

EXECUTIVE MEETING

8TH AUGUST 2011

WRITTEN QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor John Getgood of the Chairman of the Executive

Penge War Memorial has suffered its second attack of vandalism and theft. The first was reported in May 2011. What progress has been made in effecting repairs? What reassurance can the council give regarding the likely state of the War Memorial at the time of the Armistice Day service in November?

Reply:

Officers from the Council's Renewal team has visited the site and assessed the damaged. Quotes are currently being sought for the repair work with a view to having the works completed before the start of November 2011. Given the unfortunate proliferation of such thefts involving brass and copper items, we will be exploring the re-provision of alternative non metal options that have a similar patination to the original plaque.

2. From Councillor John Getgood of the Chairman of the Executive

Bromley residents, like those across London, are contributing a precept on their council tax to support the London Olympics of 2012. Last year we were asked to nominate landmarks for a Bromley specific 2012 Olympics pin badge. We were delighted that the BBC Television Tower in Penge was selected as the landmark to represent Bromley. People living in Penge, and across Bromley, are therefore dismayed to discover that they are unable to purchase the London 2012 - Bromley Borough Landmark Pin Badge. I understand that no outer London borough pin badges are available.

How many Bromley Landmark Olympic Pin Badges were produced? How many have been sold to members of the public and how many distributed to "dignitaries"? Will the Executive write to the Mayor of London and the appropriate Olympic authority expressing the dismay of residents at this apparent snub and requesting that further Bromley pin badges are produced for the general public?

Reply:

Officers have contacted the London 2012 shop, who stated that they had sold out of the Bromley Pin badges and that they are not proposing to produce any more. They stated that the Pin badges were a limited edition which is why they are not proposing to produce any more.

Officers have also contacted the manufacturer and distributor of the pin badges. Officers were informed by them that 3,000 badges were produced with 575 being sold meaning there are still 2425 left in stock. They are 'in stock' at the manufacturers who then sell them on to the retailers including the London 2012 Shop. The London 2012 Shop, according to the manufacturer, is no longer stocking them probably because they were on sale for 6 months and were not selling enough; no other retailers are holding them presumably for similar reasons.

Following discussion with Officers the manufacturers have now managed to get the pin badges back on sale at *Pins and Things*, based in Watford.

<http://www.pinsandthings.com/london-olympic-pins/470-london-2012-olympic-borough-series-bromley-pin-badge.html>

The manufacturers have also said that if any other local retailers wish to stock the pins they can be provided.

Members should note that the production and sale of the Pin badges is co-ordinated by London 2012, and the Council has no direct involvement in that process.

3. From Councillor Tom Papworth of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

- Who owns the toilets at the Crystal Palace bus station on Crystal Palace Parade near The Triangle?
- What arrangements existed until 2010 to manage and operate these toilets?
- Who took the decision to close the toilets to the public?
- When was that decision taken?
- What was the usage of the toilets by members of the public prior to their being closed?
- What alternative toilet provision is available to bus passengers and people in the area of the Triangle?

Reply:

- a) LBB. They were leased to TfL for 60 years commencing 25/12/1999
- b) The toilets were (and remain) managed and operated by TfL. Until 2010, LBB paid a contribution of £10,000 p.a. to TfL towards the cost of maintaining public use of the facility.

If it helps I have asked the obvious question following on from this myself previously, and have been advised that LBB were/are not able to insist on TfL taking this money in return for keeping them open to the general public.

Likewise that TfL have been clear that ASB and drug issues were leading them to consider closure anyway.

- c) TfL.

- d) I regret that I can only say 'a month or so ago' at this point in time. I am advised that LBB were neither consulted about nor advised in advance of precisely when TfL decided then proceeded to actually do so.
- e) In 2010, when concerns around this facility first came to the surface, TfL was unable to provide any empiric data as to its usage by Members of the general public. The best assessment LBB have been provided with still being:
"Both TfL (who have a controller on site between 7am and 10pm) and the Police have commented that the general public make very little use of the toilets".

I would be the first to agree that does not represent a scientific case study.

- f) Nothing particularly acceptable at present. LBB is however continuing to explore options for a community toilet scheme in the area, both within our Borough itself, and with neighbouring Boroughs.

This search will clearly require the co-operation of others, if it is to prove successful.

4. From Councillor Tom Papworth of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

When the results of the traffic survey of Selby Road, conducted in 2011, will be made available to Members and to the public?
Why, when this was first discussed in 2010, has it not been conducted and published by August 2011?

Reply:

- a) August 2011
- b) A survey was initially earmarked for the early part of 2011.

As a review of each of the Borough's 20mph zones was planned within LIP priorities for 2011/12, the survey was subsequently rescheduled to fit within that programme, with Selby Road being prioritised within it.

The survey has now been completed, and the results will shortly be to hand.
