

EXECUTIVE

28TH MARCH 2018

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(a) Questions for Oral reply

- 1. From Dermot McKibbin to the Resources Portfolio Holder**
(as Mr McKibbin was not present at the meeting a written reply was sent.)

Will the Council publish on its website the full details of the equalities impact assessment for the introduction of the voter identification scheme in the May 2018 elections and provide full details of what the Council is doing to encourage disabled voters and housebound voters to apply for a postal vote?

Reply:

We have carried out a rigorous Equalities Impact Assessment and it has been scrutinised by the Cabinet Office and the Electoral Commission. This will be published in the next few days. We have identified any groups in the borough who may be at risk of not being able to provide the required ID in a polling station. We are working with partners to ensure that any barriers to participation are removed so that no eligible voter is disenfranchised or put off voting.

- 2. From Dermot McKibbin to the Resources Portfolio Holder**
(as Mr McKibbin was not present at the meeting a written reply was sent.)

Why does the recent letter to all Bromley residents about the voter identification scheme give the misleading impression that the only way to vote in the May elections is at the polling station and will the Council amend all future publicity about the voter ID pilot scheme to ensure that voters are encouraged to apply for postal votes as well as proxy votes?

Reply:

The Household Notification letter sent to all households in the borough confirms the details of those individuals currently registered to vote at that address and gives details of their current voting method – i.e. in person at their polling station, by post or by proxy. All public awareness materials regarding the Voter ID pilot include the Council's website details, where full details are provided on how to vote (by post, by proxy and at the polling station). It is not for the Returning Officer to encourage an elector to vote in any specific way, but for the elector to decide what way is most convenient to him or her.

(b) Questions for Written reply

1. From Sam Webber to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

I am told by Greene King that The Bell in Bromley is no longer part of its estate and that it was surrendered back to British Land in June 2017. It has now been boarded up for over 6 years. What plans does the Council have to ensure this building is reopened as an office, pub or restaurant; or if in the meantime it could be offered for community use instead to the Bromley Foodbank or a similar charity?

Reply:

The Council has never had a property interest in the Royal Bell. I understand that the site has recently been purchased by a local development company who are preparing plans for its reuse as a 50 bed 5* Boutique Hotel. The development proposal, which will be subject to consultation with local stakeholders in April 2018, proposes a full refurbishment of the original listed building and an extension to the rear.

2. From Colin Willetts to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Could you let us know the outcome of the 'off highway' fence review adjacent alley 52 Curtismill Way? If the Council is not responsible (apparently) for fencing 'off highway' could you tell us why the alley fence between 244 Chipperfield Road & 20 Silverdale Road was repaired & subsequently renewed?

Reply:

The Highways department are already in email communication with Mr Willetts on these issues. The matter of the future maintenance of the fence in the alley adjacent 52 Curtismill Way has been referred to Peter Garrett to investigate and review why a decision was taken to tell the resident the fence was maintained by LBB by a then Area Manager back in 2001. Mr Willetts will be informed directly of any updates, this will take some time to look into. He has already been informed that currently we do not feel any repairs are currently required to this section of fence. Mr Willetts has been emailed directly to clarify when the repairs were undertaken to alley fence between 244 Chipperfield Road & 20 Silverdale Road as I can find no recent orders that meet this location.

3. From Colin Willetts to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Having noted poor patchwork grass reinstatements outside 263 - 269 Chipperfield Road by JDT gas contractors, (i) would the Council quality check this location for the necessary improvements? & (ii) when they decamp from the adjacent amenity green, Longbury Drive junction/Longbury Close, could you do the same to ensure that this is left in good order with barrier protection?

Reply:

Our local Neighbourhood Officer will be attending site shortly to assess the situation and report back respectively. We have already forwarded these locations to our Highways team who will be pursuing the relevant contractor for reinstatement. We will then follow the normal procedure for the grass rectification and report back upon completion.

4. From Colin Willetts to the Environment Portfolio Holder

With regard to the play area in St Paul's Cray recreation ground (i) will the Council be renewing the roundabout/safety surface & any other associated damage caused by arson the attack 14/3/18?, (ii) if in the affirmative, when will this work be carried out?

Reply:

It is our intention to reinstate the equipment on a like for like basis. We are expecting a quotation from the company which supplies the equipment shortly. Once we have the quote it is expected that Bromley's insurers should cover the cost. Once they have agreed payment we would expect installation within 12 weeks. I would encourage anyone who has information regarding this arson incident to speak to the Police.

5. From Ken Tompkin to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

In recent years members of West Wickham Leisure Centre have heard of previous proposals for the development of this site. Some have apparently involved a potential sale of the library site. Has Bromley Council previously, say, in the last 10 years, prepared any other plans or conducted any other feasibility studies for different redevelopment plans? If so, have these (all) been reconsidered as options available or ruled out of reconsideration in favour of the current proposals?

Reply:

The Council previously looked at the potential to redevelop the West Wickham Leisure Centre site, in order to re-provide a new leisure centre and library in 2015. However that piece of work did not progress. During 2017 the Council engaged Cushman & Wakefield Chartered Surveyors, as its retained Property advisors, to progress with appraising the scheme together with Pick Everard Architects. Both the 2015 and the current scheme, envisage the West Wickham library site being disposed of to fund replacement library and leisure centre facilities at the existing Leisure Centre site.