

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 16 November 2023

Present:

Councillor Adam Jude Grant (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair)
Councillors Felicity Bainbridge, Kathy Bance MBE,
Simon Fawthrop, Colin Hitchins, Alisa Igoe, Chloe-
Jane Ross, Alison Stammers, Harry Stranger and
David Jefferys

Also Present:

Councillor Will Rowlands (Environment Portfolio Holder)
and Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P. (Portfolio Holder for
Transport, Highways and Road Safety).

44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor David Jefferys attended as a substitute for Councillor Will Rowlands.

Members were informed that Councillor Aisha Cuthbert had stood down from her role as the Portfolio Holder for Environment, in order to pursue other interests as the new parliamentary candidate for Sittingbourne and Sheppey. Councillor Will Rowlands had been appointed as the new Environment Portfolio Holder; this being the case, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Adam Grant, chaired the meeting.

The outgoing Chairman, along with the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety, and Members, expressed their thanks for all the hard work and dedication shown by Cllr Cuthbert as the previous Portfolio Holder for Environment. The Committee also expressed their thanks to Councillor Will Rowlands as the outgoing Chairman.

45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Alison Stammers declared an interest as the Secretary of the 'Friends of Chislehurst Recreation Ground'.

46 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th SEPTEMBER 2023

Councillor Alison Stammers referenced page 18 of the agenda pack where there was a supplementary oral question, requesting a list of the stakeholders consulted regarding the equalities impact assessment that was undertaken

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with respect to the removal of cash payments for parking in Bromley. The response to this question was that the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety would see if a list was available. The Director for Environment and Public Protection said that he would follow up on this.

RESOLVED that the minutes be agreed and signed as a correct record.

47 MATTERS ARISING AND WORK PROGRAMME

CSD23141

Members noted the ECS PDS Work Programme and Matters Arising report. It was noted that the matters arising had been resolved.

RESOLVED, that the ECS PDS Work Programme and Matters Arising report be noted.

48 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE CHAIRMAN

No questions had been received for the attention of the Chairman.

49 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Two questions had been submitted to the Portfolio Holders from members of the public for oral response. The responses are appended to the minutes. Questioner Susan Moore did not attend to ask her question.

50 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Questions to the Portfolio Holders for oral response were received from Councillors, Alisa Igoe, Will Connolly and Chloe-Jane Ross. The responses are appended to the minutes.

It was decided that the oral question from Cllr Will Connolly (for the Environment Portfolio Holder) would be deferred for a written response.

51 WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Five written questions had been received from members of the public and four had been received from Councillors. The responses to the questions are appended to the minutes.

52 IDVERDE ANNUAL CONTRACT PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23

ES20318

The report was presented to the committee so that Members could review idverde's performance with respect to the contract for parks management and grounds maintenance services during 2022/23. An annual contract performance report was required under the contract procedure rules as the contract had a value that exceeded £500k.

Attending to present the report on behalf of LBB was the Assistant Director for Environment (Carbon Management and Greenspace), and Martin Bradley, the Operations Director from idverde. Also in attendance from idverde were Mark Garthwaiten (Operations Manager) and Richard Burton (Managing Director).

Members noted that the Annual Report was large and the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety suggested that a link could be provided instead. Mr Bradley responded that an Annual Report was required as part of their contract and that they wished to showcase their achievements, particularly in the areas of woodland, biodiversity and ecology. A Member suggested using Power Point to showcase the company. The Chairman commented that it was an excellent report and that he was particularly interested in what idverde was doing in terms of education. He stated that there was some room for improvement with respect to facilities.

A Member referred to section 3.17 of the report which reported on incidences that were not dealt with within the agreed timescale. He asked if going forward, some context could be provided regarding the data. For example, it was noted in the report that '10 reported instances were not completed within the agreed SLA timescale'. The question was how many instances were there in total, so was this particular instance of ten failures with respect to ten occurrences, or a significantly greater amount. The Assistant Director said that percentages could be produced if required.

A Member requested that when the annual report was first published by idverde, that a link be made available to the committee. A Member commented on the effect that the winter planting regime had on the war memorial in Penge. She commented that on Remembrance Sunday, there were unsightly droopy green leaves around the Memorial in Penge. Mr Bradley responded that it was unfortunate that the winter planting regime was responsible, but it was the case that the winter planting regime (ready for the flowers to appear in the Spring) meant that no colourful winter plants would be on display. The Member suggested that next year the winter planting regime be deferred around the Penge War Memorial until after Remembrance Sunday.

