

COUNCIL MEETING

25th SEPTEMBER 2017

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

1. From Colin Willetts to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Could the Portfolio Holder (i) tell us if the W4F site has been cleared? (ii) if not, when will it be cleared? (iii) following clearance has LBB any plans to enhance the sites appearance?

Reply:

- (i) The site has not been cleared.
- (ii) It will be cleared in about 2 months
- (iii) There are no firm plans for the site's future at this time

2. From Colin Willetts to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Having reported (12/3/17) a dropped kerb trip hazard in Kelsey Road junction Pleasance Road due to a poor reinstatement (light concrete skim broken around manhole cover) by B T, would the Council chase them up to reinstate to a good standard on par with the dropped kerb on the opposite side of this junction?

Reply:

The site will be inspected by LBB officers and the utility company will be instructed to complete any necessary remedial works.

3. From Rhian Kanat to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

Please provide details of how much affordable housing has been built in the Borough in each of the past 4 years broken down by ward and how much affordable housing is planned to be built in the Borough by ward on the next 4 years.

Reply:

The response is shown on the attached spreadsheet. ([Appendix 1](#))

4. From Sam Webber to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

What is the current waiting time for social care placement or packages for residents who are ready to be discharged from hospital but cannot be due to lack of social care capacity?

Reply:

I am advised that at the time this question was received there were no delays due to lack of social care capacity. ([Appendix 2](#))

5. From Sam Webber to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

What was the impact on infrastructure, buildings and the local economy following the Thames Water leak along Bromley Common in July? Has the Council updated its response procedures following this incident?

Reply:

This was an incident on TfL road caused by a major utility and whilst it did cause significant disruption the wider impact cannot be quantified.

The Council's emergency response plans are continually reviewed and updated, particularly after significant incidents.

6. From Sam Webber to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Can the Council review the lack of bins within 10 minutes' walk of town centres? This lack of bins causes extra litter which is dropped on pavements or in gutters. Noting this, could a bin (preferably split with half recycling and half litter) be installed close to the bus stop on Westmoreland Road (close to the corner of New Farm Avenue) where there is a large amount of litter?

Reply:

The Council is continuously reviewing the provision of litter bins across the borough and takes appropriate action with regard to the installation or removal of bins on a case by case basis. The location referred to will be reviewed as to whether a bin is required or not and appropriate action taken.

7. From Ms E Sini to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

If, as we have seen reported, Bromley wrote to the school 5 years ago to inform the headmaster/governing body that its approach to progression to year 13 was illegal, what subsequent action was taken by Bromley to ensure that the school would desist from such practices?

Reply:

The view is that the school was informed. I have not seen any evidence to support this.

8. From Ms E Sini to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

When will a complete investigation into the School's governance be completed and published to include:

- the lack of correct governor representation from parents and Council members over many years;
- the changes of criteria to year 12 entry, when a less than well publicised "consultation" resulted, we understand, in 1 anonymous response being received and being deemed sufficient to move ahead with proposed changes (despite petitions for reconsideration to be made);

- the headmaster feeling that he can summarily dismiss existing PA members with no regard (awareness) of proper corporate/ school governance; and
- the alleged undermining of staff by the headmaster, making whistle-blowing impossible.

Reply:

As indicated earlier, The LA has formally asked the new Chairman of the Governing Body to consider this. It is paramount for the LA to await the response from the Chairman before a decision is reached on this matter.

9. From Ms E Sini to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

What are the reward metrics of the headmaster for his pay rises and bonus payments?

Reply:

This is an issue for the Governing Body as the employer and not for the Local Authority.

10. From Siobhan Gee to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

Are the Council able to instigate an investigation into the financial position at St Olave's school, Orpington, particularly in relation to the headteacher and the bursar setting up a private company to use the school's logo without the board of governors realising this?

Reply:

The Council did not give St Olave`s the permission or mandate to set up these companies. The Council is presently establishing whether the company is one for which consent would be required.

11. From Siobhan Gee to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

Is the board of governors at St Olave's operating according to their constitution with a full board of elected and nominated members and do they have sufficient authority to challenge the headmaster?

Reply:

No is the answer as the Board does not have a Local Authority representative in line with its constitution.

12. From Siobhan Gee to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

The staff association have expressed a lot of concerns about how St Olave's is run. Can these concerns be fully investigated by independent people who have sufficient authority to make recommendations which will be implemented?

Reply:

This is a matter for the Governing Body and the Local Authority has asked the new Chairman of the Governing Body to formally look into this.

13. From James Williams-Ward to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

There have been widespread reports of poor pastoral support at St Olave's at exam and post exam/results stage for GCSE and 'A' Level pupils. What will the London Borough of Bromley do to investigate the concerns that have been raised by the student body, parents and many of the teachers? How will school governance be reformed to prevent this happening again?

Reply:

This is a matter for the Governing Body and the Local Authority has asked the new chairman of the Governing Body to formally look into this.

14. From James Williams-Ward to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

Considering recent press coverage, and recognition of the fact that the senior management team at St Olave's has been ignoring the London Borough of Bromley's exclusion recommendations for five years to maximise performance rankings, how will the London Borough of Bromley verify that this team is fit to stay in their roles to nurture and develop the talent of Bromley and surrounding Boroughs in the future?

