

## COUNCIL MEETING

8<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR ORAL REPLY

**1. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Environment and Community Services Portfolio Holder**

If he will circulate in writing the number of graffiti incidents which have been reported in each year since 2010?

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

At the last meeting of this Council I asked for details of the legal costs incurred by the Council in the more recent BWSFB planning appeal. The reply given was that this information could not be provided because of a confidentiality agreement. Please give details of who initiated this agreement, why it was deemed necessary, and who the signatories were?

**3. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing**

How many people did Council staff refer to Bromley Homeless Shelter over the winter period and how many rough sleepers in the borough were additionally provided with accommodation under the severe weather emergency protocol?

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

Can the Portfolio Holder advise whether there are plans to put housing for homeless people on the site of the former Harris Aspire School in Lennard Road?

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

How many children are expected to be accommodated at the primary SEND provision in the Glebe School?

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

Do interim directors cost more or less than their equivalent or previous post holders? By what margins?

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

Would the Portfolio Holder agree that the Capital Letters, a collaborative approach to supporting homeless households, formed by several London Boroughs across all parties provides a compelling alternative to Bromley's current out sourcing, especially following the recent draw down of £2.5 million from contingency? Will he investigate membership for Bromley?

## **7. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Leader of the Council**

A report has recently been published (by Campaign for FOI) which shows that Bromley Council is fourth worst in London for processing FOI requests. Only 60% (against a target of 90%) of FOI requests to LBB are processed within the time limit of 20 working days.

The council also fails to produce and publish the following:

- a report on its FOI performance (and therefore lacks a basic tool for improvement)
- details of how long it actually takes to answer FOIs not met within 20 days
- details of the number of complaints made about itself to the Information Commissioner
- details of any tribunal appeals with outcomes

What action is to be taken to address these failures?

## **8. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health**

There is currently a planning application affecting Yeoman House in Penge proposing change of use from offices to residential housing. These offices are currently used by Bromley Council and NHS OXLEAS to support clients with severe Mental Health issues. Will the Portfolio Holder guarantee that in the event of the application being permitted, a permanent site is found in the north of the London Borough of Bromley for these important support services to be delivered?

## **9. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Chairman of Development Control Committee**

What progress has been made in obtaining a meeting with a representative of the planning inspectorate to discuss a common approach to planning applications in the Petts Wood Area of Special Residential Character?

*A Petts Wood Residents' Association committee member writes:-*

*"Re 40 Manor Way - the Planning Inspector states that several pairs (7) of semis have been imbalanced already by only 1 of the pair having a loft conversion (highlighted by the appellants). Of these 7 pairs, 4 had loft conversions installed prior to 1999. Three had full planning permission (the 4th I cannot tell from the LBB website but possibly predates 20 years old). Of the remaining three pairs of imbalanced semis, one had full planning permission (2002), one was put in under PD (2011) and one just had Building regs (2010).*

*Some 23 out of 67 houses in Manor Way have loft conversions. This represents 34% of the properties. 10 have full pp, 6 have been put in under PD, 6 with building regs only and 1 where I cannot ascertain (number 52). I now see that new residents at number 1A Manor Way have applied for a loft conversion under PD citing the allowed appeal at 40 Manor Way (same designer - Crofton Design).*

*I have one question, in the case of Manor Way the Planning Inspector quoted other properties have similar loft conversions. How many or what percentage would be needed for a dismissed appeal?"*

*The ASRC was created in response to residents' concern at the quality of their garden suburb being eroded by successive out of character permitted development applications. i.e. They wanted no more.*

*An unelected planning inspector from Bristol, with no knowledge of the history of the area, has now effectively ruled that Manor Road residents may continue to ruin the character of their area as much as they like.*

*Attempts by ward councillors to have a meaningful dialogue with the planning inspectorate have been treated as complaints and entered the complaints procedure which, of course, the planning inspectorate takes 'very seriously'.*

**10. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management Portfolio Holder**

What percentage of the Council's income was received from:

- Council tax
- Government Grant
- Fees and charges
- Return in investment

in 2010 and how this compares with 2019-20?

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

Why does the Council not routinely provide Equality Impact Assessments and Social Value Impact Assessments in reports to its committees?

**12. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health**

Owners and operators of care/nursing homes and agencies are extremely worried about the impact of Brexit on staffing. What action is she taking to mitigate this both to support the private sector and to ensure the council's staffing needs are met?

**13. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families**

Excellent work is being done by Bromley Youth Council yet this is not reflected on the Council's website. Please explain why not and please give a firm date by which this problem will be resolved?

**14. From Cllr Marina Ahmad to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing**

Will he agree with me that the current permitted development rights within planning law, coupled with the limitations around the licensing of HMOs are inadequate in ensuring provision of good quality housing whilst also protecting the quality of life of neighbours and residents?

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

What initiatives have been taken to look at options for income generation?

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

After the contractor responsible for street lighting went into administration, for how many days were street lights switched on during the daytime, how many street lights were affected and what was the cost?

**17. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management Portfolio Holder**

What research is being undertaken as to how Artificial Intelligence can transform Council services?

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

Why did he vote against the proposal at Constitution Improvement Working Party to extend the time allocated for public questions at full Council?