

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00 pm on 10 October 2022

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Hannah Gray**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Christine Harris**

Councillors

Jeremy Adams	Kira Gabbert	Alexa Michael
Jonathan Andrews	Adam Jude Grant	Angela Page
Jessica Arnold	Dr Sunil Gupta FRCP	Chris Price
Felicity Bainbridge	FRCPPath	Chloe-Jane Ross
Kathy Bance MBE	Colin Hitchins	Will Rowlands
Yvonne Bear	Alisa Igoe	Shaun Slator
Nicholas Bennett J.P.	Julie Ireland	Colin Smith
Kim Botting FRSA	Mike Jack	Diane Smith
Mike Botting	Simon Jeal	Mark Smith
Mark Brock	David Jefferys	Alison Stammers
David Cartwright QFSM	Charles Joel	Melanie Stevens
Graeme Casey	Kevin Kennedy-Brooks	Harry Stranger
Will Connolly	Josh King	Michael Tickner
Aisha Cuthbert	Jonathan Laidlaw	Pauline Tunnicliffe
Peter Dean	Kate Lymer	Thomas Turrell
Sophie Dunbar	Keith Onslow	Sam Webber
Robert Evans	Tony Owen	Rebecca Wiffen
Simon Fawthrop	Tony McPartlan	

The meeting was opened with prayers

Before the start of the meeting, the Mayor led Members in a few moments of silence in memory of Honorary Alderman Peter Bloomfield, who had served as member for Darwin ward for twenty eight years, who had died recently.

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Hannah Gray

38 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew Lee, Christopher Marlow, Ruth McGregor and Ryan Thomson.

39 Declarations of Interest

There were no additional declarations of interest.

40 To confirm the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 25 July and 15 September 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 25th July and 15th September 2022 be confirmed.

41 Questions

One question had been received from a member of the public for oral reply. The question, with the answer given, is set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

One question had been received from a member of the public for written reply. The question, with the answer given, is set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

Nine questions had been received from members of the Council for oral reply. The questions, with the replies given, are set out in Appendix C to these minutes.

Twelve questions had been received from members of the Council for written reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out in Appendix D to these minutes.

42 To consider any statements that may be made by the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.

A statement was made by Councillor Aisha Cuthbert, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces, on the temporary closure of the Churchfields Waste and Recycling Depot and the timetable for its re-opening at the request of Councillors Josh King, Jeremy Adams, Rebecca Arnold, Ryan Thomson and Kevin Kennedy-Brooks.

Councillor Cuthbert explained that she was working hard with officers to ensure that the Centre was re-opened as quickly as possible, but safety for everyone using or working at the site was an absolute priority. The Centre had been closed on 12th September following the collapse of three side-walls. A structural survey had been carried on 22nd September and the Council had received a report on 7th October. The report recommended that eight of the eleven bay walls should be re-constructed and officers were working with a contractor to arrange this. With the complexity of the issues and the potential

problems with global supply chains the current estimate was that the Centre could re-open around Christmas. As soon as a more defined timeline was available this would be shared with residents.

Services for trade-waste customers were continuing from Churchfields using a part of the site that had not been damaged, and trade waste customers were encouraged to use Churchfields to relieve the pressure on Waldo Road. Whilst the repairs were being made residents were asked to use the bulky waste and garden waste services, and to use the Waldo Road Centre.

The Portfolio Holder stated that she had visited the Centre and recorded a video for sharing on social media. She added that shouting, swearing or abuse of staff at Churchfields was completely inappropriate, and stated that she would ask officers to check that permits were still being checked by Veolia staff at the depots.

In response to questions, Councillor Cuthbert confirmed that there was a small increase in customers using Waldo Road. There were concerns about congestion and road safety, particularly during the spike of activity at the weekend, that she had asked officers to look at, but she anticipated that the closure would be for a relatively short period and going back to the booking system used during the lockdown was likely to cause more confusion. She also agreed that action was needed to prevent fly-tipping.

Councillor Cuthbert agreed that there needed to be more prominent communication with residents – she would ensure that there was an update every Friday, new signs were being prepared to display at the site itself and there would be more use of social media. She welcomed suggestions that better use should be made of the Residents Associations and MyBromley accounts to inform residents about issues like this, and to encourage use of the webcam to establish whether the Centre was busy or not. She did not accept that maintenance of the facilities at Churchfields had been neglected. Given the current budget pressures, there would not be a temporary waiver or reduction of charges for bulky waste collection or garden waste collection

43 Budget Monitoring 2022/23 - Additional Staffing Capacity for Children's Social Care
Report CSD22108

A motion to agree that a sum of £2.4m be drawn down from the 2022/23 contingency as detailed in paragraph 3.2.2 to the report to the Executive was moved by Councillor Colin Smith, seconded by Councillor Kate Lymer and **CARRIED.**

44 Capital Programme Monitoring - 1st Quarter 2022/23
Report CSD22109

A motion to approve the total increase of £8,478k to the Basic Needs capital scheme, £849k to the Capital Maintenance scheme and £2,443k to the Disabled Facilities Grant capital scheme, as set out in paragraphs 3.5.1 and

3.5.3 to the report to the Executive was moved by Councillor Colin Smith, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Bear and **CARRIED**.

