

(B)

Council

15 July 2024

Questions from Members of the Council for Oral Reply

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

At the Council budget setting meeting earlier this year the Leader agreed to pursue the Liberal Democrat initiative of setting up a Voluntary Fund for donations to support community organisations - grateful for an update on this initiative?

2. From Cllr Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

After nearly two years' of promises from Bromley Police about resolving the issue of parking on the access road to Waitrose in Bromley South, people with mobility issues continue to struggle to find a safe dropping off point for Bromley South Station, and shoppers for Waitrose have to put up with long queues. Will the Council Leader, and the Portfolio Holder for Transport join with us in demanding that the police stop making excuses and resolve this problem without any further delay?

3. From Cllr Sam Webber to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

To ask the Portfolio Holder about the Council's efforts to save the Bromley Picturehouse, which has recently announced it will close on 1st August. What action has the Portfolio Holder taken in conjunction with Council Officers to avoid this unfortunate decision? How can the Council ensure that another gem in Bromley's Cultural crown can be protected for future generations and ensure this important art deco building in central Bromley is safeguarded?

4. From Cllr Tony McPartlan to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

Unfortunately much of UK's EV charging network is inaccessible and difficult to use for disabled people. PAS 1899, sponsored by Motability and the UK Government seeks to fix this. Will the Council commit to placing conditions on all planning applications that include EV charging points, to mandate that the charging points are PAS 1899:2022 compliant?

5. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

Ofsted inspectors concluded children in the borough receive “exceptionally strong services”. Which of the four inspection areas of Children’s Services, included input from Kinship Carers?

6. From Cllr Chris Price to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

As part of the Council’s Operational Property Review, a significant number of shopping parades have been sold via auction. What protections did you put in place to protect the small businesses renting the premises in the heart of our community from excessive rent and service charge increases?

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

Following an accident on Beck Lane over three years ago the then portfolio holder and officers refused to install bollards or barriers as requested by ward councillors and residents. Instead we were offered additional road markings including 'dragon's teeth'. Why have the Dragon's Teeth not yet been painted?

8. From Cllr Alisa Igoe to the Portfolio Holder for Environment

On 05/07/23 £566,000 was added to the initial £1,350,000 cost of Tremendous, whilst reducing the aftercare period for these new trees from three years to one year. In light of the new contracts with multiple arboricultural providers, due for approval 05/07/24, was it ever considered to return to three year aftercare for new trees?

9. From Cllr Mark Smith to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

What arrangements is the Council putting in place to address all the issues and delays being experienced by parents/carers in respect of children with Special Educational Needs in their dealings with the SEN department?

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

On 8th June, one of our residents has reported that she suffered a severe head injury caused by the Civic Centre Car Park Barrier. Could you please confirm that this incident is being fully investigated, and outline what checks are carried out to check the barriers at other car parks across the borough are operating safely?

11. From Cllr Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Environment

Residents who live near Waldo Road Waste and Recycling Centre continue to suffer long queues of traffic blocking their streets as residents queue for the Centre. Acknowledging there are peaks in summer and during good gardening weather, but this is a long term issue which is not improving. Does the Council have any plans to manage this traffic problem, in which case please can they be shared?

12. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

In September last year, the Council's Executive took the decision to dispose of the freeholds of Community House and Beckenham Public Halls - have these transactions been completed?