

## QUESTIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ORAL REPLY

### From Cllr Kieran Terry

What powers does the Council have to act against antisocial or overrunning roadworks?

### Reply

Utility companies are required to obtain a permit before undertaking any planned works on the highway. The Network Management team work with the utility company to agree a timescale that will minimise congestion and inconvenience to the public, which includes dates and working hours, and if works are not completed within agreed programmes fines are issued. In the case of emergency works we do not have the same level of control. Utility companies are required to submit a retrospective permit within two working hours of commencing works, although the works duration is still subject to approval and enforcement.

### Supplementary Question

Cllr Terry indicated that his question arose following a difficult summer in his ward (Chislehurst) for road works e.g. at Park Road and at Old Hill (where roadworks were repeated). Businesses suffer in such circumstances and Cllr Terry understood that local businesses were unable to have a business as usual sign. He asked what the Council can do to help.

### Reply

Although the Portfolio Holder had yet to see a trend in the borough, such problems seemed to relate to core infrastructure. Utility companies are lobbied about the need for infrastructure repairs which in turn cause repairs and roadworks. The Portfolio Holder indicated that he will ask officers to consider the conditions (when granting permits). The Executive Director also referred Cllr Terry to the Assistant Director, Highways, for any further advice following the meeting.

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### From Benjamin McGowan

1. Why is it that numerous Councils across London including neighbouring boroughs such as Bexley are able to provide schools with free recycling services yet Bromley as of a recent change no longer does?

### Reply

The Council charge for the collection and disposal of waste and recycling produced by schools in accordance with the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012. These regulations state that the Council can charge schools for recycling services, ensuring

that schools take responsibility for the quantity and type of waste they generate. Whilst recycling costs less than disposing of residual waste, recycling collections still come at a net cost to the Council due to the provision of vehicles, staff requirements and gate fees for the processing of recycling. The full cost recovery model of recycling services provides an incentive to encourage students to produce less waste - i.e. bringing in food and drinks in reusable containers, and to recycle as much as possible.

81 Bromley Schools currently use the Council's paper and card collection service to enable students to participate in a recycling scheme whilst they are in school. We continue to review and investigate options to expand the material range that we are able to accept for recycling and where possible improve the waste and recycling service offered to schools

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2. For a Council which prides itself on its recycling is this not a failure to properly educate the youngest people in the borough of the benefits of recycling?

### **Reply**

The Council has one of the highest recycling rates in London and has always prided itself on the positive contribution our residents and school children make in achieving this by their positive commitment to recycling. Key Stage 3 within the National Curriculum includes topics associated with recycling, with many other areas in school learning involving the environment touching on the benefits of recycling which is a more holistic way of achieving a positive and more sustained approach to recycling. At the conception stage and introduction of Council recycling services, the Council provided a schools education programme around these new services, but as these services have now become commonplace to a new generation the education and awareness is now supported through the National Curriculum and learning from doing at home. The Council's Officers continue to visit and support schools to encourage students to recycle, when requested by local schools.

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### **Supplementary Question**

Benjamin acknowledged his understanding of the education aspect to recycling. But he indicated that if school students only receive education on the matter there might not be any way for school students to actually recycle and use recycling facilities.

### **Reply**

In reply the Portfolio Holder referred to the provision of Council Recycling Banks at a number of locations in the borough and of being able to recycle at home (with recycling collections). The Waste and Recycling Service also works in partnership with the Education Service on recycling and a higher cost associated with waste provides a financial incentive for schools to recycle.

The Chairman also enquired whether Benjamin could be invited to see the Council's process towards recycling (at either the Waldo Road Reuse and Recycling Centre or the Churchfields Reuse and Recycling Centre). The Portfolio Holder indicated that this could be arranged for one or a limited number.

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**From Richard Gibbons**

**Re: Agenda Item 6e - Station Road Orpington - Congestion, Walking and Cycling Improvements**

Notwithstanding the challenges of providing safer, more efficient and healthier access to the borough's second busiest station, has the Council engaged with pedestrians, bus passengers and vulnerable road users travelling to and from the station? A simple 'yes' or 'no' answer will suffice.