45 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.

(A) Air Quality

The following motion was moved by Cllr Julie Ireland and seconded by Councillor Chloe-Jane Ross -

“New research has linked air pollution to lung cancer - with particulate matter (PM2.5) being found to trigger cell mutations that turn dormant cells cancerous. This goes some way to explaining why people who have never smoked get lung cancer.

The research was by the Francis Crick Institute and University College London, who presented the findings on 10 September 2022.

This discovery underlines the importance of monitoring PM2.5 as well as NO2. It adds to the weight of evidence about just how much long term damage is being done to the health of all of us, but particularly to our children who are breathing in these particulates that will stay in their bodies for the rest of their life.

We ask Bromley Council to take these urgent steps:

- Make a formal commitment to improving air quality in the whole Borough, whether urban or rural, and to contribute to the national efforts to improve air quality for everyone in the UK
- Extend current air quality monitoring in the borough to include formal reporting on particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10)
- Make impact on air quality a material consideration when making changes to highways, road layouts and junctions
- Make impact on air quality a material consideration for all planning applications.”

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Aisha Cuthbert and seconded by Cllr Thomas Turrell –

Remove full stop after ‘presented the findings on 10 September 2022’ and insert “via press release”.

Delete all after ‘rest of their life’ in paragraph 3.

Insert after ‘rest of their life’ -

“The Environment and Community Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee is asked to scrutinise the findings of PM2.5 once new data becomes available.

Bromley Council is monitoring PM2.5 levels at five different locations across the borough. The data we have collected so far indicates that PM2.5 is not a pollutant of concern locally. We are happy to report that Bromley meets all the national government guidelines, and we will continue seek improvements to our air quality to meet all future government guidelines.

The Council's commitment to being the greenest and cleanest borough in London extends to the quality of our air as well as the visible environment.

The Council is committed to having the cleanest air in London through the measures set out in our ambitious Air Quality Action Plan also sets out clear ways we will monitor pollution and improve air quality such as: anti idling campaigns, promoting walking to school initiatives, monitoring air quality at construction sites and seeking out new funding opportunities. Our ambition is to continue to improve our air quality, so we continue to have some of the cleanest air in London. Our air quality data is a positive indication that our air quality is improving and are committed to continuing this positive trajectory.

The Council also welcomes the commitment to protect and enhance the open and green spaces across the borough, with additional street trees, new woodlands, continued rollout of LED lights, our innovative domestic street parking EV charger pilot in addition to rolling out more EV charging points across the borough.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was **CARRIED**.

The substantive motion therefore read:

“New research has linked air pollution to lung cancer - with particulate matter (PM2.5) being found to trigger cell mutations that turn dormant cells cancerous. This goes some way to explaining why people who have never smoked get lung cancer.

The research was by the Francis Crick Institute and University College London, who presented the findings on 10 September 2022 via press release.

This discovery underlines the importance of monitoring PM2.5 as well as NO2. It adds to the weight of evidence about just how much long term damage is being done to the health of all of us, but particularly to our children who are breathing in these particulates that will stay in their bodies for the rest of their life. The Environment and Community Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee is asked to scrutinise the findings of PM2.5 once new data becomes available.

Bromley Council is monitoring PM2.5 levels at five different locations across the borough. The data we have collected so far indicates that PM2.5 is not a

pollutant of concern locally. We are happy to report that Bromley meets all the national government guidelines, and we will continue seek improvements to our air quality to meet all future government guidelines.

The Council's commitment to being the greenest and cleanest borough in London extends to the quality of our air as well as the visible environment.

The Council is committed to having the cleanest air in London through the measures set out in our ambitious Air Quality Action Plan also sets out clear ways we will monitor pollution and improve air quality such as: anti idling campaigns, promoting walking to school initiatives, monitoring air quality at construction sites and seeking out new funding opportunities. Our ambition is to continue to improve our air quality, so we continue to have some of the cleanest air in London. Our air quality data is a positive indication that our air quality is improving and are committed to continuing this positive trajectory.

The Council also welcomes the commitment to protect and enhance the open and green spaces across the borough, with additional street trees, new woodlands, continued rollout of LED lights, our innovative domestic street parking EV charger pilot in addition to rolling out more EV charging points across the borough.”

On being put to the vote, the substantive motion was **CARRIED**.

(B) Supporting Bromley Food Banks and Warm Banks this Winter

The following motion was moved by Cllr Simon Jeal and seconded by Cllr Chris Price:

“Food banks within the borough of Bromley are reporting a significant continued rise in demand. At the same time they are suffering drop offs in donated items and rising costs in purchasing food. There is severe concern that this will get worse as more households struggle with continued food price increases and big rises in energy costs to cook and heat their homes this winter.