A Member paid tribute to idverde's Community Team. She asked if improvements could be made to the lighting around Beckenham Park and could anything be done to improve the current park standards—possibly with the aim of heading towards a 'Green Flag' award. Mr Bradley responded that he was aware of the considerable work that was being undertaken to improve conditions at Kelsey Park and that a management plan for Kelsey Park was being developed. He said that once the dust had settled and budgets were re-

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assessed, it may then be possible to assess how improvements to other parks could be made.

A discussion took place regarding the Nature Friendly Verges Trial. It was noted that a bio-diversity management regime was being trialled at 11 sites where hedges were simply cut once annually. So far, approximately 75% of those surveyed were in favour of the scheme. It was felt that there was a growing appetite amongst the public to protect and nurture the environment and verges provided valuable wildlife corridors. These trials were for two years and then a decision could be made as to whether or not the practice should continue. A Member stressed the need for proper communication with residents so that they were aware of where the trials were taking place.

A Member commented that with respect to waste management in her ward, much litter (specifically plastic bottles) was seen left behind in the parks. She was of the view that a specific programme was required to collect plastic bottles for recycling so that they did not end up in landfill.

A Member mentioned Shaftsbury Park playground in the Plaistow Ward, saying that the park was in a state of disrepair and that there was a splintered slide in the park which was dangerous for young children. She also raised the issue of who was responsible for the maintenance of chapels in cemeteries. Mr Bradley responded that idverde was aware of their playground assets, and highlighted the problems of obtaining parts which primarily had to come from Europe. There was quite often long delays before parts arrived. Sometimes parts had reached 'end of life' and would need to be manufactured, which caused further delays. He acknowledged that this was something that had not been communicated properly to the Council or to the public. Chapels were the responsibility of the local authority. A Member commented that he was pleased to see the satisfaction survey had now gone online and suggested that numerical analysis be undertaken, from which trend analysis could be ascertained.

RESOLVED that the idverde Annual Contract Performance Report be noted.

53 PARKING SERVICES - CONTRACT PERFORMANCE REVIEW - APCOA PARKING

ES20326

Attending to present the report was the LBB Head of Shared Parking Services and Russell Peacock from APCOA. The report was presented to the Committee to provide an update regarding the performance of the Parking Services Contract with APCOA.

The Chairman was sad to note the abuse incurred by Civil Enforcement Officers and asked that his appreciation for their work be conveyed to them. A Member pointed out that the way the KPIs were noted in the report was not as

clear as those in the idverde report, and asked if this could be noted for the future. The Head of Shared Parking Services acknowledged this, but explained that APCOA had 90 different KPIs. The Member also referred to the situation regarding litter and fly-tipping in car parks and said that a faster turnover in dealing with this issue was required. It was noted that the car parks were only inspected once a week, and she suggested that inspections should be more frequent.

It was noted that APCOA had their own mobile service and a Member asked that as this was the case, why APCOA contracted out work to RingGo. Mr Peacock responded that the RingGo App probably worked better with local authority car parks. The Member said that having duplicate Apps could be confusing for the public and suggested that APCOA consider selling their mobile service to RingGo. The Member was pleased to note that the percentage number of CEO errors had decreased. It was further noted that the number of PCNs issued for contravening bus lanes had fallen due to increased compliance. The other matter raised was the issue of APCOA car washes that were licensed to operate, but at the same time had not received planning permission. The Head of Shared Parking Services explained that when the APCOA car washes were first installed, planning permission was not required. If there was an APCOA car wash that was refused retrospective planning permission, then that car wash would unfortunately have to close.

A Member drew attention to parking problems in Beckenham High Street, particularly with respect to the night time economy. The possibility of undertaking a parking 'blitz' by Enforcement Officers (outside of normal working hours) was mentioned. It was noted that this could be actioned, but would require extra resource. Members noted that APCOA conducted an anti-idling campaign in certain boroughs, along with air quality monitoring activities with live data feedback. The Head of Shared Parking Services responded that some anti-idling work was already being undertaken by Enforcement Officers outside of Bromley schools. In these cases, warnings were given rather than PCNs, so the activity was not generating any income for the Council. It was suggested that the Portfolio Holder could discuss the matter of air quality monitoring activities with APCOA.

