisp packets and tetra pak cartons, when will Bromley be doing the same?

Reply:

Indeed I am.

Lewisham have recently entered an agreement with a relatively new MRF. The process at this MRF includes the separation of tetra-paks, which has enabled Lewisham to include them in their co-mingled kerbside collection scheme.

The MRF which Bromley uses does not separate out Tetra-paks. This is largely because the environmental and financial benefits of doing so are still unproven with many in the waste and recycling industry continuing to believe that it is no less environmentally friendly to consign tetra-paks to heat to energy recycling technology instead.

Bromley has 5 bring sites for Tetra-paks. They are collected by a company called Recresco on behalf of Tetra-pak, and taken to a plant at Kirkby in Ashfield, where they are baled and then sent on to Italy.

A facility in Italy breaks down the complex mix of materials used to make cartons rigid and waterproof (up to 7 layers of paper, aluminium and plastic). Approximately 75% of this is paper fibre, which is recycled. The remaining 25% is used to make a range of consumables.

This is an expensive process which itself uses energy, hence why all local authorities are limited to only 5 sites by Tetra-Pak, who subsidise and operate the service.

A recent study (commissioned by Tetra-Pak) also suggests that the environmental benefit of incinerating tetra-paks (which generates heat and electricity) was equally as beneficial as its recycling process.

Lewisham's decision, which I respect and in no way criticise, may well have been influenced by their low household recycling rate, which as the table below demonstrates, was London's second lowest in the final quarter of 2010/11.

LONDON AUTHORITY RECYCLING RATES JANUARY – MARCH 2011

Authority	Recycling Rate
Bromley LB	49.76%
Bexley LB	48.50%
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	45.35%
Harrow LB	44.13%
Richmond upon Thames LB	42.89%
Hillingdon LB	42.54%
Ealing LB	40.85%
City of London	40.29%
West London Waste Authority	38.28%
Merton LB	36.48%
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	34.49%
Brent LB	34.22%
Greenwich LB	34.04%
Sutton LB	33.22%
Islington LB	33.08%
Camden LB	32.99%
Wandsworth LB	32.74%
Hounslow LB	32.61%
Western Riverside Waste Authority	30.15%
Enfield LB	29.64%
Croydon LB	29.28%
Barnet LB	29.01%
Lambeth LB	28.57%
Havering LB	28.43%
Southwark LB	28.26%
Hammersmith and Fulham LB	27.90%
North London Waste Authority	27.49%
Haringey LB	26.53%

Barking and Dagenham LB	26.04%
Westminster City Council	25.65%
Tower Hamlets LB	25.13%
Hackney LB	24.60%
East London Waste Authority	24.60%
Waltham Forest LB	23.90%
Redbridge LB	23.43%
Lewisham LB	19.60%
Newham LB	17.83%

With regard to crisp packets, different manufacturers use different types of packets (although they are all a mixture of plastic and aluminium foil). Combined with the difficulty of extracting this material at a MRF, the extremely low weight and intrinsic value of the material in question means that any possible financial benefit derived from doing so would be minimal.

We could consider recycling crisp packets moving to the future, but it would only really serve PR purposes.

I personally prefer for us to concentrate on substantive initiatives which divert substantial amounts of waste from landfill.

For example, we have introduced containers at Waldo for mattresses in the last few months, which have already diverted 15 tonnes of mattresses for recycling which would otherwise have gone to landfill.

6. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety

Will the 18 PCSO members of the Safer Transport Team in Orpington who are leaving today to become police officers be replaced?

Reply:

The Safer Transport Command has seen an increase in police officers across the Metropolitan Police. There has been a reduction in Police Community Support Officer numbers across the Metropolitan Police although there have been additional PCSO posts created on the revised Roads Policing Unit. Although Bromley did lose a small number of PCSOs, there has been a growth of police constables which has balanced this out.

The Metropolitan Police Service is due to run a PCSO recruitment process imminently. The Safer Transport Command are currently looking across their portfolio to identify whether there is any scope for movement to fill the current vacancies, which includes Bromley.

7. From Councillor Katherine Bance of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Please advise when the latest Combined Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment and the 2010 Progress Report will be published on the Bromley website; and

What comparisons will be available, will this include both local and national comparisons?

Reply:

No date has been set for publishing the recently completed draft report on the website. I am however advised by the lead Council Officer tasked with servicing this workstream that he will shortly be forwarding to you the latest data.

They further advise it compares the monitoring results with air quality objectives for both nitrogen dioxide and PM10 and shows a general downward trend for both from 2007-2009 data sets.

8. From Councillor Katherine Bance of the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety

What are the latest HMPS police officer numbers for Bromley? What were they 6 months ago, 12 months ago and in April 2008?

Reply:

The target strength for police officer numbers in Bromley and the actual number currently in place only varies by 2.6 officers. Bromley Borough is due to have probationer police constables posted to the Police during this year. The only variation over the course of the last 6/12 months was the reduction of Safer Neighbourhood Team Sergeants (which was mirrored across the Metropolitan Police Service) and a very small number of officers performing a training role, the function of which became centralised.

