

ECS PDS for 16th November:

Oral Questions from Councillors:

1) Oral Question from Cllr Chloe Jane-Ross to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

Council officers have advised that it is currently policy to only enforce vehicle idling outside schools. There are other locations that suffer from unnecessary idling, such as car parks and delivery bays close to residential areas and public services. Can the Council's policy on anti-idling be expanded to cover all locations where problems are reported, or if not all locations then expanded beyond schools to other appropriate locations?.

Response to Question 1:

There are limited resources and therefore priority is given to schools.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Chloe Jane Ross:

If a significant issue is raised outside of a school owned Council owned property, or highways, will the Council consider putting in measures to deal with a serious problem?

Response from the Portfolio Holder:

It is clearly a question of resources. If you have a particular location that would benefit from a visit from Civil Enforcement Officers. Then I am sure that can be arranged.

2) Question from Cllr Alisa Igoe to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

Reference:

Pages 294 - 295

Point 3.21

During the winter months JB Riney undertakes precautionary gritting and snow clearance works on the carriageway network, along with footway clearance outside a number of schools in the event of a snow emergency. While the Council currently own the fleet of gritters, the contractor is responsible for the maintenance of all vehicles and to provide drivers when the weather forecasts predict freezing or below freezing temperatures.

Point 3.22

The Contract requires all precautionary gritting to be completed with 2.5 hours, which was achieved in all cases last winter. The winter maintenance policy and plan clarify the roads and footways to be cleared and gritted following snow, and the snowfall during the winter was treated within the required timescales.

Question:

Last winter I had many complaints from Plaistow residents that not enough pavements were gritted during snow. The winter maintenance policy and plan is noted. Could you please tell me if pavement gritting takes place along school routes, as well as outside schools. Is it also prioritised on pavements outside care homes, medical facilities, churches, stations, bus stops, around recycling banks and on shopping parades?

Response to Question 2:

Priority is given to major shopping centres, transport interchanges and outside schools. The snow is cleared and salt applied to prevent further freezing. To add the numerous additional locations suggested by Cllr Igoe would be impossible unless there was an enormous increase in the budget.

3) Question from Cllr Alisa Igoe to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

Reference:

Page 238, point 5a:

“A decision was made to close the Hill multistorey car park in October 2023 due to safety concerns. Motorists are being advised to use nearby car parks and on street facilities whilst the future of the car park is being considered. Officers will monitor usage to establish if the regular users of the Hill are using these other Council parking places. However, it is likely that income will reduce as not all displaced parking will be to Council car parks.”

With the closure of the Hill multistorey car park, and announcement (02/08/23 by the Leader) of the Council office move to Churchill Court and sale of the current estate, quote “The anticipated proceeds of the sale of the other buildings on the current campus will help to fund the purchase of the new HQ site”, if you decide to use or sell the Hill for redevelopment, would Stockwell Close car park remain?

Response to Question 3:

There are no plans to permanently close the Hill Car Park.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Igoe:

Actually my question was, ‘Would Stockwell Close Car Park remain as a Car Park’?

Response from the Portfolio Holder:

The premise of your supplementary question does not apply.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Igoe:

But you just said that the Hill Car Park would not close.

Response from the Portfolio Holder:

No, I said that there were no plans to permanently close the car park.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Igoe

So you have plans to re-open it?

Response from the Portfolio Holder:

You can make that inference.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Chloe Jane-Ross

Whilst Hill Car Park is closed, would it be possible to do a review of the parking situation in that area for residents, as there are concerns that whilst the Hill Car Park is closed, it is having a detrimental effect on parking in that area and then also there is also the effect of people using the town centre for parking in evening.

Response from the Portfolio Holder:

Interesting that you asked that question Cllr Ross, as at the last Full Council meeting there was a member of the public that asked you a question about a road in the area. We are looking at the whole of Bromley North. The intention is that Hill Car Park will be propped up and will re-open. I am not able to give a time for that but it is our intention to do so.