

QUESTION No. 1
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

21 JUNE 2017

Question by Councillor Walsh
of the Mayor

Question

Could the Mayor affirm that there are no plans to remove the Catford Cat from Catford?

Reply

I can affirm that, despite recent rumours online, there are no plans to remove the Catford Cat from Catford.

I am aware of the strong feelings that the iconic Cat elicits from local people and know that these views can be conflicting it my personal view that the Cat must continue to play a role in in this Borough for the foreseeable future.

QUESTION No. 2
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

21 JUNE 2017

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Mayor

Question

Will the Mayor consider bringing in an Article 4 direction to cover all public houses in the borough?

Reply

In May 2017, permitted development rights that allowed demolition and the change of use of pubs (A4 Use Class) to other retail uses (A1- A3) was removed under the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, with the exception of allowing an A3 use (restaurant) to work concurrently with a pub as an expanded food provision. Article 4 Directions are used based on a local need to remove permitted development rights. As such the national legislation has superseded the need for an Article 4 direction for the protection of pubs by making the changes at a national level. The national legislation results in the need for a planning application to be made where a change of use to a pub is proposed. An application from a change of use from a pub to alternative uses will be assessed against planning policy and other material planning considerations.

The Planning Policy team are currently reviewing the effectiveness of the Policy DM 20 Public Houses through the preparation of an evidence base study. This policy was adopted in 2014 and the evidence base study will look at the need to protect pubs, as well as the effectiveness of Policy DM20 in protecting pubs, new and emerging policy related to planning policy including the Mayor of London's Culture and Night Time Economy Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document and the mechanisms available to planning to protect pubs including Article 4 directions.

This evidence base study is due to be taken to Sustainable Development Select Committee in Autumn 2017.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

21 JUNE 2017

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Mayor

Question

What is the outlook for Lewisham Council following the General Election?

Reply

The past few weeks has perhaps been one of the most turbulent for this city and its local authorities that anyone can remember. The terrorist atrocity at Borough Market was this week followed by an attack on worshippers near Finsbury Park Mosque. The Grenfell Tower fire last week is a disaster the scale of which we are only just beginning to comprehend.

In the face of such human tragedy the election result can seem relatively trivial. Its outcome will probably have been unanticipated by many if not most. As of writing we are still awaiting the final details of the minority administration that will be formed, its legislative programme, and the possible implications for local government and Lewisham.

The political environment is therefore highly uncertain. While there has been speculation about 'the end of austerity' or about specific Conservative manifesto pledges that may not now come to fruition, it would be naive to make predictions, not least when there could conceivably be another General Election in the very near future.

It may well be Grenfell Tower that has the biggest impact on the future of this local authority. Although it will take some time for the relevant investigations and inquiries to tell us what really happened, the circumstances of the fire and the local government response pose searching questions about the way we manage our housing, the way we involve and include residents from all parts of our communities, and the way we manage major incidents.

Amid this uncertainty, we need to remain flexible and adaptable, working closely with our partners in all parts of the public, voluntary and private sectors to ensure we are able to meet these new challenges. As the full implications of this terrible and dramatic month become clearer I will keep members and residents fully updated about the impact on our area.

QUESTION No. 4
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

21 JUNE 2017

Question by Councillor Upex
of the Deputy Mayor

Question

Please give an update with regard to the future of the Sydenham Park footbridge and what thoughts have been given to making this crossing more accessible for cyclists, those with disabilities and those with children's buggies?

Reply

The proposal is to replace the central bridge span with a similar looking structure and the refurbishment to the existing stairs.

The works are currently being re-priced in a new tender exercise, as the previous company has ceased trading. The contract award is proposed to take place in July 2018, subject to the tender return being acceptable.

The programme for the bridge works is dependent upon Network Rail's approval of the design, method statements for installation and the booking of track possessions. The Agreements with Network Rail can progress after the award of the tender, and only then will the dates be known for the site works programmed.

A proposal for ramps wasn't considered viable as the works is predominantly that of replacing the bridge span. A complete replacement of the whole structure along with ramps/lifts and new stairs would add considerable cost to the scheme. Ramps will require land acquisition and the footpath gradient is such that a straight ramp from the bridge would be too steep if landed at Dacres Road. Ramps are also likely to be considered unsightly and obtrusive in such a location.