It was noted that the cost of a camera in a car park would be between £30k and £35k plus the cost of installation and maintenance. A Member suggested the use of 'Parking Friends' which was dismissed as being inappropriate by the Portfolio Holder.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the Committee note in particular the ongoing work where APCOA had brought forward initiatives to improve facilities for motorists, as well as generating an income for the Council.

54 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER

The update was provided by the new Environment Portfolio Holder, Councillor Will Rowlands.

The Portfolio Holder stated that he would provide a written update in due course. He said that he would be writing to Members shortly to arrange ward visits which would likely take place after Christmas. The Portfolio Holder gave a 'Treemendous' update and said 1,510 trees had been planted and 1,250 of these were 'Treemendous' Trees. Any trees that 'failed' within a year of planting would be replaced free of charge. It was anticipated that going forward, 302 trees would be planted in nine batches. QR codes were working on IOS and it was hoped that these would be operative on Android as well soon. Details of Christmas bin collections would be published soon. A Member requested that the data with respect to the tree planting be disseminated to the Committee.

It was noted that the recycling of Christmas Trees would take place on 6th and 7th of January 2024.

The Portfolio Holder wished everyone a Merry Christmas!

RESOLVED that the update from the Portfolio Holder be noted.

55 UPDATE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

A Member requested that (going forward), the Portfolio Holder updates be disseminated to Members quicker and that the updates also be tabled to the public gallery.

RESOLVED that the update from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be noted.

56 ECS PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

ES20312

Members were presented with the report as it detailed the ECS Performance Overview indicators relating to the ECS Portfolio Plan for 23/24.

It was commented that it would be helpful to split KSI data to show those who had been injured and those that had lost their lives. It was noted that during the first half of 2023, the number of those killed or seriously injured had increased. The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking stated that there had been very few fatalities in Bromley, so there was no significant statistical difference and the reporting of such data was therefore meaningless. Factual detail could be provided of incidents/accidents if required. The Portfolio Holder

for Transport, Highways and Road Safety pointed out that where there was a fatality, it was prudent to wait for an inquest, as not all fatalities would be classed as accidents—there was a fatality recently that looked like it would be classed as a homicide. A Member queried why the projection for KSIs was high and why there was no mention in the commentary of speed as a possible causation. The Assistant Director responded that there were many factors that could be involved aside from speed. A Member commented that it would be helpful to note where speed was a causatory factor so that the relevant action could be undertaken.

A Member asked why the programme, ‘Driven by Consequences’ had been delivered only once. It was explained that this was resource intensive and needed a minimum of 120 school children to be involved. Schools would need to buy in. A Member expressed the view that the information presented in the report regarding KSIs was not sufficient for Members. Members wanted to know what had occurred, where, why, and where speeding was involved. She requested that this detail be provided in the next report. The Assistant Director responded that such data was only feasible in an annual report. The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety said that the Council had to work on evidence and limited resources and that reporting expectations needed to be lower. LIP funding was being cut. Speeding was a police matter.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The ECS Performance Overview report be noted by the Committee.**
- 2) The Environment Portfolio Holder, together with the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be recommended to endorse the outcomes, aims and performance measures set out in the report.**

57 INFORMATION ITEM: ECS PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW DATA APPENDIX

Members noted that the ECS Performance Overview Data Appendix had been published as an Information Briefing, and no questions were raised on the night.

58 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

FSD23076

This report was presented to the Committee for scrutiny, as it highlighted changes in the Capital Programme for the ECS Portfolio that would be recommended to the Executive on November 29th 2023. The Committee agreed with the recommended changes.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety, together with the Environment Portfolio Holder, be recommended to note and agree the changes to be proposed to the Executive on 29th November 2023.

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a BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24

FSD23068

A Member commented that the report indicated that car park usage had decreased but that there was no reference to say if RingGo had any part to play in this. The Portfolio Holder for Transport Highways and Road Safety stated that the parking figures for April to September 2023 were higher than in the same period for the previous year. The Council would be analysing long term trends and a report would be presented to the January meeting. A Member requested parking data from other boroughs, but it was explained that this data was not available.

A Member quoted the following written question that had been submitted by a member of the public:

'Please explain why you regard payments to the second contractor repairing potholes as "commercially sensitive" when all contracts over £50k require to be reported on the public contracts register, and all payments to contractors over £500 are also reported publicly?'

