

Council

16 October 2023

Questions from Members of the Council for Written Reply

1. From Cllr Mike Jack to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

It has been claimed that 20mph limits during school hours only, are a more effective deterrent than blanket 20mph zones. What evidence does the Council have to support this claim?

Reply:

We do install 20 MPH flashing signs at the beginning and end of the school day in appropriate locations. It is not our policy to introduce blanket 20 MPH zones.

Research commissioned by the DfT shows that following the introduction of signed-only 20mph limits, such as in Edinburgh, the median speed fell by just under 1mph and found no significant change in collisions and casualties. Please see the study commissioned by DfT:

[20mph Research Study: Process and Impact Evaluation Headline Report November 2018](#)

I quote from the report: "Further analysis of safety outcomes – This study has found no significant safety outcome (in terms of collisions and casualties) in residential areas, based on the post implementation data available to date."

2. From Cllr Jessica Arnold to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

How many sites across Bromley is the Council leasing it's land or buildings to businesses or other uses that do not have planning permission; how much income would we lose if we enforced planning rules at all of these sites; and are there any guidelines that we have adopted in Bromley to ensure consistency of approach in both the initial leasing of sites and the planning enforcement action that is taken?

Reply:

All properties let by the Council have planning permission for their permitted use.

However, there are 3 car washes within Council car parks, High Street Chislehurst, The Spa, Beckenham and High Street, West Wickham where occupation has been granted on a tenancy at will basis where the car park operator has applied for retrospective planning permission. These applications have been refused and appeals have been submitted on all 3 locations. If these appeals are unsuccessful, then the tenancy at will agreements with the car wash operators will be terminated.

There are also 17 car parks with amazon/in-post lockers installed where retrospective planning is being applied for.

The income generated to the Council for the 3 car washes and 17 lockers is £29,250 per annum.

3. From Cllr Sam Webber to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm that Officers will draw up a list of objects and assets in the grounds of the Civic Centre which will need to be relocated when the site is sold? The art deco ornamental lamps outside the public entrance to the Chamber came from the old Beckenham Town Hall for example and there are also benches in memory of former Councillors and staff. Could some of these items be relocated into the adjacent Bromley Palace Park which is being retained by LBB as a public park?

Reply:

The Accommodation Programme is undertaking a piece of work to document all the objects and assets across the old Civic Centre grounds and within the buildings and will be pulling all of this together into one document and working with colleagues from across the Council to look at ways to relocate items.

4. From Cllr Sam Webber to the Portfolio Holder for Environment

Would the Portfolio Holder consider works by our contractors to remove the trees which have fallen into the lake in Bromley Palace Park and are causing it to get silted up. Could removing these trees be undertaken as part of an ongoing programme to improve this park for the residents who use it and want to see it restored to its former glory.

Reply:

In July 2023, works were undertaken to improve the conditions around the lake in Bromley Palace Park. This included cutback of vegetation, removal of self-set trees under 25mm in diameter, and cutting and clearing low hanging branches to improve the views and condition of the areas around the lake.

Whilst the Council does seek to remove logs and trees that fall into waterbodies, there are occasions where this is not desirable on the balance of cost and benefit.