

Council

25th July 2022

Questions from Members of the Council for Written Reply

1. From Cllr Mark Smith to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

In response to a freedom of information request regarding public access along The Drive to Scadbury Park in June 2018, the following information was provided to the FOI requestor:

The route described as The Drive is mainly located within Scadbury Park, although a short length leading to The Lodge off St Pauls Cray Road crosses part of Chislehurst Common where there is a gate.

Any question regarding the Common should be addressed to the Conservators of the Common.

Within the park users of The Drive do not do so by right but as invitees of the Council, as the land owner and signage erected on site stating 'Private Property no Public Vehicular or Pedestrian Right of Way' is Local Authority signage explaining this.

Accordingly the accessibility of public access may be withdrawn at any time, there being gates in place to shut the route, without notice, if necessary.

The exception to this is on the northern access from Perry Street, along Footpath 44, which passes over the route known as The Drive for approximately 150 metres before diverting into Scadbury Park.

Any signage erected within Scadbury Park should only be erected by the Council, or by others with its consent as land owner, and would have the right to remove any unauthorised signs on its land.

Can you confirm that the information provided in 2018 is still operative? If it isn't, can you confirm what has changed?

Reply:

Yes, the information provided in 2018 is still operative.

The made track known as 'The Drive' that cuts across the centre of Scadbury Park is not a public highway, it is unadopted, and the Council has the right to determine who is entitled to its legitimate use, such as residents, essential services, users of the stables and users of the Tree Centre.

2. From Cllr Mark Smith to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

What is the current population of the borough? How many individual households are there in the borough?

Reply:

According to 2021 Census data, the population of the borough is 330,000. There are 135,800 households with at least one usual resident.

3. From Cllr Sam Webber to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Following the Council's response to a written question in February, is there any update on applying for an English Heritage blue plaque to mark David Bowie's connection to the borough?

106 Canon Road or 4 Plaistow Grove were his childhood homes before he moved to Beckenham so might be suitable, or Ravens Wood School which he attended.

Reply:

The Council has made an enquiry with English Heritage. They have advised that Blue Plaques are only considered for people who have been dead for at least 20 years.

4. From Cllr Sam Webber to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

Following reports of serious traffic issues and inconvenience for residents at drop off and pick up times at the Bromley Beacon Academy (on Old Homesdale Road), would the Portfolio Holder and Officers consider reviewing the decision not to apply zig zag lines outside the school or consider adopting other measures here to reduce traffic bottlenecks?

Reply:

The Council will of course investigate any requests made by the school for changes in the parking controls at this location.

5. From Cllr Mike Jack to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

How many air quality monitors are there in the borough, and where are they sited?

Reply:

There are 32 locations in the Borough where NO₂ is measured using diffusion tubes and 1 Air Quality Monitoring Station at Harwood Avenue for NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. The 32 are located at Homesdale Road, Chatterton Road, Hastings Road, College

Road, London Road, Shortlands Road, Beckenham Road, Worsley Bridge Road, Links Way, Elmers End Road, Anerley Road, Anerley Hill, Hamlet Road, Belvedere Road, Glebe Way, Ridgeway, Crofton Road, Towncourt Lane, High Street Orpington, Cardingham Road, Farnborough Hill, Poverest Road, High Street St Marys Cray, Midfield Way, Ashfield Lane, Park Road, Harwood Avenue, Widmore Road, Blackbrook Lane, Old Hill, Mottingham Road, Page Heath Lane.

There are 3 Nodes as part of the Breathe London Project monitoring NO2 and PM2.5 at the PRUH, Beckenham Beacon and Poverest.

This monitoring is reported in the Annual Status Report (ASR). The ASR for the year 2021 has been drafted and will be presented for information to ECS PDS in September and uploaded to Bromley's website.

Bromley is also a member of the London Air Quality Network which produces the Local Atmospheric Emissions Inventory using monitored air quality across London as well as other data sets to predict pollution levels.

6. From Cllr Alisa Igoe to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

Between its junction with Plaistow roundabout and 75 Burnt Ash Lane, three front garden walls have been recently demolished on the A2212 by drivers who have mounted the pavement. HGV vehicles regularly park on the footway. Why are there no double yellow lines, could these please be installed, as well as physical infrastructure to slow the excessive speeding?

Reply:

I am happy to ask for both these requests to be investigated, but please bear in mind that parked vehicles are very often a good way of reducing traffic speeds.

7. From Cllr McPartlan to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

I welcome the overdue investment in our parks in the form of the £1million Jubilee fund. There is a limit of £40,000 for each ward. Times that by 22 wards and you have a total of £880,000 that could be given out to our parks. What will happen to the other £120,000?

Reply:

This amount was held back to ensure that additional resources could be diverted to support the projects' delivery if needed. If resources are sufficient, then we will consider additional funding for projects that have been approved. We will ensure that any funding left over is evenly allocated across the borough.