The Member asked if the payment details to the second contractor would be published. The answer to this was affirmative, with the exception of the unit rates which were commercially sensitive.

RESOLVED that the Environment Portfolio Holder and the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be recommended to endorse the 2023/24 revenue budget monitoring position for the ECS Portfolio.

b CHINESE ROUNDABOUT SAFETY SCHEME

ES20327

The Chinese Roundabout Safety Scheme report was presented to the Committee to seek approval to make safety improvements at the roundabout of South Eden Park Road/Stone Park Ave/ Wickham Road/Hayes Lane/Wickham Way, commonly known as the 'Chinese Roundabout'. The proposals, as outlined in the report, aimed to reduce the number of collisions at that location and to provide a safer environment for all road users. Officers proposed that 'Option 1' be adopted.

It was noted that at this roundabout there was a higher than expected number of casualties, particularly with respect to cyclists. A Member asked if there was a scatter graph showing where the accidents occurred. The Transport Projects and Programme Manager responded and said that it appeared that there were accidents everywhere with a slightly higher concentration in the northern part of the roundabout. The Member asked if he could see a copy of

the scatter graph at the meeting. Members generally agreed that the scheme was a good one that they would be happy to support, and that they had confidence in the traffic engineers who had designed the scheme. The Member who had asked to see the scatter graph said that he could not support the scheme without seeing the scatter graph. A vote was therefore taken and the recommendations were agreed. The Portfolio Holder stated that this was an excellent scheme and he would be happy to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be recommended to approve the junction improvements as detailed in Section 3, (Option One) of the report.**
- 2) The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be recommended to agree that any minor changes to the design should be delegated to the Director of Environment and Public Protection, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.**

c LBB'S NET ZERO CARBON ACTION PLAN

ES20324

The report was presented to the Committee to detail the changes in LBB's organisational emissions for carbon reduction for year 4 of the Council's Net Zero Action Plan and provided an update on the progress made towards achieving the Council's 2027 net zero carbon target. The Committee noted the report and agreed with its recommendations.

Resolved that:

- 1) The Portfolio Holder for Environment note the year 4 greenhouse gas assessment and the progress made to reduce the Council's organisational emissions to net zero by 2027.**
- 2) The Portfolio Holder for Environment note the Scope 3 procurement emissions measured.**
- 3) The Portfolio Holder for Environment be recommended to approve work on an Action Plan for the phased reduction of Scope 3 emissions for presentation to a future meeting of the Executive for a decision.**

**d SOUTH EDEN PARK ROAD / MONKS ORCHARD / LINKS WAY
ROUNDAABOUT SAFETY SCHEME**

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ES20328

The report was presented to the committee to seek approval to make pedestrian and cycle safety improvements at the roundabout of South Eden Park Road, Links Way and Monks Orchard Road Roundabout. The proposals in the report were aimed at reducing the number of collisions at the location and to provide a safer environment for all road users.

RESOLVED that:

1) The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be recommended to approve the junction improvements at the roundabout of South Eden Park Road, Links Way and Monks Orchard Road, as detailed in section three of the report

2) The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be recommended to agree that any minor changes to the design of the roundabout safety scheme design, should be delegated to the Director of Environment & Public Protection, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

e LIP FUNDED TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME

ES20329

The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking informed the Committee that the report sought approval for the Local Implementation Plan programme submission to Transport for London for the financial year 2024/25. The Committee welcomed the report and the LIP programme. The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety commented that it was essential that Ward Councillors unanimously agreed on any improvement programme that required LIP funding. If there was not unanimous agreement amongst ward Councillors, then the project would not be put forward to receive LIP funding.

RESOLVED that:

1) The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be recommended to approve the draft 2024/25 Transport Improvement Programme set out in appendix C of the report for submission to TfL for approval of funding.

2) The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be recommended to approve the delegation of any amendments to the Programme (once the final allocation was confirmed by TfL) to the Director of Environment and Public Protection in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

**f VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT STRATEGY
(Part 1)**

ES20335

The Veolia Environmental Services Contract Strategy report was presented to the Committee to seek a decision in principle to extend the current Veolia Environmental Services Contracts beyond April 2027. The Committee noted the report and agreed with the recommendations.

