

QUESTION No. 1

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Wise
of the Deputy Mayor**

Question

Following the welcome paving of half of Kilmore Road SE23 last summer in the financial year 2014/15, and reassurance from LBL's Highways Department that the other half will be paved within the financial year 2015/16, can the Deputy Mayor please provide residents of the road with the date for when this will take place?

Reply

The current proposal is that the remaining footways in Kilmore Road will be repaved in the 2015/16 programme. Once the 2015/16 budgets are set then the programme for the future footway works will be established with the Council's Highways Term Contractor.

QUESTION No. 2

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor John Paschoud
of the Deputy Mayor**

Question

Large numbers of pedestrians need to cross the stretch of Perry Vale, near to the entrance to Forest Hill Rail Station and the pedestrian subway to the Forest Hill side of the Station, every day. Many of these pedestrian journeys are to and from the Station but people also need to cross near here to reach St Georges Primary School, Perrymount Primary School, and shops in Perry Vale, London Road and Dartmouth Road.

Could the Deputy Mayor tell me (with the aid of a map or plan if necessary) where, in the opinion of his Highways and Traffic officers, would be the safest place on this stretch of Perry Vale for pedestrians to cross the road, and what measures to control the speed of vehicles or give pedestrians priority, might make this particular stretch of road a better place to live, work or learn?

Reply

In 2008, to facilitate pedestrians, the Council realigned this road, widened the footways, installed a flat topped speed table and improved the sight lines around the bend. The geometry of the road at this location is such that it is not suitable for a controlled crossing.

QUESTION No. 3

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Michael
of the Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

Question

What is your Equalities brief from The Mayor and what is your strategic plan of its application for the benefit of local residents, businesses, educational establishments, Council Officers, staff and elected members?

Reply

Given the Council's role in reducing inequality across the borough and ensuring that services are delivered in an efficient, effective and equitable manner, briefings provided to the Lead Cabinet Member for Equalities are of particular importance. In this role, I work with the Executive Director for Community Services to provide the strategic oversight and direction of the equalities agenda and provide advice to the Mayor on equality developments and issues. As Lead Cabinet Member for Equalities, I also receive briefings from officers as appropriate on matters affecting this role.

The strategic policy framework for the Council's equalities work is the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2012-16. The Scheme, which incorporates all aspects of Council business, sets out ambitions and objectives for promoting life chances and empowerment in the borough in line with the statutory provisions of the Equality Act 2010. The Comprehensive Equalities Scheme is available on the Council's website.

An annual review of the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme is presented to the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee each year. The Committee last received this review on 25 February 2014 and the next review is time-tabled for 10 March 2015.

QUESTION No. 4

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Curran
of the Deputy Mayor**

Question

What are the latest actions the Council is taking to expedite the reconstruction of The Greyhound public house and is there a date for completion?

Reply

On 10th February 2015, a S96a application proposing non-material amendments to the Greyhound scheme approved in 2010 was granted planning permission. The proposed changes included;

- The construction of a replacement roof;
- The retention of an enlarged basement;
- The omission of a rear elevation window;
- Amendment to the west elevation regarding the proposed sliding door and omission of a ground floor window;
- Provision of replacement railings and door to the existing first floor balcony;
- The formation of a chimney to accommodate internal ventilation ducting;
- The provision of new timber openings;
- A rooflight to the rear slope;
- Stone plinths with replica greyhounds.

It was considered by officers that the works outlined would not materially harm the appearance of the Greyhound building, the amenities of neighbouring occupiers or the character of the Cobbs Corner Conservation Area.

The land owners are now seeking to formally submit detailed plans, specifications and a method statement to the Council. These will address both Building Regulations and Schedule 10 of the S106 Agreement dated 24 May 2010, which required the submission of reinstatement and refurbishment works to be undertaken,

including confirmation of the method of construction. It is anticipated that these will be received in late February or early March.

