

ORAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO ITEM 5 (PLANNING APPLICATION 17/02468/FULL1 – ST HUGHES PLAYING FIELDS, BICKLEY), RECEIVED FROM BROMLEY RESIDENT, ANDREW RUCK

Question 1

Why has it taken the Council until mid-January 2018 to decide that the application and the October approval needs to be ratified by the DCC when the Planning Inspectorate's report was issued on 11 December 2017?

Chairman's Response

The Council has taken legal advice and carefully considered in detail the appeal decision. Taking into account the Christmas break, the process from appeal decision issue to reporting to committee is not considered to have taken an undue period of time.

Question 2

Have Council Officers visited the site to see for themselves the total disparity between the traffic observed by the Planning Inspector on 15 November 2017 on what was clearly an extremely abnormal day in the afternoon peak and what is typically witnessed on the Widmore Road mini roundabout almost every other day of the year?

Chairman's Response

The comments regarding the traffic conditions on the day of the Inspector's site visit have been considered by the Council and comment is made on this point in the committee report.

Supplementary Question

Have Council officers visited the site to see for themselves whether the traffic was at odds with the Planning Inspector's report?

Chairman's Response

They are aware of the normal traffic conditions on this site and yes, I confirm they have been there.

Question 3

With Bullers Wood School For Boys' school place offer day scheduled for 22 February 2018, if the Committee agrees to ratify their October decision and follow the Officer's recommendation, will the Council give an undertaking to ensure that the subsequent reconsultation with the GLA and Secretary of

State is done extremely expeditiously and in a proactive manner, rather than just allowing these other authorities to take their usual time to deliberate? Time is of the essence.

Chairman's Response

Yes, the Council is seeking to resolve this matter as quickly as possible and will act to minimise any delay to the issue of a decision following the committee meeting.

ORAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO ITEM 5 (PLANNING APPLICATION 17/02468/FULL1 – ST HUGHES PLAYING FIELDS, BICKLEY), RECEIVED FROM BROMLEY RESIDENT, NANCY LENGTHORN

Question 1

If Bullers Wood does not open in September 2018, will the Council breach its statutory duty to provide adequate school places?

Chairman's Response

The Council has contingency plans for ensuring it meets its statutory duty and will review these should a decision delay the school opening. The Council has been working with Bullers Wood to check that applicants have also submitted an on time secondary school application through the co-ordinated admissions process, in other words through an application to Bromley or another home Local Authority. We have proactively identified a small number of families who have only applied to Bullers Wood and are supporting them to make an application through Bromley or their home Local Authority if this is not Bromley.

Question 2

If Bullers Wood does not open in September 2018 (and yet its capacity is included in your plans for the provision of education in the borough), how will you accommodate the 180 local boys who would have attended the school?

Chairman's Response

The Council has contingency plans for ensuring it meets its statutory duty and will review these should a decision delay the school opening. The Council has been working with Bullers Wood to check that applicants have also submitted an on time secondary school application through the co-ordinated admissions process, in other words through an application to Bromley or another home Local Authority. We have proactively identified a small number of families who have only applied to Bullers Wood and are supporting them to make an application through Bromley or their home Local Authority if this is not Bromley.

Question 3

Can this Council clarify how a member of the public should proceed, if a FOI request has not been delivered on, has received no adequate feedback either way and has taken far in excess of the length of time set by the Government for a response?

Chairman's Response

The Council always endeavours to answer Freedom of Information requests within the statutory 20 working day limit. The Council does have an appeal

scheme for where requestors are not satisfied with the response they receive from the Council, although where the deadline has expired and no reply has been made the next stage is usually to ensure that a reply is made or an explanation given as to why the information cannot be provided. Where requestors are still not satisfied with the Council's response they can ask the Information Commissioner's Office to investigate.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING – 25 JANUARY 2018

ORAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO ITEM 5 (PLANNING APPLICATION 17/02468/FULL1 – ST HUGHES PLAYING FIELDS, BICKLEY), RECEIVED FROM BROMLEY RESIDENT, RHIAN KANAT

Question 1

As far as the Council is aware, have there been any applications made for judicial review of any of the decisions relating to the planning application for a school on the St Hughes playing fields site and if so by whom?

Chairman's Response

An application for judicial review has been lodged against the appeal decision by Bullers Wood School dated 22 January 2018 and papers served on the Council as defendant.

Question 2

Please could the Committee explain why this meeting was rescheduled from 18 January to 25 January?

Chairman's Response

The Committee meeting was rescheduled to 25 January to allow time for Officers to take advice and prepare the committee report for Item 5.

Supplementary Question

Was the impact of the uncertainty of the decision (bearing in mind timeframes) on the applicants to the school considered in that decision to defer by one week?

Chairman's Response

I am not able to answer this question as I am not the person who made that decision to postpone the meeting.

At this point, the Chief Executive confirmed that the impact on applicants to the school was considered.

