

COUNCIL MEETING

14th October 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Please provide a list of each Primary and Secondary School in the Borough, with the speed limit in force outside each.

Reply:

Please see attached spreadsheet. Speed limit is 30mph unless otherwise stated. (Appendix 1.)

2. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Please provide a schedule of all the road safety improvements which have been implemented over the past 4 years as a result of the analysis of clusters of collisions, and the number of collisions which have happened at each since the improvements were made.

Reply:

Our analysis shows that we have undertaken the following mid to large scale casualty reduction schemes at collision cluster sites (excluding minor VAS / lining / surfacing schemes and schemes relating to local speed management concerns) in the past 4 years. The number represents the incidents of PICs (personal injury collisions) since known completion of each scheme.

- # Copers Cope / Bridge Road – 0
- # Shire Lane / Farnborough Hill – 1
- # Warren Rd / Windsor Drive – 0
- # Court Road / Charterhouse Road – 0
- # Heathfield Rd / Westerham Rd roundabout – 1
- # Skid Hill Lane / Layhams Road – 1

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

Please provide the number of properties which have been empty longer than 2 years, broken down by Council Tax Band.

Reply:

Count of account ref Council Tax Band

Council Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Grand Total
Number of Properties	10	54	59	48	19	18	8	1	217

4. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

What plans does the Council have to ensure the requirements of the new Tenant Fees Act 2019 are enforced within the Borough?

Reply:

Trading Standards have previously undertaken a pilot to establish compliance of this sector, and where necessary follow up any failures with appropriate enforcement action, which may include the use of Penalty Charge Notices. The pilot ran from January to March 2019, during which time an Officer delivered education and guidance to the sector, and the compliance level was found to be high.

Should complaints be received alleging letting agents are not complying with the new requirement (which bans most letting fees and caps tenancy deposits paid by tenants in the private rented sector), Officers will investigate accordingly.

5. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

What action has the Council taken for category one fire hazard notices in the last 18 months and has the Council liaised with the London Fire Authority/Brigade?

Reply:

There have been 5 Category 1 Fire Hazard Notices served in the last 18 months, of which 1 was cancelled due to a change of tenure categorisation, 2 were complied with, and 2 remain live and are within the compliance period. The Officers within the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Team regularly liaise with the LFB in accordance with local protocols and national guidance.

6. From Cllr David Jefferys to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Welcoming the recent initiative on reducing vehicle emissions outside schools from the “anti- idling” policy, would the Portfolio Holder provide estimates for the second half of the fiscal year 2019/20 and for 2020/21 of -

- a) the reduction in emitted particulates
- b) the saving on carbon (CO 2) emissions
- c) the health benefits

from the introduction of this policy.

Reply:

We have not modelled the reductions in emissions from the anti-idling project specifically so those reductions in emissions are not and will not be quantified, given the cost and resource implications of doing so. Health benefits will be at a localised level with activity focused around schools so will reduce the exposure of children to particulate matter and Nitrous Oxide emissions which are more concentrated at children’s height. This will reduce the impact of pollutants on children’s lung development reducing risk of developing respiratory diseases such as childhood asthma or even cardio-vascular issues in later life. However, it must be noted that action for the short period at the end of the school day, whilst welcome, represents a small proportion of the typical family’s emissions and exposure to emissions. Transport is not the only source of gases and particulate emissions.

7. From Cllr David Jefferys to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Noting the recent decisions by the Environment and Community Services PDS Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board to move to paperless meetings, what would be the total resource saving in FY 2020/21 of the (i) full Council meetings moving to "paperless operations" and (ii) all the other "Council Committees" moving to paperless operations?

Reply:

The annual budget for printing agendas is £8k. The saving for the full Council meeting only going paperless would be in the region of £500 pa.