**Reply**

Not at present, but the Council will engage with those immediately affected by the proposals after this Committee and subsequent Executive decision, if approval is given to proceed. As Mr Gibbons is aware, the Council is considering a package of measures over a wider area around the station, as Orpington has been identified as a cycling opportunity area, as highlighted in the new Draft LIP.

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**Supplementary Question**

Mr Gibbons asked if the scheme had been assessed against TfL's Healthy Streets Indicators and whether a Healthy Streets Check had been undertaken and if so whether there will be a healthy level. Mr Gibbons indicated a particular interest for a Healthy Streets Check along the section of road corridor from Crofton Road.

**Reply**

The Portfolio Holder invited the Assistant Director, Traffic and Parking, to provide a response.

The Assistant Director referred to the introduction of a Cycle Contraflow to the scheme (along Hill View Road). The scheme had also been subject to a safety audit and aspects had been looked at in closer detail. The Assistant Director confirmed that officers will look at aspects such as a Healthy Streets Check.

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## **QUESTIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

### **From Cllr Nicky Dykes**

Could the Portfolio please advise on what is happening regarding the Deed of Dedication application submitted by Friends of Havelock Recreation and supported by all three Bromley Town Councillors. It was submitted in March and has not had a response.

### **Reply**

I believe that the application for the Fields In Trust (FIT) dedication is based not on grant funding for the Friends of Parks, but is more intended to protect this space from development having seen the information they placed on their website. When I advised earlier, by email that this is not pursued, it was from a perspective of the conditions often associated with grant applications.

This Recreation ground is already protected from development through its designation as urban open space. The Fields in Trust dedication requires as one of its minimum criteria that "Spaces should have local managers who are responsible for the quality of the facilities, maintenance and development, improving participation and financial and operational sustainability". Whilst I would hope that the borough can meet this criteria going forward, I am not in a position to guarantee it in perpetuity. In other parks/recreation grounds where we have agreed similar dedications it has been in conjunction with a sports club bidding for substantial sums where the sports club will deliver local management.

Our parks management team is able to assist in finding additional funding sources to improve the recreation ground in many different ways and they would be more than happy to meet with the Friends of Havelock to explore alternative ways to improve the open space for the benefit of users.

I am happy to discuss this further with you, your fellow councillors and the Friends of Havelock.

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### **From Mrs Adele Jacquin**

1. Do you have a list of parks/open spaces, which are designated as "Dog Free" areas in the Bromley borough? The only one that I am aware of is Kelsey Park, which has a section of the park which is designated as dog free over the bridge.

### **Reply**

Dog-free areas are restricted to designated 'Ornamental Gardens' which principally include the Library Gardens, Parts of Kelsey Park, Beckenham and parts of Priory Gardens Orpington. A detailed table is provided below of Parks that have dog restrictions as defined in the Council's Dog Control Order and further information is

available on our website ([LBB Dog Control Order](#)). However, it should be noted that under the animal welfare act LBB are required to provide and allow for dogs to be exercised off lead.

<b>Parks</b>	<b>Fully Restricted/ No Dog Area</b>	<b>Partly Restricted/ No Dog Area</b>	<b>Dog on Lead/ Fully and Partly Restricted</b>
Queens Gardens	Yes		
Alexandra Recreation Ground		Yes	
Church House Gardens		Yes	
Jubilee Park		Yes	
Kelsey Park		Yes	
King Meadow Open Space		Yes	
Penge Recreation Ground		Yes	
Priory Gardens		Yes	
Whitehall Recreation Ground		Yes	
Widmore Recreation Ground		Yes	
Scadbury Park			Fully Restricted
High Elms Wood			Partly Restricted

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2. Parks which have a children's' play area, usually require children to walk through an open area where dogs can be present – are there any plans to make a “Dog Free” walk way/entry to these areas to protect children from any possible attacks? (In addition to this, I should report that there was a broken fence at the Norman Park children's' play area (as a dog managed to get in several times whilst I was there recently) and the one at Kelsey Park).

