

ECS PDS—19th January 2022

Oral Questions from the Public

1) Question from Alisa Igoe:

Reference:

Risk areas within Environment & Community Services Portfolio for 2022/23 onwards

Pressures from Public Demand

This section states “*In terms of what needs most improvement in the local area, activities for teenagers, traffic congestion, road and pavement repairs, the level of crime and clean streets were regularly mentioned by residents.*” Could you kindly tell me what actions Environment are undertaking to respond to residents’ concerns on these areas, and particularly on repairing roads and pavements?

Reply:

The Council will always address safety issues with respect to the road and footway surfaces. The Council undertakes regular inspections of all roads and footways in the borough to identify safety issues, which are passed to our contractor for repairs to be completed. Members of the public can also log defects using the Fix My Street report on the Council’s web site to alert the Council to defects arising between inspections for investigation.

2) Question from Alisa Igoe:

On 6th December, a resident posted a request on FixMyStreet for dumped waste to be removed from the woodlands at the side of New Hill Street, with three photos. 9th December Bromley Council posted “Fixed: Appropriate action has been taken to resolve the issue.” 3 January a new post was submitted "Walk along new St hill from burnt ash lane ... the amount of rubbish along the pavements/kerbs, woods and verges is even worse now ... I would check your cleaners are not confused!". Are FixMyStreet reports being closed prematurely?

Reply:

Reports regarding street cleansing and dumped rubbish are not closed prematurely but when our contractor has reported that they have attended, resolved the highlighted incident and updated our system accordingly. Where a customer feels that the action has not occurred, they can add further comments. These are then monitored and passed back to the contractor and/or the LBB officer to investigate further. These are then monitored and passed back to the contractor and/or the LBB Officer to investigate further.

Supplementary Question:

"There are many reports on FixMyStreet of the dumping of waste around recycling banks, much of it not recyclable. The yellow stickers on the recycling banks make it

clear anything dumped alongside these bins is fly tipping and could incur a £400 fine. Would you agree we need to tackle the cause and not just the symptoms of such anti-social behaviour and by the Council allowing the contractor to provide up to twice daily street cleansing collections of these large amounts of fly tipping, we're actually facilitating it, actually encouraging residents to do it and as a consequence it will just increase

Answer to the Supplementary Question:

I am not entirely sure that I follow your argument. We obviously want to keep our street environment clean—following the 'broken window' policy. We feel that if someone sees a place where rubbish has been left, it is more likely to attract more rubbish than if we cleared it. So we don't think that clearing the large amounts of fly tipping will encourage residents to tip more rubbish. There is a related question that I will be answering shortly from Cllr Terry to go into some of the things that we are actively proposing to do address the matter of material being left around re-cycling banks, particularly in the Chislehurst area.

3) Question from Angela Hulm:

Please confirm which of LBB's Anti-Idling Scheme budget items: (two additional CEO's, x5 body-worn air quality sensors, training of all CEOs on anti-idling enforcement and air quality monitoring, flyers / banners for schools;) have been delivered, at which schools and when?

Reply:

Despite the pandemic delaying the start of the anti-idling scheme, this scheme has been welcomed by schools and is working well.

21 schools in the Borough are now participating in this scheme, which commenced in September 2020, initially at 7 schools. The 21 schools are receiving CEO visits for Anti-Idling enforcement, with 7 more school locations due to be added in February 2022. The schools currently on the rota for enforcement are Raglan Primary, Biggin Hill Primary, Hayes Primary, Oak Lodge Primary, Harris Primary Shortlands, Valley Primary, Edgebury Primary, St Marks Primary, Highfield Infant, Highfield Junior, Bishop Justus Secondary, Trinity C of E Primary, St Georges Primary, Bickley Primary, Oaklands Primary, Churchfields Primary, Darrick Wood Schools, The Glebe, Pickhurst Junior, La Fontaine Primary, Green Street Green Primary.

The following schools took up the offer of having an Anti-Idling banner to be used outside of their schools – Harris Academy Beckenham, Edgebury Primary, Pickhurst Primary, Hayes Primary, Parish CE Primary, Green Street Green Primary, Harris Primary Shortlands, Leeson's Primary, The Glebe, Highfield Infant, Highfield Junior, Eden Park High School, St Philomena's Primary, La Fontaine Primary, Bullers Wood Boys Secondary, Red Hill Primary, The Highway Primary, Riverside School, St Johns CE Primary, Valley Primary, Chislehurst School for Girls, Trinity CE Primary, Tubbenden Primary, St James Primary.

The body-worn air-quality sensors were not purchased as further research suggested they would not provide any benefit.

Last year the budget was increased to allow the purchase of more signs due to the number of schools participating in the programme.

Supplementary Question:

If using the body worn air quality sensors is not possible, how can schools request air quality monitoring on their roads?

Answer to Supplementary Question:

We do have a large number of NOx diffusion tubes in various locations across the borough. (See response to written question No 30). The results are analysed once a year and the results put into the Air Quality Report. This report will be produced in the summer.

4) Question from Angela Hulm:

Which schools have:

- a) Anti-idling penalty notices been issued b) How many?
- c) CEO's have collected air quality data?

Reply:

No Anti-Idling penalty notices have been issued. All drivers approached have either switched off their engine or have driven away from the location. However, CEOs have issued 223 warnings since April 2021 at the following schools:

- Oak Lodge Primary School
- Harris Academy Shortlands
- Biggin Hill Primary School
- Valley Primary School
- Raglan Primary School
- Edgebury Primary School
- Hayes Primary School

The body-worn air-quality sensors were not purchased as further research suggested they would not provide any benefit.

Supplementary Question:

What is the uptake like for secondary schools and nurseries?

Answer to Supplementary Question:

In the list of schools for anti-idling our focus has been on primary schools rather than secondary schools as the children are shorter and so closer to the exhausts and exhaust fumes. Secondary school children in the main tend to arrive under their own steam.