

QUESTIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ORAL REPLY

From Cllr Ian Dunn

1. Professional dog walkers make use of the Borough's parks, sometimes walking many dogs, some of which are not on the lead, at one time. This can cause problems for other users of parks, including other dog walkers. Some parks in London operate licencing schemes for professional dog walkers. See links below for some examples:-

<https://www.royalparks.org.uk/managing-the-parks/licences-and-permits/professional-dog-walking-licences>

http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200296/animal_welfare_licences/761/multiple_dog_walking_licences

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_enforcement_and_legislation/dog_control_pspo/apply_for_a_professional_dog_walking_licence

<https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/forms/apply-for-a-professional-dog-walking-licence>

Will the Portfolio Holder, possibly jointly with the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Enforcement, consider introducing licences for professional dog walkers to use Bromley Parks”

Reply

My initial consideration is that this is not worth pursuing at the current time. The likelihood is that the costs of administering the process would be disproportionately high and probably only the law abiding - non problem dog walkers would participate. In terms of enforcement of a licencing system it would be difficult to distinguish between owners and professional dog walkers.

Since 2010, we have Dog Control orders in place in our parks and when we introduced them the issues arising from professional dog walkers were included. These allow us to require an owner/dog walker to put a lead on a dog and impose a fine of £80 if not complied with. We also require owners/dog walkers to clear up after their dog and can we again impose a fine.

I feel this is sufficient at this time.

2. Can the Portfolio Holder please confirm whether the Council will once again be waiving the charge for street closures over the Big Lunch weekend in 2019? Can he also please confirm what the deadline for applications is?

Reply

The Council has supported this initiative for many years, and the answer is 'Yes'. The deadline for applications is 23rd March, which is confirmed in the news release issued to local media, which has also been circulated to all Members. We always allow a little extra time for last minute applications.

The number of applications last year indicated that many of our communities valued the opportunity of a road closure to allow them space for a Street Party for their community.

However, processing road closures are a cost for the Council and the closures may cause inconvenience to some residents. At this time I cannot give future guarantees, particularly if the popularity wanes or if the majority are hosted off the highway.

3. Now that the Major Scheme in Beckenham High Street is coming to a close, what plans does the Portfolio Holder have for instituting an enhanced pavement cleaning regime to ensure that the pavements remain looking as good as new?

Reply

I do not have plans to instigate an enhanced cleaning regime in Beckenham. The enhanced cleaning in Bromley Town Centre is paid for by part of the fees from the market. Enhanced cleaning is potentially available in other Town Centres if funding is made available by the BIDs or traders. We also can provide kits to the BIDs or traders to make it easier for them to clear chewing gum from footways in their area.

Supplementary Question

Cllr Dunn enquired whether those at Beckenham High Street could use equipment deployed at Bromley North and pay for its use?

Reply

The Portfolio Holder understood there is scope for additional cleaning within the Street Environment Lot of the new Environmental Services contract and this option is preferable to using the cleansing machine deployed at Bromley North.

From Christopher Wells, Vice Chair & Environment Trustee, Chislehurst Society (on behalf of the Chislehurst Safer Streets campaign)

1. Latest research - Atkins, and University of West England (both 2018) - confirms that well designed 20mph zones demonstrably reduce speeds and accidents. Through a recent consultation 90% of Chislehurstians called for such a well designed 20mph zone covering BR7. Will he confirm the Council's agreement to implement this?

Reply

The Council's approach to achieving value for money for its budget in this area is set out in the LIP which has recently been subject to a public consultation and was broadly supported. The Council has an excellent record in reducing injury accidents, particularly those that result in serious injury or death. We remain committed to reduce those ever further and will prioritise locations wherever they occur in the borough to achieve this. A scheme covering the whole of BR7 would not be prioritised on this basis. That does not mean that we will not select areas within BR7 for 20mph zones or public realm improvements over the term of the LIP, but the demand for any changes will be based on the practices laid out in the LIP.

Supplementary Question

Along the A222 running through Chislehurst, Mr Wells highlighted the presence of two secure crossing points compared to seven crossing points north bound along the A222 from Queen Mary's roundabout Sidcup. Mr Wells indicated a need for a crossing at Chislehurst War Memorial Junction and recommended new zebra crossings at Shepherds Green and at Cricket Green.

Reply

The Portfolio Holder explained that the Council had looked to improve facilities at the War Memorial junction but in order not to increase congestion an improved junction was required. This would need additional land and permission from the Board of Trustees of Chislehurst Commons to release land; they were not agreeable to this.
