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Council

16 October 2023

Questions from Members of the Council for Oral Reply

1. From Cllr Michael Tickner to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

Under the current Legislation and Government Guidance does a resident or business in a Conservation Area need to notify the Local Planning Authority and obtain consent to use the whole of their garden as a car park?

2. From Cllr Chloe-Jane Ross to the Leader of the Council

Given the disgusting misogynistic comments broadcast by GB News on 26th September, will the Leader of the Council be asking his Conservative colleagues, and any other inclined Councillors, to refrain going on the discredited GB News Channel in their capacity as Councillors representing the good people of Bromley?

3. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

When were the waterways in Kelsey Park, Crystal Palace Park, Betts Canal and others across the borough last desilted and why was an ongoing requirement for regular desilting not included in the contracts for parks management and related services, awarded to idverde in 2019?

4. From Cllr Tony McPartlan to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Referencing this article: <https://www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/terminally-ill-south-londoner-trapped-27516863>

Following the Ombudsman's decision and after calling this case an "injustice", what lessons have been learnt and changes put in place that ensure we offer residents with complex medical needs the best housing service possible?

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

Reference: GOV.UK - Active Travel England announcement 29 September 2023.

“£60million government investment to transform the school run for 2 million children”

It's good to see this investment in walk and cycle to school programmes over the next 2 years, including £50million in Bikeability cycle training. £5million will, via charity Living Streets, support walk to school programmes aimed at hundreds of thousands of pupils across England.

Does the Portfolio Holder support Living Streets' aim “to tackle the barriers that prevent families choosing to walk to school, such as unsafe walking environments” and how will he break down those barriers?

6. From Cllr Ruth McGregor to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Is the Portfolio Holder aware of whether the Council or any of their contractors employ the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in determining access to services or for any other purposes, or whether they have the intention to do so?

7. From Cllr Jessica Arnold to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Bromley Council recently refused planning permission for a hand car wash business to operate from the Council-owned car park of Beckenham Spa. However, the business was already operational and has a contract to rent the site from the Council.

Will the Council be enforcing the planning permission refusal and terminating its contract with the business, or continuing to draw an income?

8. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Children, education and Families

What is the current waiting time for Autism Assessments?

9. from Cllr Chris Price to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

The Mayor of London is funding Free School Meals for children in years 3 to 6 at £2.65 per meal at an expected take up rate of 90%. Bromley Council have received the funding. Can you confirm that all Bromley primary schools have received their full first term grant?

10. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

There was yet another accident on Elmers End Road at the end of September which involved an overturned car and a trapped occupant. Residents are concerned that given the repeated serious accidents on this road it is only a matter of time before there is a fatality.

What is the Portfolio Holder doing to prevent this?

11. From Cllr Kevin Kennedy-Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

'What is the Portfolio Holder's justification to more than doubling the rents of community centres run by unpaid volunteers. An action which essentially prices out renters which leads to the prevention of important community services for the most vulnerable residents.

12. From Cllr Jeremy Adams to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

The cost of the capital programme for the refurbishment of Churchill Court has risen by £4.25 million. There are also added costs of £1.8 million for dual running of two HQs. Can the Portfolio Holder guarantee that the costs of the move to Churchill Court will not rise significantly further?

13. From Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

Over a year on since the camera was removed outside Harris Kent House Primary on Kent House Road, the school has reported daily incidents to the Council of unsafe driving and parking by parents, putting children at risk of harm, while a civil enforcement officer said in April the number of incidents was "more than at any school" they had observed.

Why is the Council refusing to move the camera back?

14. From Cllr Alisa Igoe to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

On 27/09/23 two annual residents' surveys opened on the Council website, a) Street Cleansing, b) Recycling & Waste Collection, with only 27 days, until 24/10/23, to complete. In 2022 Veolia sent surveys to a statistically representative sample of homes, and held face to face surveys in Bromley Town centre, receiving only 395 respondents (123 postal & 272 on-street).

How many of our 330,000 residents are you hoping will complete the surveys this year?

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

We are suffering from a sudden increase of graffiti that is costing our residents large sums of money to rid their vans, shopfronts and properties of the painted TAGS/Dates. Is the rest of Bromley suffering from this increased problem and if so, is anything being done Bromley-wide to address this issue?

16. From Cllr Tony McPartlan to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Bromley is one of just a handful of local authorities where there is a shortfall of over £20 per week between Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates and 30th percentile rents for two bedroom homes. This means private rental properties are unaffordable to those on housing benefit. Are we lobbying the government to increase LHA rates?