There is no agreed date in place for the recommencement of building works at present. However, the applicants have advised they would seek to mobilise works within approximately 3 weeks of Building Control details being approved, whilst construction works would take up to 4 months.

A further update will be reported to Mayor and Cabinet on 25th March. Should there be no indication of when works will recommence at that stage, it would clearly be appropriate for the Council to consider legal action.

QUESTION No. 5

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Hilton
of the Deputy Mayor**

Question

In the last few months, Forest Hill has had occurrences of 'natural springs' emerging from roads: Manor Mount, Ewelme Road, Sydenham Hill and possibly London Road. During the recent cold weather spells this water has frozen on Ewelme Road creating hazardous road conditions resulting in cars sliding into other cars, lamp posts etc.

The residents believed this to be water leaks, but Thames Water teams have pointed out that these were not mains water leaks but naturally occurring water in the high water tables from the water saturated high ground.

The 2010 Flood and Water Management Act passed the responsibility from Environmental Agency to Local Government for such issues.

What steps has the Council taken to ensure it is meeting its obligations under this Act, and in particular regarding the above issues? Is there a developed plan of actions including communications flow and a range of actions appropriate for such situations? What is the Council doing to communicate this plan to relevant stakeholders? What advice is given to residents?

Reply

The Council is in discussion with Thames Water on the water discharging onto the highway, as it appears to be emerging from an old Thames Water reinstatement . An excavation may be required to confirm the source as either a Thames Water responsibility or groundwater.

In terms of groundwater the UK Groundwater Forum advises;-
"The precautions that can be taken by local authorities or the environment regulators to protect against groundwater flooding are limited. Groundwater flooding is often

more difficult to prevent than surface water flooding; it is not as simple as building flood defences to prevent river water spilling over its banks. There are some areas where groundwater flooding has been dealt with by installing pumps to remove groundwater and so lower the water table but these only have a localised effect, and there is still the problem of having somewhere to discharge the water.”

Lewisham Council is a Lead Local Flood Authority. The role of Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) was created by the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, and defined and developed further by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Lead Local Flood Authorities have been assigned the flood risk management function of managing local flood risk, which is defined as flooding resulting from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. The way in which the Act assigns the flood risk management functions of these sources of risk is through section nine, which puts a duty on the authority to ‘develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area’, which is followed by a definition of ‘local flood risk’.

The Council recently received approval to consult on its draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and six-year Action Plan. LLFAs have a significant role to play in coordinating partner risk management authorities such as the Environment Agency and Thames Water to build awareness of flood risk within the community; assisting in ongoing community engagement as part of identifying measures; and outlining the scope of plans affecting specific communities.

The Council’s website contains information for residents and businesses on how to report flooding incidences.

QUESTION No. 6

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Hall
of the Mayor**

Question

"Has the Mayor any indication of the Ambulance, Fire and Police spend in Lewisham for 2015/16?"

Reply

In respect of the Metropolitan Police Service, the figure is a Met-wide one and not calculated at borough level.

In respect of the Fire Service, the Mayor of London sets the budget for the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) for the entire running costs of the London Fire Brigade. This money is then put into the smaller budgets, some of which is attributed to stations rather than boroughs and some budgets are allocated on bids or greatest need i.e. property maintenance / refurbishments.

NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group's contract with the London Ambulance Service for 2014/15 was £9.3m. This is a contribution towards the total cost. The Lewisham contract for 2015/16 is expected to be of a similar value.

QUESTION No. 7

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Bourne
of the Cabinet Member for the Public Realm**

Question

A number of constituents have raised concerns due to the lack of disabled access on The Green, next to King's Church. Can the Council confirm whether any action will be taken to make The Green, wheelchair and pushchair friendly?

Reply

The Green next to King's Church is the responsibility of the Phoenix Community Housing Trust Housing Group and is maintained by them.

Phoenix have carried out a site visit of the area to look at the feasibility of installing disabled access. The main entrance to the green is on a steep, sloped hill with a high grading and is also near residential gardens. Access to services such as gas supply and the drainage system for residents is directly underneath this pathway.