### **Reply**

We do not have any parks where the play areas are adjoining with park entrances. All Parks have a dog area between the gates and the play areas. In addition to the above comment, creating designated dog free corridors will require dog free entrances into parks this is impossible to enforce, especially if a dog owner wanted to access his park and had to walk to another entrance. I would also note, the reported broken fences at Norman's Park and Kelsey Park have been investigated and appropriate action is programmed for repair.

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3. Are there any plans to have “Dog Free” times when people could use parks without fear of running into a dog, and so as not to penalise all dog owners?

### **Reply**

We do not currently have initiatives to provide dog free times in parks and do not believe any initiatives existed in the past. The reason being that this will lead to a false sense of security as irresponsible dog owners will undoubtedly ignore the times anyway and it is not the responsible dog owners who are the problem. Again with dogs being in the street and on foot paths there will be limited benefit from implementing this.

We will continue to enforce our “Dangerous dogs on lead policy” within Parks and Greenspaces, and you may be aware that we offer free dog training sessions at various locations around the Borough at regular intervals throughout the year. This is aimed at helping dog owners to improve the behaviour of their pets and become more confident in their assertiveness when in public. We can only reiterate that this particular incident seems to be a result of a dangerous dog breaking free from its leash, and the owner responsible has been held to account.

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### **From Norman Wells**

What part does the Committee think that Low Traffic Neighbourhoods should play in the Borough? Is there a link to Liveable Neighbourhoods? Is it possible to implement a Low Traffic Neighbourhood on its own?

### **Reply**

We attempt to keep traffic on the main routes by removing congestion and pinch points so that the only traffic entering/leaving an area should be those accessing a destination in the area. We also develop walking and cycling routes to provide residents alternative travel options. Quietways are designed to make walking and cycling more attractive by taking them off the main traffic routes. That may have the side-effect of increasing cycle and pedestrian traffic into new areas and neighbourhoods. The Council decides on its priorities and then finds the best funding sources to help deliver them.

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### **From Colin Willetts**

1. Could you i) reinstate bent pole P2079 on roundabout sign (inc inspection cover) Chipperfield junction Longbury?, ii) replace missing two wheel parking sign opposite 2 Longbury Drive?, iii) replace missing central island KLB opposite Red Cross shop in Cotmandene Crescent?.

## **Reply**

These issues have all been raised by other concerned residents using Fix my Street which is the Council's preferred method for reporting and monitoring street issues. The latest updates are available on Fix my Street:

- 1) Reference <https://fix.bromley.gov.uk/report/1406548>
- 2) Reference <https://fix.bromley.gov.uk/report/1357192>
- 3) Reference <https://fix.bromley.gov.uk/report/1398949>

As work is ongoing and the status is subject to change these issues are best dealt with via Fix my Street rather than answers at a PDS meeting.

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2. Could you i) cutback overhanging pyracantha (inc nettle growth) on back line and adjacent planter (to include insitu tree crown) in LBB car park Longbury Close and ii) remove dumped/downed tree branches/fir arisings/litter/soil etc with a general spruce up on amenity grass frontage Robin Way entrance Hawkinge Walk.

## **Reply**

Yes. As you are aware these matters should be reported through Fix My Street to ensure an efficient and timely response, plus you would have received updates.

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3. Regarding Longbury Close, could you (i) complete the remark of our remaining 2 (of 6) central white lines? (ii) install our original 'slow' marking (completely faded)? (iii) due to vehicle over spill from zig zags in Chipperfield would you seriously consider DYL corner restrictions at our junction with Longbury Drive?

## **Reply**

As you are aware these matters should be reported through Fix My Street to ensure an efficient and timely response, plus you would have received updates. Regarding your points (i) yes, (ii), if deemed appropriate as detailed in our LIP, (iii) it will be added to the list of locations to be considered for a review of the local vicinity.

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