9. From Councillor Katherine Bance of the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety

What is the current complement for each of the ward based Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Bromley? What is the figure for the full complement for each of those ward based teams?

Reply:

Bromley Safer Neighbourhood Teams are up to strength on Sergeants and there are a small number of vacancies for Police Community Support Officers. The Metropolitan Police Service is currently preparing a recruitment process for PCSOs.

10. From Councillor John Getgood of the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

Following the council's failure to secure the former Edginton's site in Green Lane, what plans has he for the promised new Public Library for Penge.

Reply:

Unfortunately despite the Council having spent some time in discussion with the owner of the former furniture store in Green Lane, both parties were unable to reach agreement on an agreed valuation and the owner subsequently entered an alternative rental agreement which effectively meant that the building would be unsuitable for a future library. Officers continue to monitor the availability of retail units in the area, but at this point in time no suitable units have been indentified.

11. From Councillor John Getgood of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People

How many students have been temporarily and permanently excluded from Bromley secondary schools so far this academic year and how does that compare with last year? How many of these excluded students have been placed in another school and how does that compare with last year?

What are the financial implications for the schools' and departmental budgets?

Reply:

Attached at Appendix 3 is a table showing permanent exclusions for Autumn term 2010 to Spring half-term 2011 and Autumn term 2011 to Spring half-term 2012.

Attached at Appendix 4 is a table showing fixed term exclusions for the school year 2010-2011 and for Autumn term 2011 to Spring half-term 2012.

Financial Implications

School are required to repay the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) funding to the LA calculated from the "relevant" date i.e. the sixth school day following the head teacher's decision to permanently exclude the pupil, to the end of the financial year. Agreements have been put in place to ensure that this procedure will be replicated by academies.

12. From Councillor Fawthrop of the Chairman of the Development Control Committee (to be asked at every Council Meeting)

What pre-application meetings have taken place since the last full Council Meeting between Council Officers and potential planning applicants? Can these be listed as follows:-

The name of the potential applicant, the site address being considered.

Reply:

There have been 9 major pre-application meetings between 20th October 2011 and 15th February 2012. These were also 14 non-householder and nil householder enquiries.

As you are aware details of individual applicants and sites at present is exempt information and not disclosable in response to a Council Question.

**Percentage of Pupils Eligible for FSM
achieving 5 A*-C grades, including English and mathematics
by Ethnic Group 2006-2011**

APPENDIX 1

	2006	2006	2007	2007	2008	2008	2009	2009	2010	2010	2011	2011
Ethnic Group	Total Number in Group	% Achieving	Total Number in Group	% Achieving	Total Number in Group	% Achieving	Total Number in Group	% Achieving	Total Number in Group	% Achieving	Total Number in Group	% Achieving
Bangladeshi	3	33%	2	100%	1	100%	6	83%	7	43%	4	100%
Indian	1	100%	1	0%	1	100%	0		1	0%	1	100%
Pakistani	1	0%	3	67%	0		3	0%	0		1	100%
Any Other Asian Background	2	50%	3	67%	1	100%	3	100%	4	100%	8	88%
Black African	12	33%	18	33%	18	39%	10	50%	19	37%	18	50%
Black Caribbean	10	20%	11	27%	6	67%	14	43%	14	29%	13	23%
Any Other Black Background	5	40%	7	14%	8	75%	8	50%	2	0%	10	60%
Mixed White and Asian	2	50%	3	67%	2	50%	1	0%	5	80%	4	0%
Mixed White and Black African	1	0%	1	100%	2	0%	1	0%	0		5	40%
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	7	43%	8	50%	8	38%	16	38%	15	27%	14	50%
Any Other Mixed Background	3	33%	6	50%	12	33%	10	50%	10	40%	13	54%
White British	236	25%	227	26%	232	28%	213	31%	200	30%	209	41%
White Irish	1	0%	0		0		0		4	25%	4	50%
Any Other White Background	15	20%	8	25%	3	67%	13	31%	7	14%	12	50%
Chinese	0		3	67%	1	100%	1	0%	2	50%	0	
Gypsy/Roma	1	0%	1	0%	2	50%	7	43%	2	0%	4	0%
Traveller of Irish Heritage			0		0		0		0		1	0%
Any Other Ethnic Group	4	50%	10	30%	8	38%	6	33%	14	36%	9	33%
Refused	10	30%	4	25%	9	56%	9	33%	6	33%	10	30%
Not Obtained	5	40%	3	67%	5	0%	3	0%	1	0%	1	100%

Appendix 2

Reply to Question 4 – School Crossing Patrols

The current situation is as follows:

