

COUNCIL MEETING

9th December 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR ORAL REPLY

1. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council

The officer's recommendation to refuse permission on a planning application for s 10 Hazelwood Road, Cudham Sevenoaks TN14 7QU ref 19/00594 was over-turned by just one vote at Plans 4 on April 25th 2019 and approval was given.

I am told by officers who have investigated this for me that this application was not called-in by a member of this Council.

The property involved is residential, relatively isolated and of no public interest; there were no objections from neighbours or elsewhere.

Please provide a full explanation for why this application was decided at committee and not under delegated authority.

2. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Leader of the Council

I understand that, following preparation by officers, proposals for the care homes options appraisal have been provided to you by the interim director for adult social services. What recommendations have been made as a result of the review?

3. From Cllr Marina Ahmad to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

What safeguards do we have in place to monitor and protect our children who are placed in unregulated and unregistered homes?

4. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

In July I submitted a written question asking for details of planning applications which had been called in for decision by committee, including the name of the councillor who called them in. All of the information requested was provided with the exception of the name of the councillor who called each application in.

Please explain why this information was not provided?

5. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Is the Portfolio Holder aware that the Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Elm Road Conservation Area describes Beckenham Library as -

Number 22 Beckenham Road (the Library) is a good example of late Art Deco architecture and was built in 1939. A large multi stock brick building with large vertical metal framed windows with concrete surrounds. Fine decorative bust in keystone in the surround on the window above the main library road entrance. There is also a large decorative keystone above the large window facing Beckenham Road. The entrance facing Beckenham Road has an imposing pair of geometric panelled wooden doors with a moulded concrete coat of arms above it.

6. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing:

Can the Portfolio Holder explain why with the funding High Street Penge received from the New Homes Bonus and TfL for regeneration the effects of the money spent has shown no improvement to the High Street? Officers have been allowed to agree to losing a perfectly mature tree and provide two unsightly trees planted into huge tree pits, 2/3rd too big and which take up so much of the concourse. The seating is too close to filthy bins and electricity cases and face the oversized tree pits.

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

What is the justification of the description of Beckenham Public Halls as "underutilised" given in the paper on the relocation of Beckenham Library discussed at the last Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee?

8. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Enforcement

LBB's CCTV service is responsible for the management and operation of cameras installed in crime hotspots and town centre. Penge Traders and BID team recently attended the CCTV Control Room where it was clear that Empire Square (McDonalds) is a known black spot in our High Street, yet there is no CCTV cover. Would the Portfolio Holder meet the Penge BID team halfway with the cost of installing a CCTV camera?

9. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

What events, initiatives or other communications did council officers undertake to mark or raise awareness as part of National Road Safety Week (November 18th to 23rd)?

10. From Cllr Marina Ahmad to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

Why is Bromley paying more than other boroughs to place children in the same unregulated children's homes?

11. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

The government has recently relaxed legislation relating to the sale of housing stock by registered social landlords or housing associations. Previously RSLs were required to seek the permission of the local authority who had formerly owned these properties before they put them up for sale.

There is clear evidence of RSLs in the north of the borough selling off homes which are desperately needed by this Council, and our housing team report reductions in the number of properties which they have been offered by our in-borough housing associations.

Will he agree to make the strongest representations locally with RSLs and nationally with the government to be elected later this week?

12. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Leader of the Council

Can you please explain why the Council permitted a backlog of £400,000 in maintenance to build up at the grade 2 listed Beckenham Public Halls?

13. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Waterman's Square is part of the Heritage in Penge. Can the Portfolio Holder confirm that LBB is responsible for the historic aspects of Waterman's Square? If he is, is he also aware that Clarion's processes for reporting faults are ensuing that Waterman's Square slowly falls into disrepair and will he agree to a joint inspection with LBB and Officers to address the issues on this historic site?

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

What is the Portfolio Holder's view of the motion passed by CILIP members (the librarian's professional body) against the decision to admit GLL into CILIP's 'Employer Partner' scheme?

15. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

The security lighting in Queen Adelaide Court is fixed to the portals of the facade has not worked for 18 months despite regular reports. Clarion have not yet accepted responsibility nor have LBB. This is a Health & Safety issue as one resident has already fallen in the dark. Can you advise when action will be taken to identify whose responsibility this is and to implement repair/replace of these lights or issue notice to Clarion to do so?