

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**1. From Julie Ireland to the Renewal, Recreation & Housing Portfolio Holder**

Given the Planning Inspector's refusal of the application in respect of the multi storey school at 1 Westmoreland Road, will the Council now amend the Bromley Local Plan to change the designated use of this site?

**Reply:**

The planning appeal process does not alter the Bromley Local Plan designation of this site but a future planning application for any use should take into account the latest appeal decision and in particular the reasons for dismissal.

**2. From Julie Ireland to the Environment & Community Services Portfolio Holder**

In view of the Planning Inspector's refusal of the application in respect of the multi storey school at 1 Westmoreland Road, what are the Council's plans for the much needed pedestrian and cycling improvements to this junction including plans for the safeguarded land on the corner of Masons Hill and Westmoreland Road?

**Reply:**

The application was not dismissed on Highway grounds. At paragraph 56 the Inspector concluded: - '*I have also found that highway safety concerns have not been borne out*'. There are not therefore direct consequences arising from the decision, as would have been the case had it been allowed.

**3. From Julie Ireland to the Renewal, Recreation & Housing Portfolio Holder**

What costs were incurred by the Council in the Bullers Wood School for Boys appeal in respect of St Hugh's Playing Fields?

**Reply:**

The Council spent £49825 on external Transport consultants; this excludes Legal costs which are subject to confidentiality of commercial information.

**4. From Sam Webber to the Environment & Community Services Portfolio Holder**

Following a written answer to me in December 2017 stating that the Council would "give this matter some consideration subject to available budgets and practicalities" can I ask for an update on erecting a small plaque or sign to mark the grave of Captain George Allan Maling VC in Chislehurst Cemetery?

**Reply:**

The parks and greenspace service provider's Director, Mr Frank Kleinhans ([Frank.Kleinhans@idverde.co.uk](mailto:Frank.Kleinhans@idverde.co.uk)), is aware of the desire to erect a small plaque at this location. He would welcome your thoughts, including any further historic background, in order to ascertain how this is best delivered at the location.

**5. From Sam Webber to the Environment & Community Services Portfolio Holder**

I have been advised that grave ownership 'in perpetuity' in reality lasts only for 25 years under the 1972 Local Government Act.

In light of this would LBB consider issuing a public notice of intent to transfer ownership of grave number A2017 at Chislehurst Cemetery from the executor of the estate of the grave owner to the Victoria Cross Trust which would like to take over ownership and restore the gravestone of Captain Maling VC?

**Reply:**

Before the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977, the main legislation relating to burial was governed by the Burial Acts 1852 – 1906 (15 in total), and the Cemeteries Clauses Act 1847. Many of these Acts have now been repealed.

With regards to defining the period of rights to a grave, the issue of perpetuity is covered in the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 – the Order allows an authority to determine a right of burial if the grave has never been used and 75 years has elapsed since the date of the grants. The Order also allows agreements to maintain a grave to be determined (returned to the council) after 100 years, even if these were made in perpetuity. The Order limits the time that any new grants of exclusive right of burial can be made for to a maximum of 100 years. It does not, however, give any provision for limiting grants made in perpetuity prior to the order or provide a mechanism for reclaiming or shortening those rights where they have been exercised. The implication therefore is that any rights that were granted in perpetuity under any previous legislation remain in perpetuity.

We would be pleased to engage with the Victoria Cross Trust regarding the potential of restoring the gravestone of Captain Maling VC.

**6. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing**

What are the latest estimates of homeless people in the borough, including counts of those living on the streets? Is data available for area (Beckenham, Bromley, Orpington etc)?

**Reply:**

Bromley's Homeless Strategy sets out detailed data regarding homeless trends and estimates. However in summary there are currently estimated to be approximately 3,500 households who are homeless or in insecure accommodation in Bromley. The vast majority of these households are currently accommodated in forms of temporary accommodation or under interim arrangements and as such are not 'roofless'.

The last rough sleeper head count was held in November 2018. A total of 6 people were found; 3 in Bromley, 2 in Orpington and 1 in Penge. Contact was made with all of these rough sleepers to offer support and assistance with rehousing.

**7. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing**

What support did the Council provide to shelters and homeless charities over the Christmas period?

**Reply:**

Bromley's rough sleeper outreach services are funded by central government alongside the no second night out programme and emergency accommodation hubs. Support was offered by these services throughout the Christmas period. Bromley also provides dedicated caseworkers and housing advice surgery support across the borough including through churches, charities and the shelter. This includes 24/7 365 day access to emergency advice and temporary accommodation provision. In addition, in line with the severe weather emergency provision requirements (SWEP), the Council has directly provided accommodation during the Christmas and cold weather periods for anyone found to be homeless and sleeping rough, with referrals able to be made directly by shelters and homeless charities for support. Funding support is then provided to assist directly with move-on to settled accommodation secured.

**8. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services**

When will the 2010 Air Quality Action Plan be updated?

**Reply:**

The Mayor of London's revised draft Air Quality Action Matrix was only received by the Council in October 2018, with the consultation period closing in November 2018 and now that this has been agreed by the Mayor (we're checking the date), the Council is now refining its draft Air Quality Action Plan for consultation in due course.

**9. From Rich Wilsher to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families**

How many children in the care of the Council care are currently placed outside of the borough?

**Reply:**

We currently have 61 children placed at distance out of the borough –31 of these children are in specialist placements.

**10. From Rich Wilsher to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families**

Are the Council planning to review casework and policies in light of the recent media attention of a Bromley parent and the use of out-of-borough placements of children in care?

**Reply:**

The Council are not planning on reviewing casework policies.