The initial site visit has highlighted that it would not be viable at this stage to implement full disabled access in this particular location.

Phoenix remain very committed to ensuring that all our residents have access to the greens and open spaces and will continue to engage and work with residents to look at the most viable options to make our greens and open spaces accessible to all residents and visitors.

QUESTION No. 8

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Ibitson
of the Deputy Mayor**

Question

Further to the successful consultation on proposals to extend the Bakerloo line along the Hayes line through Bellingham ward, will consideration be given to using this opportunity to widen the road underneath the Hayes line at Southend Lane as part of the extension works, thereby relieving a significant bottleneck for local traffic?

Reply

In response to TfL's consultation on the Bakerloo Line Extension, the Council has identified two options for improving Lower Sydenham Station and surrounding environment. One option would be to regenerate the existing industrial area surrounding the station, creating a new local place with improved pedestrian links to the existing local centre.

Another option would be to relocate the station further north (near Southend Lane) closer to the heart of the existing local centre. This would benefit the residents of Lower Sydenham, but there are other likely impacts which remain to be investigated, such as the impact on the Waterlink Way.

The opportunity to widen the bridge span will be considered under either option. However, this pinch-point does serve to restrain the volume of traffic using Southend Lane and we would have reservations about the impact of increasing the number of lanes under the bridge. The primary purpose for widening the bridge span will be to provide an improved environment for pedestrians and cyclists, and to optimise the road width for the purposes of vehicle safety and visibility.

Both options require further consideration and the Council will be engaging with Transport for London on further work to find the best solution.

QUESTION No. 9

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Wise
of the Deputy Mayor**

Question

Can the Deputy Mayor please provide residents of Kilmore Road SE23, the date for when the long awaited complete resurfacing, rather than haphazard patching, of the road will take place?

Reply

The resurfacing programme is devised on a priority basis, predominantly based upon the condition of the highway network and the available budgets. Unfortunately, on this basis, Kilmore Road is not scheduled to be resurfaced within the existing programme.

QUESTION No. 10

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Curran
of the Cabinet Member for the Public Realm**

Question

What statistics does the Council have with regard to a) the number of players at Beckenham Place Park Golf Course on a daily basis and b) the income derived from the golf course?

Reply

- a) The Council collects golf course usage figures on a monthly basis from Glendale Golf.

	2014/15	Year	Number of rounds
March	1361		
April	2038	2002/3	38531
May	1907	2003/4	35734
June	2067	2004/5	25535
July	2437	2005/6	28381
August	2327	2006/7	26636
September	2251	2007/8	26174
October	1706	2008/9	22514
November	1101	2009/10	21794
December	831	2010/11	19803
January	906	2011/12	20949
	18932	20012/13	16483

- b) The Council has a 3-year interim agreement with Glendale Golf, to 31st December 2015, to manage the golf and catering operations at Beckenham Place Park. Golf and catering income is retained by Glendale Golf who pay an annual fixed fee to the Council - £67,119 in 2014/15. The risk of fluctuating usage figures is borne by Glendale Golf allowing the Council to manage a balanced budget.

QUESTION No. 11

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Ibitson
of the Deputy Mayor**

Question

Please give an update on progress with regard to the future use of the former housing office at 109 Randlesdown Road.

Reply

The former housing office is 111 Randlesdown Road. It is intended that the premises is occupied by Lewisham Disability Coalition (LDC) .

Legal Services are at an advanced stage of finalising formal lease arrangements in order that the group can take up occupancy.

QUESTION No. 12

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Wise
of the Cabinet Member for the Public Realm**

Question

Over recent years, at least four trees have been removed from Kilmore Road SE23 for various reasons, with the promise from LBL's Green Scene that they would be replaced in the financial years 2013/14 or 2014/15. As this has not happened, can the Cabinet Member please provide the date for when the trees' replacement will take place?

