

QUESTION TO THE ECS PDS CHAIRMAN FOR ORAL REPLY

From Mr Richard Gibbons

Is the Chairman aware of growing concern amongst Friends groups that detrimental effects of uncertainty prior to awarding *id verde* an 8/16 year contract have continued with decline in service standards and engagement? As a consequence, would the Chairman instigate an urgent scrutiny review involving the contractor, officers and Friends Forum?

Reply

Assistant Director of Environment Peter McCreedy and Parks and Greenspaces Contract Manager James Hilsden arranged a meeting with the Chair of Friends Group Larry Herbert and any concerns were communicated and commented on as found appropriate. Any apparent decline in service standards were found to be the result of routine annual seasonal issues around inclement weather and staffing. Contingency plans have been in progress to resolve matters i.e. Grasscutting. Neighbourhood Officers continue their routine Service Provider performance review and monitoring, and findings are documented as per LBB contract specification.

The Chairman also indicated that *idverde* representatives will be asked to attend a future meeting of the Environment and Community Services PDS Committee so that their performance can be subject to the Committee's scrutiny. Should the issues raised by Mr Gibbons in his question not be resolved they would be taken up with *idverde* as part of the Committee's scrutiny.

Mr Gibbons indicated that officers and the Friends Forum of Bromley Parks and Green Spaces had met since the question was submitted and the Assistant Director further indicated that prior to the question's submission, *idverde*'s performance had been monitored for some time and this was ongoing.

Supplementary Question

Concerning the Friends Forum of Bromley Parks and Green Spaces, Mr Gibbons asked the Chairman whether he would attend the Friends Forum Committee meeting on 17th July 2019.

Reply

The Chairman confirmed that he will attend.