RESOLVED that:

1) The Environment Portfolio Holder be recommended to agree an early decision in principle, to extend the Environmental Services contracts with Veolia for a further eight years, from the 1st of April 2027 to the 31st of March 2035.

2) The Environment Portfolio Holder be recommended to agree that officers should develop a package of efficiency and financial savings proposals for further consideration.

3) The Environment Portfolio Holder notes that a formal decision report will be presented for scrutiny by the Environment and Community Services PDS at the March 2024 committee meeting. The formal decision report would enable Members to provide comments on the proposals for the extension of the contract, ready for submission to the Executive at the March 2024 meeting.

59 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS

60 FLY TIPPING ACTION PLAN UPDATE

ES20317

This report was presented to the Committee by the Environmental Investigation Manager to update on the actions that had been undertaken by the Neighbourhood Management Team since the last annual Fly Tipping Action Plan Update.

The Committee and the Environment Portfolio Holder were pleased to note the report and expressed their thanks and congratulations to the Environmental Investigation Manager.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to agree the updated fixed penalty charge amounts.

61 RINEY - CONTRACT PERFORMANCE REPORT

ES20336

The report was presented to the Committee to update them regarding Riney's performance over the past 12 months. It was noted that Riney had now caught up with the back-log of pot-hole repairs. The contract had been running for five years. The total contract length was 8 years. A Member requested that when work was completed, that Riney operatives clear up after themselves properly, and remove barriers and signage. A Member queried why repairs that had been designated as 'permanent' kept needing to be re-repaired. In response it was explained that the permanence of the repair in most cases was dependant on the underlying road surface. A Member asked if extra work could be undertaken on problem sites. Riney responded that they undertook the work that was requested by officers.

The matter was raised of projects (like the installation of Zebra Crossings) that were given dates for implementation, and the issues resulting when those dates slipped. In some cases there could be several slippages. This caused Members difficulties when dealing with residents who had been provided with completion dates that were not being met. Better communications around these matters was requested.

A discussion took place concerning problems that Riney had faced in the past, and may also face going forward. These included shortages of materials, skilled labour and inflation. The acquisition of natural stone was difficult and LEDs were primarily manufactured in the EU. The other cause for concern was a deteriorating road network. More money was needed to invest in Highways and Footways.

RESOLVED that the report be noted along with the on going work that had been undertaken to ensure compliance with the contract.

62 ECS CONTRACTS REGISTER

ES20309

This report was presented to the Committee to provide an extract from the September 2023's Contracts Register of contracts with a whole life value of £50k or higher.

RESOLVED that the Contracts Register report be noted.

63 QUESTIONS ON THE INFORMATION BRIEFING--PART 1 ECS CONTRACTS REGISTER DATABASE EXTRACT

The Environment and Community Services Part 1 Contracts Register Database Extract had been published as an Information Briefing.

RESOLVED that the Information Briefing be noted.

64 ECS RISK REGISTER

ES20314

The report presented the revised Environment and Community Services risk register for scrutiny by the Committee.

RESOLVED that the ECS Risk Register report be noted.

65 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

RESOLVED that the Press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business referred to below as it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the Press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

66 VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT STRATEGY. (Part 2)

ES20325

This was a Part 2 report seeking a decision in principle to extend the current Veolia Environmental Services Contract beyond April 2027. As this was a Part 2 report, the full minutes for this item will be in the Part 2 minutes.

RESOLVED that the Veolia Environmental Services Contract Strategy report (Part 2) be noted.

67 ECS PDS PART 2 CONTRACTS DATABASE EXTRACT

It was noted that the Part 2 ECS Contracts Database Extract had been emailed directly to members of the committee.

RESOLVED that the ECS Part 2 Contracts Database extract be noted.

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS
ORAL QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The meeting ended at 9.37 pm

Chairman

ECS PDS for November 16th 2023

Written Questions from the Public

1) Question from Daniel Bentley to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

The overspill effects of Controlled Parking Zone W have been blighting neighbouring streets in Chatterton Village for over a decade. Is the Portfolio Holder content that the council has properly assessed and understands these effects, and has taken appropriate steps to mitigate them for residents?

Response to Question 1:

A consultation with residents on the edge of the zone has recently concluded, and the results are being assessed before any further changes might be introduced.

2) Question from Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

Please explain why you regard payments to the second contractor repairing potholes as “commercially sensitive” when all contracts over £50k require to be reported on the public contracts register, and all payments to contractors over £500 are also reported publicly?

