

PUBLIC QUESTION NO 1.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 SEPTEMBER 2017

Question asked by: Bobby Dean

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

Question

- How many residential buildings over 18m high are within the Borough broken down by those managed by Lewisham Homes, other Registered Providers and privately managed?
- When were these buildings granted Building Regulation approval?
- How many of these buildings have had their cladding tested?
- What is the programme for carrying out any remaining testing?
- How many of these buildings have had cladding retro fitted?
- How many of these buildings have sprinkler systems?
- What is the programme to fit sprinkler systems to all towers?
- With regards to the towers the Council plans to remove cladding from, was the cladding specified in accordance with Part B (Fire Safety) Vol 2 Paras 12.5 - 12.9. This states that the cladding on buildings over 18m tall should be of limited combustibility.
- In April and May the London Fire Brigade wrote to all councils following the Shepherd's Bush fire (letter titled "Tall Buildings - External Fire Spread). What has been the Council's response to that letter and what checks were made to buildings.

Reply

Following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower the Council initiated an immediate and robust response in order to safeguard and reassure residents of the borough, and to support the victims of the tragedy itself.

The Council has worked closely with partners, private landlords and government agencies and other organisations in response to the fire. Officers contacted all landlords of tall buildings, as under current legislation it is the landlords of buildings who are responsible for fire safety. Through this process a comprehensive assessment of the tall buildings in the borough was completed, alongside receiving reassurances from landlords that they were meeting their statutory responses.

This review was reported publically at the meetings of the Housing Select Committee on 5th July, Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th July, and the Sustainable Development Committee on the 20th July. The information collated from this process can be found at the link below:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=4638&Ver=4>.

The answers to most of the questions you have raised, and many more, can be found in this review, although for ease they are also answered below.

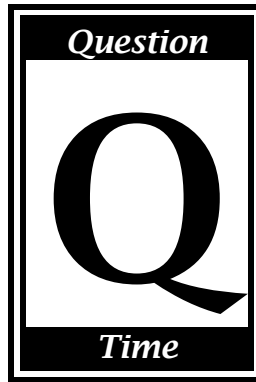
The Council is aware of 181 blocks within the borough that are six storeys or more in height, of which 81 are owned by the Local Authority, 69 are owned or managed by registered providers and 31 are privately owned. All of the above would have received building regulation approval as part of their completion either as part of the original construction or, where relevant, as part of any retro-fitting of cladding that occurred subsequently to construction.

Tests have been undertaken to the cladding at 12 of these blocks, and it is not believed that any further testing is required beyond those 12. Of the 12, six had cladding retrofitted. These are all Council owned blocks.

Of the buildings that the Council owns and that have had cladding tested, one block contains a sprinkler system. A programme of works aimed at enhancing the safety and security of blocks owned by the Council is currently in development and will commence in the coming months. This includes removing cladding where necessary.

All works carried out by the Council and Lewisham Homes are undertaken in accordance with the latest safety guidance, and the Council has - and continues to - work closely in partnership with the Fire Service.

Following the letter from the Fire Service which was received by the Council in May, officers across all relevant departments were apprised of the letter and ensured they were well-informed as to its content. The Council further advised Lewisham Homes that in light of the advice contained in the letter they should renew their fire risk assessments to incorporate any new guidance. Lewisham Homes has confirmed it has begun to incorporate this new guidance into future FRAs.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 2.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 SEPTEMBER 2017

Question asked by: Ray Woolford

Member to reply: Councillor Onikosi

Question

Brookmill Park is one of the jewels in the boroughs green parks and community spaces, but sadly has been almost taken over by Knot Weed, brambles and Russian Vine that is destabilising the eco and wild life balance in a very negative way.

Can the Council confirm that it will instruct the parks management team to give this park's welfare urgent attention, or if it is a matter of finance, would the Council supervise a Community Park Day in which the community and the Council can have a day to work together to protect this most wonderful of Lewisham's much needed and much loved green spaces?

