

COUNCIL MEETING

24th February 2020

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Can you please confirm the name of Bromley's monitoring officer for Biggin Hill Airport, the job description for the post and how they can be contacted by me and members of the public by email or telephone?

Reply:

The contact details for the monitoring officer are available on the council's website www.bromley.gov.uk/bigginhillairport, with the email address being airport.monitoring@bromley.gov.uk. The Officer who had been seconded to this role has recently left the Council and we will now be moving forwards to recruit someone to this role. I am happy to forward details, including job description, when they are finalised.

2. From Cllr Kieran Terry to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

In light of the recent blight of emergency roadworks undertaken by utility companies in Chislehurst, what powers does the Council have to act against antisocial emergency roadworks?

Reply:

Utility companies have statutory powers to install and maintain their apparatus, and while the council has powers to co-ordinate planned works we do not have any control when emergency works are required. All works on the highway require a permit, although in the case of emergency work these can be submitted retrospectively. When emergency works are required the council will challenge the duration of the permit where the timescales requested are considered to be excessive.

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

On what dates in the last 12 months has fouling by pigeon on the pavements, central reservation and road around Birkbeck been cleaned and what dates in the same period has this area been inspected by council officers?

Reply:

Response provided is based on the assumption this is around Birkbeck Station, Elmer's End Road.

Whilst no specific cleansing for Pigeon Fouling is organised via the baseline street cleansing service, it will be attempted through ordinary scheduled work that is predicated on a dry sweep – either manually or via a mechanical sweeper. The schedule for Elmer's End Road sees footway cleansing undertaken twice weekly (Tuesdays and Fridays) and carriageway cleansing weekly on a Tuesday.

Our attempts to insist Network Rail erect some pigeon netting have not led us anywhere, and whilst prevention would be better than cure, it seems they will not install any.

We are investigating if we can undertake a cyclical jet-wash of this area (and other railway bridges that are affected by the same issue) utilising the graffiti removal service that also falls within Lot 3 of the Environmental Service Contract within the budget constraints of this service area and locations.

Since January 2019, Elmer's End Road has been inspected 10 times, using the randomised inspection system that we utilise in Neighbourhood Management. Dates and grades are below. The Neighbourhood Officer is aware that this location is a hot spot area and is working with the Service Provider to ensure cleansing standards improve, including the use of parking suspensions due to the high volume of parked cars in the area.

28/01/2019 – Carriageway - B
28/01/2019 – Carriageway - B
20/08/2019 – Footway – C
16/10/2019 – Carriageway - D
20/11/2019 – Footway - C
20/11/2019 – Carriageway – B
18/12/2019 – Footway – D
18/12/2019 – Carriageway - D
22/01/2020 – Footway – B
22/01/2020 – Carriageway - B

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

Please provide the number of visitors to and books borrowed from every library for calendar years 2018 and 19, broken down by library, year and month.

Reply:

(See Appendix 1 attached.)

5. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services

Please provide a list of the requests for new infrastructure to enhance walking and cycling and reduce road danger received in the last two years, including the source of the request and the outcome.

Reply:

Requests are recorded, but it is not possible to present the data in the form you request. If you can highlight particular locations I will ask Officers to go through their data and where possible without breaching data protection requirements to list the requests you are interested in. When requests are made, the evidence included, departmental knowledge, possible interventions and costs are assessed, before applying a prioritisation to the location, which ultimately decides when/if they will receive further attention. Past requests of this type will also be reviewed, when locations are highlighted through the approved prioritisation methodologies, such as KSI frequency, school travel plans, larger planning applications etc.

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

Please provide a list of activities required to complete the Air Quality Action Plan. Please also confirm that sufficient officer time will be made available so that the draft Air Quality Action Plan can come to the March meeting of the PDS for scrutiny.

Reply:

The draft 2020 – 2025 Air Quality Action Plan is now complete and scheduled to come before the March meeting of the PDS for scrutiny. Subject to approval from the committee, the AQAP will immediately go out to consultation prior to final review and publication.

7. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Will the Portfolio Holder please explain what the current situation is with Parking Permits in Wordsworth Road, Penge as they were going to be initiated, now have been suspended without any timeline provided?

Reply:

In August 2019 a consultation with residents of Wordsworth Road was carried out to discover if the majority wished to be included in the recent CPZ that includes many nearby streets in Penge. The majority of those who responded were in favour of being included. Therefore, in December, the Traffic Order was advertised in the newspaper. During this period, a petition was received containing 53 names of people in Wordsworth Road who objected to being included in the scheme, with the petition including more addresses than the August consultation. I have therefore asked Officers to carry out another survey of views, to establish what the majority of residents want. This will be conducted in the coming weeks and following analysis of the results we will consult with Ward members and then move to a conclusion.