Response to Question 2:

Details regarding order values and payment can be shared, and included in publicly available reports, although unit rates for specific tasks are considered commercially sensitive.

3) Question from Sue Sulis to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

In response to a Question on 23/03/22, 16 roads in Cray Valley and Orpington were listed as experiencing Surface Water Flooding in 2021. Please identify roads, together with dates they flooded, and detail any actions taken to encourage Bromley residents to use permeable surfacing in front gardens to reduce run – off.

Response to Question 3

The following roads were flooded on 20th October 2021;

Station Road, St Marys Cray
Leesons Hill Primary School,
Kynaston Road Orpington
Edmund Road Orpington
Hockenden Lane,

Blacksmiths Lane, St Marys Cray
High Street, St Marys Cray
Chelsfield Lane
Clarendon Grove
Elmcroft Road Orpington,
Somerden Road,
Cockmannings Road,
Hodson Crescent,
Rookery Gardens,
Sholden Gardens

We always ask for permeable paving to be incorporated in front gardens for new developments requiring planning permission. Householders do not require planning permission for hard surfaces, provided that there is permitted development right and comply with the relevant planning condition – any area of hard surface exceeding 5 square metres requires that the hard surface is made of porous materials, or run-off water is directed to a permeable or porous area or surface within the curtilage of the dwellinghouse.

4) Question from Adam Bone to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

The junction of Stone Park Avenue and Village Way in Beckenham is a main pedestrian route from Eden Park to Beckenham. There is no controlled pedestrian crossing at this junction, which suffers frequently from speeding vehicles. Therefore, pedestrians are at the mercy of drivers slowing down and allowing them to cross safely, something which doesn't happen often enough. Can the committee make a decision to have a controlled pedestrian crossing at this junction?

Response to Question 4:

This location was subject to a trial scheme in 2017 when the all-red stage for drivers was increased to allow more time for pedestrians to cross. The Council received complaints about the increased delays to traffic on this route so reverted the signal timings to what was there previously.

I expect that if the Council were to add pedestrian time here it would still lead to unacceptable delays, but I will ask Officers to add this location to the list for a study in due course.

5) Question from Richard Gibbons to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

Agenda Item 14f. LIP Funded Traffic and Road Safety Programme (1) - Paragraph 3.1 states "Traffic congestion, road safety and parking problems are a significant challenge for the Borough. Due to the potential for considerable growth in the local population, changing travel patterns and a desire to support active travel, we must have a sound policy for managing the traffic and parking demands that will arise in the future, whilst taking all reasonable measures to reduce road casualty numbers."

Question: How does encouraging more people to drive to Bromley Town centre by advertising '£7 a day parking at the Civic Centre multi-storey car park' (2) help the Portfolio Holder solve the "significant challenge" of traffic congestion and road danger, instead of promoting walking, cycling and public transport alternatives "to support active travel"?

Response to Question 5:

It is not our policy to penalise users of our town centres with unreasonable parking tariffs. We recognise that people use our town centres for shopping, employment and leisure and that for many purposes a car is essential. At the same time we strive, in co-operation with both Southeastern trains and Transport for London, to ensure excellent public transport connections and I recently met representatives of both organisations to discuss further improvements. We have installed a number of crossings to improve pedestrian safety and a major portion of the High Street has been pedestrianised for many years. The section from Market Square to the Beckenham Lane is a 20 MPH zone. Cycle parking has been provided at a number of locations.

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ECS PDS for November 2023

Written Questions from Councillors

1) Question from Cllr Sam Webber to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

Would the Portfolio Holder confirm what action is being taken to ensure TfL properly enforce the Elmfield Road bus lane at the junction with Kentish Way including by temporary cameras? This has now been raised at both the 2022 and 2023 meeting of the Council's Public Transport Liaison Group and there are major safety concerns here especially with reports of vehicles turning right and crossing 2 lanes of Kentish Way traffic.

Response to Question 1:

The bus gate is clearly signed and is enforced by TfL using CCTV cameras. I have asked Officers to liaise with TfL to find out whether their cameras are currently operating.

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

At the April Council meeting, the Portfolio Holder said he would look at stating on FixMyStreet reports when a pothole fix is only a temporary one, or indeed a permanent fix, so that this is clear for all to see. Has this change been implemented or if not, when will it be?