Reply

It was agreed with Green Scene's tree officer, that two replacement trees, (Amelanchier arborea), would be planted in Kilmore Road this planting season as part of this year's Green Scene funded tree replacement programme. Unfortunately this budget is very small and could not accommodate the replacement of all four trees removed over recent years. The 2 trees will be planted by the end of this financial year.

QUESTION No. 13

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Curran
of the Deputy Mayor**

Question

There have been many complaints about the construction of a new central reservation at the eastbound Highclere Street bus stop in Sydenham Road which means that whenever a bus stops there, it prevents all traffic from passing. Was this intentional and will it be reviewed?

Reply

As part of the Sydenham East scheme the pavements were widened, central reservations improved and bus stops repositioned, and in particular by Highclere Street this allowed:

- 1) The school crossing patrol to operate more safely as previously the crossing patrol had to contend with a very wide 2-lane section of road with 2 lanes of oncoming traffic on the eastbound carriageway.
- 2) The visibility is improved for exiting vehicles from both Sunnydene Street and Highclere Street into Sydenham Road.
- 3) Reduced carriageway width generally leads to a speed reduction.
- 4) The centre islands which, were already there, have been upgraded and connected to prevent vehicles getting caught between the two previous islands.

Officers have not witnessed long vehicle queues as a result of these works.

The works are now near completion in Sydenham Road. The only option that could be considered, would be to shorten the revised centre island and that would be a decision for the future following on site monitoring by a Council's Engineer.

QUESTION No. 14

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Ibitson
of the Deputy Mayor**

Question

When will Aldermoor Road be resurfaced, with reference to several assurances that this will be during this financial year?

Reply

Aldermoor Road is programmed to be resurfaced on the 17 March 2015.

QUESTION No. 15

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Wise
of the Deputy Mayor**

Question

Honeyfield Mews is a cul de sac off Dacres Road SE23, where the Dacres Road Nature Reserve is located. The cul de sac is adjacent to a block managed by Lewisham Homes, and there is a recently built small private development in the Mews. The road is in a serious state of disrepair and requires resurfacing. It is an unadopted road, and Lewisham Council and Lewisham Homes each believe the maintenance of it sits with the other organisation.

As that part of Dacres Road is in the process of being resurfaced, is it possible that the work on Honeyfield Mews can be performed at the same time, with Lewisham Council, Lewisham Homes and perhaps the residents of the private development coming to some arrangement over this? It would also be very helpful to resolve the maintenance issue for the future, could that be done also?

Reply

Dacres Road is now resurfaced.

Lewisham Homes sold the land to facilitate the development but kept the access road, now known as Honeyfield Mews. Paragraph 7.1 of the Transfer requires the developer and successors in title to make "a reasonable contribution to the cost of maintaining or keeping [the access road] in repair. Therefore, Lewisham Homes will need to make arrangements with the developer/successors for such necessary repairs to this access road.

QUESTION No. 16

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2015

**Question by Councillor Curran
of the Deputy Mayor**

Question

What procedures will LB Lewisham and the Metropolitan Police take to enforce speed limits and prevent speeding in the borough's 20mph roads?

Reply

The current speeds are to be collected through a number of speed surveys.

In consultation with the Police the speeds will be assessed and we will jointly look at the issues arising and what options there are to reduce speeds.

On roads where the speeds are higher than expected we will look at traffic calming to reduce speeds. Existing safety cameras may be set at the lower speeds, traffic calming may also be introduced to roads following the introduction of the speed limit on roads where compliance is not being met.

20mph signs will be placed around the borough, with more obvious signs as vehicles enter the borough.

This will be carried out alongside widespread publicity and work within businesses and schools.

There is also an opportunity to engage with the Police in Community Speed Watch, which is a community project where the local community work with a Police Officer to record speeds on a Speed Laser. Those travelling over the speed limit will be sent warning letters from the Police initially. This is a new project which the road safety team will support the Police to introduce in Lewisham.