Reply

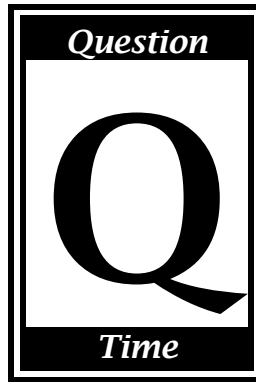
Brookmill Park is indeed one of the borough's premier parks and was successful in retaining its prestigious Green Flag award for 2017.

One of the key award criteria for Green Flag status is that a park is well managed and maintained to a high standard, however invasive plant species such as Japanese Knotweed are a problem in some of our parks, particularly those that have rivers running through them, and ongoing treatment plans are in place to control and where possible eradicate them.

Brambles and Russian vine do occur on the banksides directly adjacent to the River Ravensbourne. The bankside is recognised as providing significant and important habitats for ground nesting birds. In support, and in conjunction with the wishes of the Park user group a sensitive, balanced management approach is employed.

The result of this collaboration is that a small proportion of the brambles and other vigorous undergrowth are cyclically managed each year between October and February. The aim being to stop the establishment of secondary woodland and to maintain this low growing habitat for the benefit of ground nesting birds.

If you require any further information about the management of this area you can contact Nick Pond (Green Scene) Tel: 020 8314 2007 or email: nicholas.pond@lewisham.gov.uk



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 3.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 SEPTEMBER 2017

Question asked by: Adrian Robson

Member to reply: Councillor Smith

Question

When will a pedestrian safety review of Cold Blow Lane, SE14 be conducted? This includes the entire length of the road including the part that passes under the 2 railway tunnels.

Reply

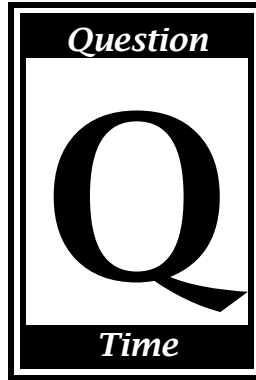
It is part of our long term aspiration to improve the tunnelled section of Cold Blow Lane, and potentially remove traffic, as part of the 2012 Lewisham Links Strategy which identifies potential improvements to the pedestrian environment.

Any removal of traffic would need to consider the impact of removing vehicles on neighbouring roads. The first step is monitoring the traffic volumes and the site has been added to our monitoring programme. However, in addition to the impact of re-routing traffic (including routes for emergency vehicles), we would also need to be cautious about design changes such as one-way streets, which can potentially result in increased speeds, and which can reduce surveillance and increase the fear of

crime. We also have to be mindful that, although the tunnelled part of the street is not a pleasant pedestrian environment, the latest official 5-year collision statistics reveals there have been no accidents involving pedestrians in that section.

The Links study suggested that works could be very costly and no budget identified at present, but any future investment would be best aligned with the potential opening of the new station on Surrey Canal Road, as higher footfall will improve the business case but also improve the sense of security along the route.

As the question suggests, there are other relevant sections of Cold Blow Lane, including the junction with Hunsdon Road, which has, in the past, had collisions involving pedestrians. This section has seen some historical investment in pedestrian safety, including a raised table, zebra crossing, and a new 20mph speed limit.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 4.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 SEPTEMBER 2017

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

Question

On Lewisham Council website there is a reference to a footbridge to Doggett Road being introduced as part of the Catford Green development. However, such a bridge does not yet exist or appear to be under construction. Can it be clarified when this footbridge will be constructed and at what location on Doggett Road? Alternatively, if there are no longer plans for the construction of a footbridge on Doggett Road what are the reasons for this decision?

Reply

There is a proposal to install a new pedestrian footbridge across the railway line between Doggett Road and the Catford Green residential development. In Doggett road the bridge position will be just south (towards the South Circular) of the junction with Holbeach Road and land on to the temporary green space between the development blocks in Adenmore Road.

The current proposal is that Barratt's, the developer, will deliver the new bridge which is to be partly funded from planning obligations. However, the extent of the bridge estimated cost is still to be agreed with Barratt's. In addition the Council is in negotiation with Network Rail on an Agreement that is required to construct this bridge over their railway. Until these two main issues are resolved the Council cannot give a programme of when the bridge will be installed.