Response to Question 2:

The system is not able to differentiate different job types, only job statuses. Raised jobs for a reinstatement are all permanent, and the contractor should not close a temporary reinstatement as completed, but only as a 'further works required' status which would then reflect correctly in the system. We already ask Inspectors if they raise two jobs (a 2-hour make safe and a longer reinstatement) to link the longer job as the primary job so the enquiry is updated with the reinstatement rather than a make safe if completed.

3) Question from Cllr Alison Stammers to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

Will the Portfolio Holder please provide the data of both the income and the number of sessions purchased using RingGo in:

- a) the Borough's and
- b) each of Chislehurst Ward's on and off street parking sites from April 2023 to date on a month by month basis together with comparative data for RingGo and P&D data for 2022 and 2021.

Response to Question 3:

The information, has on this occasion, been supplied, but in future, mindful of the cost and the competing demands on officers time it will not be possible to give so much detail.

4) Question from Cllr Alison Stammers to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

Can you please provide APCOA's schedule for checking for issues and cleaning of Chislehurst's car parks? What is the service level agreement for attending to those issues.

Response to Question 4

APCOA schedule one litter pick per week; however if reports are received that the car park is not to the correct standard, more will be organised. Within the contract, there are standard levels that if they are not adhered to, a default will be triggered.

5) Question from Cllr Will Connolly to the Environment Portfolio Holder:

Can the Portfolio Holder please update the Committee on what actions have been taken by the Council over the previous month on:

A review of information for Public Toilets on the Council website.

A review of signage for Public Toilets and Community Toilet Scheme venues across the borough; and an update on Council plans for new or improved Public Toilets in Libraries and Parks across the borough.

Response to Question 5:

Officers have undertaken a review to collate all of the existing community toilet schemes for signage and will be updated on the website in due course. I'm pleased to announce that we have been successful in two rounds of DLUHC funding, securing grants to install six new Changing Places toilets. Two of these are being delivered directly by the Council in Crystal Palace Park and High Elms Country Park. The remaining four will be located in partner locations: The Princess Royal University Hospital, The Warren Sports Club, Biggin Hill Leisure Centre and the Pavilion Leisure Centre. The PRUH is the only site complete and operational, the remaining five will be complete before the end of this financial year.

ECS PDS-16th November 2023.

Oral Questions from the Public:

1) Question from Susan Moore for the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

How many schools in Hayes and Coney Hall have requested traffic calming measures, such as 20 mph speed limits, and how many of these have been installed?

Response to Question 1:

Susan Moore was not present to ask her question.

2) Question from Eileen Welsh for the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

Items 14e and 14f of the agenda regarding S Eden Park Rd and roundabout safety scheme and Local Implementation Plan.

While welcoming the proposals to mitigate accidents to road and pavement users at the roundabout, I'd like to know why there are no proposals to improve the safety of children and parents who cross South Eden Park road between Harvington Estate, and Unicorn School every day, without a safe crossing, or methods to slow traffic down. There are also concerns about the extremely narrow pavements along this road making pedestrians vulnerable to pollution and possible accidents. What is being done to make this a safe place for your residents to use?

Response to Question 2:

Officers are looking at how crossing facilities might be improved near Cresswell Drive.

Supplementary Question:

What will it take for the Council to get on and make this area safe for our schoolchildren. I would really like to see some work done on this crossing, something to slow the traffic down as its extremely dangerous for parents and children who are trying to cross every day.

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

I recognise the problems in South Eden Park Road and have been on a visit there with Ward Councillor Christine Harris. There are difficulties about the site of the Zebra Crossing, for instance there is a bus stop to the south of Cresswell Drive. We are looking at Cresswell Drive to see if there is a crossing that we can put there to make things safer.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Alisa Igoe:

I recall seeing the video of a young mother with a pram and toddler trying to cross the road here. Portfolio Holder, if you are not going to put something in, would you not consider the implementation of a temporary (or possibly permanent) 20 mph speed limit?

Response from the Portfolio Holder:

If the school makes an application for 20 mph flashing sign then that will be investigated. As far as I know no such application has been made.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Alisa Igoe:

What grade is the School Travel Plan?

Response from the Portfolio Holder:

I don't have that information to hand.

(The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking stated that the Council's Road Safety Officer would be able to provide Cllr Igoe with the relevant information).

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.

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