8. From Cllr Price to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contracts Management

Can you tell me the last full year for which the Council have records for claimants being taken to court for non-payment of council tax, where council tax has been reduced to 25% due to low income into the household under the Council Tax Support scheme? And within that year:

Number of Claimants who received court summons for non-payment?

Number of claimants charged costs?

Number of claimants referred to bailiffs?

Reply:

The figures provided are in respect of the financial year 2021/22. They include all recipients of council tax support, not just those in receipt of the maximum 75%. Please note that court costs are automatically charged when a summons is issued.

Number of claimants who received court summons for non-payment

4,321

Number of claimants charged costs

4,321

Number of claimants referred to bailiffs

2,048

9. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

Despite being advised at February's full Council meeting that there are no plans to withdraw the cheque-paying options for services, I note that the Green Garden Waste Renewal letters state – Payment by cheque is not available. Can you please advise why this decision has been made?

This raises problems for our elderly and disabled people so what other services will be affected by this change?

Reply:

I note that the answer previously given was in relation to Adult Care services and provided by the finance lead for that section, and not Environment per se.

Cheque payments for GGW were stopped in March 2020, primarily due to the restrictions introduced due to the pandemic, but also in advance of the introduction of a bespoke Direct Debit payment system created specifically for the GGW collection service.

The DD payment platform went live last July 2020 as a convenient streamline payment solution for our 41,000 GGW customers, and particularly with our elderly subscribers in mind, as it ensures yearly subscriptions are taken without the inconvenience of sending a cheque, paying by cash at the Civic Centre main reception or paying online.

Customers wishing to pay by DD can call our Customer Service Centre on 0300 303 8658 with no need to navigate an online system, and a continuous yearly subscription can be set up. Moving to a DD payment solution also ensures the administration costs of the service are controlled, reconciliations better recorded, and audit assurances met.

Prior to the DD solution being implemented, our cheque payment rate was only 1.42%, and to ensure the efficiencies of DD system are realised, we state no cheques on our renewal reminder notices that are sent to customers.

That said, we do still process cheques via the cashiers when customers prefer, with 8 cheques being administered in the period 21/22.

If you would like us to look at any specific concerns your residents may have, please direct them to Jim Cowan, Head of Neighbourhood Management.

10. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement

For each of the last four years, could you please detail:

1. The number of residents who contacted the Council to request pest control services, report infestations or similar pest problems,
2. The type of pest,
3. What assistance or action was provided in response, and
4. The cost (if any) charged to the resident for the service.

Reply:

1. Complaints Received by the Council -

2021/22 - 313

2020/21 - 463

2019/20 - 291

2018/19 - 430

Residents who procured treatments via SDK -

2021/22 - 729

2020/21 - 957

2019/20 - 837

2018/19 - 1162

2. Pest Type data is not recorded by the Council.
3. Officers investigate complaints of infestations where certain activities being carried out by another resident or business may be the cause of infestation. If resolution cannot be obtained, then enforcement action would be taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.
4. The current schedule of rates can be found on the Council website here, [Pest control services – London Borough of Bromley](#)

11. From Cllr Rebecca Wiffen to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contracts Management

Bromley has been named and shamed by the Living Wage Foundation for being in the worst 25 local authorities for paying employees below the Living Wage. What action is Bromley taking to correct this?

Reply:

The lowest hourly rate in Bromley Council at £11.06 is higher than both the national living wage, minimum wage and the London living wage at £9.50 and £11.05 respectively. The national living wage is a statutory requirement but the London living wage is only voluntary.

The Council having adopted a localised pay arrangement in November 2012 whereby the annual pay award is determined locally by democratically elected councillors is able to recruit, retain and reward staff and exceptional performers and hard to fill posts in particular. The Council remains competitive in the labour markets and the local arrangement allows the Council to flex its pay arrangements at any time without the constraints associated with the national and regional collective bargaining arrangements.

12. From Cllr Will Rowlands to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

How much has been bid by Bromley under the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding from TfL in each of the last five financial years and how much has been received?

Reply:

Prior to May 2020, Bromley was allocated an amount of LIP funding calculated by a formula that was not dependent upon a bid. The LIP amount had been £2.176M each year for a number of years, with some additional amounts for special projects such as the Shortlands Liveable Neighbourhood. Since May 2020 normal LIP

funding has not been available, although some related funding streams have been available, such as from the London Streetspace Plan.

A bid was submitted for LIP funding for 2022/23 amounting to £2.7M, but to date only £236k has been allocated to Bromley this year. In 2021/22 boroughs were limited in what they could apply for and Bromley submitted an application for £1.385M and was allocated £902k, plus some additional funding for cycle training.

(Some information is not currently accessible as the Portal is unavailable.)

13. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health

How many people have in the Borough of Bromley have a death certificate with the primary cause of death being cardio respiratory failure due to air pollution between 2010 and 2022? Can this please be split out by year and by ward where known please?

Reply:

I have been advised by the Director of Public Health that there is no code (ICD-10 code) for cardio-respiratory failure due to air pollution and therefore this information is not available within the mortality statistics