

QUESTIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ORAL REPLY

Question from Mr Nigel Davis

What flood prevention measures does Bromley Council intend to implement should the Former Co-Op Sports Ground off Balmoral Avenue be developed as a secondary school to house E21C's Beckenham Academy? The undeveloped land has flooded in the past and lies in a Flood Warning area according to the Environment Agency.

Reply

Were Bromley Council to receive a planning application for this site, a full Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) would be required from the developer as part of their application.

Any potential flooding risks recorded in the FRA would then be dealt with by way of 'conditions' being imposed on the applicant as part of the standard Planning process.

Supplementary Question

Mr Davis indicated that local residents were concerned about traffic in the area. Balmoral Avenue was narrow with parking problems. There was already heavy congestion and Mr Davis asked how traffic would cope with a school.

Reply

The Portfolio Holder indicated that any application was not pre-judged before being lodged. There were busy local roads in the area and traffic planning would be key to any application.

QUESTIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR WRITTEN REPLY

Questions from Mr Richard Gibbons

1. It is often said that Bromley is London's greenest borough. Would the Portfolio Holder champion the borough's green credentials and encourage Councillors to follow the lead taken by Penge & Cator Ward (and 118 other wards across London) and declare their ward's support for London to become a National Park City?

Reply

I have long since championed the Borough's green credentials through our national leading Parks and Green space 'Friends' schemes, the retention and

maintenance of more street trees than any other London Borough and the wider natural biodiversity agenda as you may be aware.

Regarding the National Park City initiative, whilst as a Council we are obviously very interested and will continue to work with any interested party where it benefits the Borough and supports our Parks and Green Spaces to do so through joint working, it is for Ward Councillors to make up their own minds on such matters.

2. Bromley appears to be the only local authority in Greater London not submitting pollution data to the Environmental Research Group at King's College London for publication on the LAQN website (<http://www.londonair.org.uk>). Is this an oversight or a conscious decision by Bromley Council?

Reply

Bromley enjoys the cleanest air of any London Borough as you may be aware.

Under the Environment Act 1995 Local Authorities have a statutory duty to monitor and report on air quality and until recently this duty was met by the publication of real time data through the network referred to as the London Air Quality Network.

However, due to resource constraints as a result of significant cuts to the Council's budget in central Government grant, the Bromley station has been withdrawn from this Network.

The air quality data is instead now reported historically through periodic updating and screening assessment reports, thus ensuring compliance with the Borough's legislative duty.

3. How does the Portfolio Holder propose to reduce congestion and pollution in/around Orpington High Street - the borough equivalent of London's Oxford Street - given current peak traffic levels and anticipated increases allied to housing, retail and leisure developments including Berwick Quarter, Brunswick Square, Odeon Multiplex, Premier Inn, Pure Gym, shops, restaurants, Health & Wellbeing Centre?

Reply

I have no proposals at this time.

I am advised by way of expert national planning guidance that the combination of new low car ownership dwellings, the provision of almost

200 extra cycling spaces, including 6 at the planned Hotel, strong PTAL coverage across the Town Centre, in tandem with Orpington Town Centre's existing Car Parking infrastructure and the potential growth of 'Car Clubs', should result in neither of your concerns regarding increased congestion or pollution materialising.