School	Measures
Alexandra Infant	
Alexandra Junior	
Bickley Park	NO FURTHER ACTION.
Biggin Hill Primary	
Bishop Challoner	
Blenheim	NO FURTHER ACTION.
Burnt Ash	The proposal supported by Officers is to widen the refuge in Southover near the junction with Rangefield Road, remove footway parking for 10-15m on the north side of Southover and add coloured road surface at the refuge, to highlight to drivers that pedestrians may be crossing here. Also, to introduce SLOW road markings.
Churchfields	
Crofton Infant - <i>Towncourt Lane/Crofton Lane</i>	
Crofton Junior - <i>Towncourt Lane/Jersey Dr</i>	
Darrick Wood Junior	
Farnborough	
Gray's Farm	NO FURTHER ACTION. Pedestrian crossing already in place.
Green Street Green	
Hayes Primary	
Hawes Down Infant	NO FURTHER ACTION.
Hawes Down Junior	
Highfield Infant/Junior - <i>Hayes Lane site</i>	Add coloured road surface at the crossing points (both refuges) in Hayes Lane by the junction with Brabourne Rise, to highlight to drivers that pedestrians may be crossing here. Also, introduce school-time-only electronic warning signs of children crossing.
Highfield Infant/Junior - <i>South Hill Road site</i>	
Leesons Primary - <i>Chipperfield Road site</i>	NO FURTHER ACTION. Yellow backed school signs have been installed
Leesons Primary - <i>Leesons Hill site</i>	Create a new path away from the vehicle crossover (currently used by the Patrol) and install coloured road surfacing across Leesons Hill, to highlight to drivers that pedestrians may be crossing here
Marian Vian	
Midfield Primary	
Mottingham Primary	Introduce a staggered zebra crossing in Dunkery Road, near the junction with Ravensworth Road, utilising the existing refuge.
Oak Lodge	
Oaklands Primary	
Parish Primary	
Perry Hall	
Poverest	
Princes Plain	Introduce coloured road surfacing at the location where children cross, to highlight this to drivers.
Raglan	
Red Hill	NO FURTHER ACTION Zebra crossing already in place
Royston	
Scotts Park	
Southborough	Add coloured road surface at the crossing point, to highlight to drivers that pedestrians may be crossing here.
St Christopher's	
St James	NO FURTHER ACTION. Zebra crossing already in place.
St George's CE Primary - <i>TYNLEY RD/NIGHTINGALE LANE SITE</i>	

St George's CE Primary - TYLNEY ROAD/CANON ROAD	NO FURTHER ACTION.
St Mark's CE Primary - QUEEN ANNE AVE SITE:	
St Mark's CE Primary - WESTMORELAND RD SITE:	
St Mary's RC Primary	Consideration being given to introduction of coloured road surface at both refuges in Foxgrove Rd either side of the junction with Westgate Rd, to highlight to drivers that pedestrians may be crossing here, and replacing the current guardrail with visirail through which children can be seen.
St Philomena's RC Primary	NO FURTHER ACTION. Zebra crossing already installed.
Stewart Fleming – The Pioneer Academy	
Tubbenden Primary	
Unicorn	
Valley Primary	
Warren Road Primary	
Worsley Bridge	New mini-roundabout and zebra crossing proposed.

Key:

	= Schools with current SCP that <u>are</u> buying in SCP
	= Schools with current SCP that <u>are not</u> buying in SCP

This chart is subject to change should further expressions of interest be received from those schools currently opting out.

Reply to Question 11 - APPENDIX 3 – PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS

PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS: AUTUMN TERM 2010 TO SPRING HALF-TERM 2011 AND AUTUMN TERM 2011 TO SPRING HALF-TERM 2012

School	AUTUMN		SPRING		TOTALS	
	10 11	11 12	10 11	11 12	10 11	11 12
Beaverwood						
Bishop Justus		1				1
Bullers Wood		2				2
Harris, Bromley				1		1
Charles Darwin		1		1		2
Coopers	4	4	1	1	5	5
Darrick Wood						
Hayes						
Harris, Beckenham	2	7	2		4	7
Kemnal Technology		3	1	1	1	4
Langley Park Boys		2				2
Langley Park Girls		2				2
Newstead Wood						
St Olaves						
The Priory	3	5		2	3	7
Ravenswood		2				2
Ravensbourne	1		2	2	3	2
					16	37

** Please note the figure in the Spring term columns are all over the same period (only up to February half term to ensure a fair comparison)

APPENDIX 4 – FIXED TERM EXCLUSIONS

FTE 2010/2011 (Whole school year)	
	Total
Beaverwood School for Girls	21
Bishop Justus Church of England School	17
Bullers Wood School	17
Harris, Bromley	32
Charles Darwin School	36
Coopers Technology College	61
Darrick Wood School	5
Hayes School	29
Harris, Beckenham	90
Kemnal Technology College	45
Langley Park School for Boys	15
Langley Park School for Girls	14
Ravens Wood School	14
St Olave's Grammar School	4
The Priory School	0
The Ravensbourne School	36
TOTAL	436

FTE's 2011 2012 (Autumn to Spring half-term)	
	Total
Beaverwood School for Girls	8
Bishop Justus Church of England School	0
Bullers Wood School	21
Harris Bromley (Cator)	0
Charles Darwin School	54
Coopers Technology College	0
Darrick Wood School	1
Hayes School	19
Harris Beckenham (Kelsey)	0
Kemnal Technology College	23
Langley Park School for Boys	16
Langley Park School for Girls	0
Ravens Wood School	13
St Olave's Grammar School	0
The Priory School	0
The Ravensbourne School	0
TOTAL	155