Reply:

By having an elected LA rep on the Governing Body, the LA will be exercising its scrutiny function through this.

15. From Maria Koutani to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

After recent publicity about St Olave's school and the issues which have occurred, is the Council willing to take any action starting an investigation in order to protect the school's daily life and reputation?

Reply:

The Local Authority has formally asked the new Chairman of the Governing Body to consider this. It is paramount for the Local Authority to await the response from the Chairman before a decision is reached on this matter.

16. From Richard Watts to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

What is the role of the LA in the governance of St Olave's, a church foundation school? There have been no elections for parent governors, no current teacher and no LEA representative on the governing body. How can good governance be maintained in this situation?

Reply:

The LA put forward a nomination of one of its elected members to the Governing Body of the School. The Board of Governors are responsible for appointing

governors. Unfortunately, the LA was informed on 21 September that its nomination was not accepted by the board for reasons unknown to the LA. We have asked the Governing Body to explain why the LA's nomination was refused. On the same day of receiving this information, I as the Portfolio Holder put forward another nomination of an Elected Member to the Governing Body and we await the decision of the Governing body in respect of this nomination in October.

The lack of an elected member on the governing body remains a problem as the role of elected members as champions of children in education is not fully fulfilled. However, I note that the diocese and foundation have sitting governors that are charged with overseeing the running of the school. The issue about the absence of a current teacher or parent governor is one for the governing body to address and not the LA

17. From Richard Watts to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

Is it true that the legal department of Bromley Council advised the Head of St Olave's 5 years ago that a results based 6th form progression policy was unlawful?

Reply:

The view is that the school was informed. I have not seen any evidence to support this.

Appendix 1 (question 3)**Affordable housing built over the past four years**

Ward	Gross Affordable Housing Output (Financial Year)*				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Total
Bickley					
Biggin Hill		6			6
Bromley Common & Keston	60	8			68
Bromley Town		16		1	17
Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom					0
Chislehurst		74	7		81
Clock House		2			2
Copers Cope	9	2		15	26
Cray Valley East			19		19
Cray Valley West			16		16
Crystal Palace	21	32	8		61
Darwin					0
Farnborough & Crofton					0
Hayes & Coney Hall				2	20
Kelsey & Eden Park					0
Mottingham & Chislehurst North					0
Orpington	22				22
Penge & Cator	20			2	22
Petts Wood & Knoll	8		1		9
Plaistow & Sundridge					0
Shortlands	2				2
West Wickham	2				2
Total	144	140	51	20	355

*Data extracted from London Development Database and based on affordable housing information available at the time of data input.

Ward	Net Affordable Housing Output (Financial Year)*				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Total
Bickley					0
Biggin Hill		6			6
Bromley Common & Keston	60	8			68
Bromley Town		16		1	17
Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom					0
Chislehurst		74	7		81
Clock House		2			2
Copers Cope	9	2		15	26
Cray Valley East			-85		-85
Cray Valley West			16		16
Crystal Palace	21	32	8		61
Darwin					0
Farnborough & Crofton					0
Hayes & Coney Hall				2	2
Kelsey & Eden Park					0
Mottingham & Chislehurst North					0
Orpington	-189				-189
Penge & Cator	20			-8	12
Petts Wood & Knoll	8		-8		0
Plaistow & Sundridge					0
Shortlands	1				1
West Wickham	2				2
Total	-68	140	-62	10	20

Affordable housing in the residential pipeline (sites granted planning permission only) September 2017

Ward	Affordable housing units in the residential pipeline*	
	Gross units	Net units
Bickley		
Biggin Hill		
Bromley Common & Keston		
Bromley Town	52	52
Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom		
Chislehurst		
Clock House		
Copers Cope		
Cray Valley East		
Cray Valley West		
Crystal Palace	91	91
Darwin		
Farnborough & Crofton		
Hayes & Coney Hall		
Kelsey & Eden Park	79	79
Mottingham & Chislehurst North		
Orpington	12	12
Penge & Cator		
Petts Wood & Knoll		
Plaistow & Sundridge		
Shortlands		
West Wickham		
Total	234	234

*Data extracted from London Development Database and based on affordable housing information available at the time of data input.

Appendix 2 (Question 4)

Dear Mr Webber

I refer to your written question asked at the Council meeting on 25th September and would like to take this opportunity to provide some information which you may find of interest.

Whilst the answer provided by officers for the meeting on 25th September still stands, I would like to make reference to a paper which was at that time in the process of being written and which has subsequently been published in advance of a Special Care Services PDS on 9th October before going to the Executive for decision on 10th October.

The paper titled Discharge to Assess (D2A) Pilot, speaks for itself in recommending funding to support the pilot of a Discharge to Assess model in Bromley. The model, which is based on successful national pilots enables people to leave hospital without delay as soon as they are medically ready to be assessed for their long term care and support needs. Assessment takes place outside of the hospital setting in a more familiar, community based setting with a focus on enabling people to return home wherever possible aiming to reduce the amount of time that people remain in hospital un necessarily.

I have attached the report for your information. As you can see there is an options appraisal included in Appendix B with officers recommending that option 3 Discharge to Assess/Home First is adopted.to support the key objectives highlighted in the paper.

Kind regards,

Councillor Diane Smith.

Portfolio Holder for Adult Care Services