Bromley Council recognises the incredible work of charities in supporting our most vulnerable residents, and the increased challenges they face. The Council agrees to provide support by:

1. Asking the Public Affairs team to run a high-profile winter communication campaign, explaining how food banks operate and what support they provide, with the aim of encouraging residents and businesses in a position to do so to support them over the winter. This can leverage investment already made through the digital strategy and realignment of communications to the benefit of residents.
2. Setting up a one-off fund of £400,000, utilising unallocated earmarked reserves which are no longer required for their original purpose, to allow charities and communities operating ‘warm banks’ (venues for those who cannot afford to heat their homes to go and access heating, often with food

and volunteer provided support) to apply for grants towards the cost of their energy bills. This sum will allow 100 warm venues across Bromley to apply for heating bill grants of up to £2,500 each (depending on their availability to residents) and a further reserve fund £150,000 for use towards food and further support highlighted in point 3.

3. Actively engaging with food banks and other charities supporting vulnerable residents, to identify other ways the council can most effectively assist them over the winter period.”

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Sam Webber and seconded by Councillor Graeme Casey:

Add an additional paragraph to the motion, as follows:

“4. Implement a borough wide public information campaign to encourage and help people to reduce their energy consumption by

(a) setting up a dedicated section on the council website offering advice to Bromley residents from energy companies and accredited experts on how to minimise energy use, the financial support available plus a list of websites and phone numbers with further advice;

(b) include an information section about reducing energy consumption in the next copy of “Environment Matters” that gets delivered to Bromley households.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was **LOST**.

The following Members voted in favour of the motion as originally moved -

Councillors Jeremy Adams, Jessica Arnold, Kathy Bance, Graeme Casey, Will Connolly, Alisa Igoe, Julie Ireland, Mike Jack, Simon Jeal, Kevin Kennedy-Brooks, Josh King, Tony McPartlan, Chris Price, Chloe-Jane Ross, Mark Smith, Alison Stammers, Sam Webber and Rebecca Wiffen.

The following Members voted against the motion -

Councillors Jonathan Andrews, Felicity Bainbridge, Yvonne Bear, Nicholas Bennett, Kim Botting, Mike Botting, Mark Brock, David Cartwright, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Sophie Dunbar, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Kira Gabbert, Adam Grant, Dr Sunil Gupta, Christine Harris, Colin Hitchins, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Jonathan Laidlaw, Kate Lymer, Alexa Michael, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Will Rowlands, Shaun Slator, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Michael Tickner, Pauline Tunnicliffe and Thomas Turrell.

The following Member abstained -

The Mayor, Cllr Hannah Gray.

The motion was **LOST**.

(C) Rail Services

(Councillor Simon Fawthrop declared an interest as a user of services on the Hayes Line to Cannon Street.)

The following motion was moved by Cllr Alexa Michael and seconded by Cllr Michael Tickner:

“This Council is opposed to the decision taken by Southeastern Railway to remove the services between Hayes and Cannon Street, as well reducing services on the Sidcup line affecting residents of Mottingham and Chislehurst.

We are extremely disappointed that this decision, which will greatly impact local journeys, was taken with no prior consultation of local rail users.

We commit to working with local Members of Parliament to lobby Southeastern for the reversal of this decision.

Of the timetable change, we welcome the reinstatement of the Beckenham Junction to Blackfriars service and congratulate all involved in the successful campaign to achieve this.”

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Tony McPartlan and seconded by Councillor Kevin Kennedy-Brooks:

“1. To add the following words to the end of the first paragraph –

“And the decision by Southern operator Govia to cut services to London Bridge stopping at Anerley and Penge West stations.”

2. Amend the third paragraph to: We commit to working with local Members of Parliament to lobby Southeastern, Govia and the Department of Transport for the reversal of this decision.”

On being put to the vote the amendment was **CARRIED**.

The substantive motion therefore read:

“This Council is opposed to the decision taken by Southeastern Railway to remove the services between Hayes and Cannon Street, as well reducing services on the Sidcup line affecting residents of Mottingham and Chislehurst and the decision by Southern operator Govia to cut services to London Bridge stopping at Anerley and Penge West stations.

We are extremely disappointed that this decision, which will greatly impact local journeys, was taken with no prior consultation of local rail users.

We commit to working with local Members of Parliament to lobby Southeastern, Govia and the Department for Transport for the reversal of this decision.

Of the timetable change, we welcome the reinstatement of the Beckenham Junction to Blackfriars service and congratulate all involved in the successful campaign to achieve this.”

On being put to the vote, the substantive motion was **CARRIED**.

46 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor thanked colleagues who had attended the events following the death of Her Late Majesty The Queen, and also the event on Ukraine Independence Day, 24th August, supported by the Rotary Clubs.

The Mayor also informed Members about the following events –

- A Charity Appeal Dinner on Thursday 20th October 2022 at Copper Ceylon in East Street, Bromley.
- A Charity Ball at Oakley House on Saturday 19th November.
- The Concert originally scheduled for 24th September which had now been rearranged for Saturday 3rd December at 7.30pm at the Civic Centre in the Great Hall.
- A Whisky Tasting Burns night in January.
- A special dinner at the Honorable Artillery Company in the Spring (further details to follow.)
- The Mayor’s annual quiz scheduled for Friday 24th February at Crofton Halls.
- The prize draw to win a Spitfire flight.

The Meeting ended at 9.42 pm

Mayor