

## COUNCIL MEETING

16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018

### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR ORAL REPLY

**1. From Cllr Julian Benington to the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio Holder**

West Camp, Biggin Hill is the former offices, barracks, messes, Hangers and storage areas for the RAF who left the airfield and West Camp in 1992, 26 years ago. It was bought by Pentridge Properties, which company is effectively owned by Bernie Ecclestone, who used the hangers and some of the buildings for storage. Many of these buildings are Listed, but little or no maintenance has or is carried out on them, the whole site is a deteriorating eyesore and total waste.

In May 2017 a letter was sent to Pentridge Properties from this borough expressing an interest in purchasing the site. The reply received was that it had already been sold, but this sale fell through almost immediately. What steps have been or are being taken now to purchase this site?

**2. From Cllr David Jefferys to the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio Holder**

Would the Portfolio Holder clarify who is responsible for controlling and monitoring the air space under 2,500 feet over Bromley for both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters?

**3. From Cllr Alexa Michael to the Environment and Community Services Portfolio Holder**

When will the measures to control the speed and volume of traffic on Heathfield Road in Keston be implemented? What form will these measures take?"

**4. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council**

Does he support the general principle practised across the corporate and public sectors that, when something goes horribly wrong inside the organisation, the person "with whom the buck stops" should take ultimate responsibility and resign (if not be sacked)?

**5. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services**

Please describe the Council's policy for the implementation and enforcement of 20mph speed limits outside primary and secondary schools.

**6. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Leader of the Council**

Bromley Youth Council are ambassadors for engaging with young people and they elected to have a young Mayor. The next stage in the process is for a white paper to be

produced between the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council. Can you give us an update on the status of this white paper?

**7. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing**

Does the portfolio holder agree that 22 affordable homes completed in Bromley in a year is not acceptable, given the level of demand for housing within the Borough?

**8. From Cllr Marina Ahmad to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families**

How much extra, in pounds, has been spent on the Education, Children and Families budget since the damning OFSTED report in June 2016?

**9. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

Could you please comment on Barnet Council's plan to take around 11 current outsourced services back in house and whether the problems they have faced could be risks to the London Borough of Bromley's commissioning model?

**10. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services**

What is the Council doing to encourage Bromley Residents to participate in World Car Free day on Saturday 22 September?

**11. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing**

How will the Council support businesses in Penge as they transfer onto the Business Improvement District? Will the Portfolio Holder ensure that, despite the Town Centre Team ceasing, the Council will ensure retail in smaller high streets are promoted and protected?

**12. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Leader of the Council,**

The LBB Report DRR16/057 15th June 2016 promised to appoint a member of LBB staff to assist with monitoring the agreement with BHAL, paid for by BHAL. When is this appointment going to be announced, as residents need a Council officer with whom to raise their very many serious concerns?

**13. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families**

Will he make a statement of the Report by Christine Whatford into St Olave's School?

**14. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council**

How does he see the work of Audit Sub Committee developing over the forthcoming year and does he anticipate any areas of the Council's activities in which an audit (or an OFSTED inspection) would find similar serious failings as in the last 2-3 years?

**15. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

Will he provide a breakdown of the costs of the recent voter ID pilot and of the monies paid for this pilot by the Cabinet office?

**16. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing**

We learned recently that another of our Bromley Community Centres, Penge East Community Centre, is earmarked for development by Clarion Housing. They stated that no guarantee of a replacement Community Centre can be made. Will the London Borough of Bromley support our residents and community to ensure they provide a replacement Community Centre.

**17. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services**

In May the UK was referred to the European Court of Justice for failing to tackle illegal levels of air pollution. Can the Portfolio Holder report when the most recent air quality figures for Bromley were recorded and what the readings were?

**18. From Cllr Marina Ahmad to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families**

LBB still does not have a permanent Director of Education, despite advertising and interviewing one applicant. There is now a process of offering a secondment to Headteachers in the borough. Why has it been so difficult to attract the right person to the post?

**19. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Leader of the Council**

Following the publication of the Government's LGBT action plan, what assessment will council officers and portfolio holders be carrying out to implement parts of the plan relevant to local authority services.

**20. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Leader of the Council**

What progress has been made on the following motion agreed at the September 2017 Council Meeting?

*"This Council re-confirms its commitment to the maximum possible levels of openness and transparency at all times. Council requests that a review be undertaken by Officers to be presented to the next meeting of the Constitution Improvement Working Group to establish how and whether this commitment might be better illustrated and publicised."*

**21. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families**

The Portfolio Holder has identified a small budget to support SACRE. Taking into account the extent of academisation in Bromley how does he feel this budget can most effectively be spent?

**22. Cllr Tony Owen to the Leader of the Council**

What assessment have you made of the skills and talents of your Council colleagues? How do you ensure that they are deployed to the maximum benefit of local taxpayers (especially given the cost of over £1 million per year)? Is it sensible that 2 Councillors (Cllr Tickner and myself) with 69 years experience in local government between us have been denied our requested participation in the scrutiny process?

**23. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Leader of the Council**

How much has been spent from the Growth Fund to support Skills and Enterprise Development in the Biggin Hill Strategic Outer London Development Area?

**24. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health**

Can the Portfolio Holder please comment on the implications of the recent report by the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman which concluded that:-

*“The Council failed to ensure Ms M’s son, Mr N, could receive the level of care that he was entitled to. Mr N has lost out on provision and Ms M, who wanted to support him, has been caused distress and time and trouble. This has been made worse because although Ms M complained to the Council, it failed to deal with this complaint.”*

The report found *“Fault found causing injustice”* and recommended that the Council: *“pays £2,865 to reflect the time, trouble and distress it caused to Ms M and Mr N; and, apologises for the fault identified in this report.”*

**25. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement**

Bromley has again been blighted by trespassing Travellers and although, in Penge, no costly clean up was required, there were numerous accounts of loss of income and inconvenience to our traders and residents. Will Bromley Council commit funds to support practical engineering solutions, where possible, to stop this type of access?

**26. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing**

How does the Portfolio Holder plan to house a greater proportion of those housed in temporary accommodation within the Borough?

**27. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing**

How many lockers at the Beckenham Spa Leisure Centre wet side changing rooms have no locks and the reasons why this is so?