QUESTION No. 5
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

21 JUNE 2017

Question

Question by Councillor McGeevor
of the Deputy Mayor

Brockley's Malpas Road is categorised as a B road, but it is too narrow for the volume and size of the traffic that use it. There are few passing places on the road which has led to frustrated drivers overtaking dangerously. Two way traffic is squeezed by lorries and large vans, resulting in parked cars being dented and wing mirrors being broken off on an almost daily basis. Less frequently, but far more seriously, a number of cars have been written off in recent years, while garden walls have been repeatedly demolished. Damage to private property has collectively cost the residents of Malpas Road many thousands of pounds and they feel that it is just a matter of time before there is a fatality. Of particular concern is the fact that Malpas Road must be crossed by a significant number of children who attend Myatt Garden Primary School at the very time when the traffic volume is highest, yet there is no zebra crossing in place.

What steps are being taken to address the road safety concerns of residents who live on Malpas Road?'

Reply

Malpas Road is part of the B218 corridor which distributes traffic from the A2 and A20 into the local area of Brockley and Crofton Park. This corridor also provides a more strategic function of linking to the A205 South Circular.

Restricting access to, or declassifying, Malpas Road is not an attractive option, as this would transfer and intensify traffic on other neighbouring residential roads, as well as creating additional mileage. Our general approach is therefore to improve the pedestrian environment by calming traffic and reducing speeds.

In September 2016 we introduced a 20mph limit on all Borough roads, including Malpas Road. We are aware of concerns raised by the local community, and in

November 2016 a Community Roadwatch event was held in conjunction with the Police.

We are currently monitoring speeds to assess the effect of the 20mph limit, and will be creating a prioritised programme of physical intervention measures. However, following the event in November we have already taken action to enhance the visibility of the 20mph limit, with additional 20mph roundels on the carriageway.

We are aware of traffic, including heavy vehicles, leaving the A2 and using local roads. Some of this traffic is legitimately using Florence Road and Malpas Road to access local areas such as Brockley. However, we are aware that some traffic, including HGVs, is using local roads to avoid traffic on the strategic network. We are currently investigating one such rat-run which uses Drakefell Road, and we are considering options to stop heavy vehicles using this route. If implemented, this should also help to reduce the number of large vehicles using Shardeloes Road, Florence Road and Malpas Road.

We have an annual minor parking programme which considers footway parking. Malpas Road, particularly the narrow section, is on the list for consideration later in 2017/18. There are criteria which are set out in the Council's Parking Policy. <http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/parking/Documents/ParkingPolicyOctober2014.pdf>

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

21 JUNE 2017

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Deputy Mayor

Question

What is the criteria for Local Listing?

Reply

1. The Council's adopted criteria for local listing are as follows:

- **Historic Interest:** buildings that are of special social, economic or cultural interest to Lewisham, and/or have proven affiliation with locally important people and events, or other community associations (particularly important local architects).
- **Architectural Interest:** buildings that are of special architectural interest to Lewisham for reasons of their vernacular, aesthetic, type (i.e. form and function), style, plan, technology, townscape, unity, or association with important local architects.
- **Age or Rarity:** buildings that are:
 - Legibly pre-1700 in interest
 - Of appreciable interest from between 1700 to 1840
 - Of a high level of interest following 1840
 - Of an outstanding interest and less than 30 years old

Any one of the above criteria in isolation may be considered sufficient justification for local listing. In addition, heritage significance is assessed following national guidance as set out in the English Heritage publication 'Conservation Principles' (2008), which promotes a value-based approach for defining heritage significance. Heritage significance can derive from the aesthetic and design merits of a building, but equally can embrace broader and less tangible values, such as evidential, historical or communal value. (ref: www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructive-conservation/conservation-principles)

2. In order to determine an application from the public to nominate a building to be locally listed, the Council requires the following supporting documentation:

- address of the building
- photograph
- architectural description (style, materials, location)
- explanation as to why the building should be included on the list (ie. specify how the building meets the Council's criteria for local listing).

QUESTION No. 7
Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

21 JUNE 2017

Question by Councillor Upex
of the Deputy Mayor

Question

Please provide an update with regard to what improvements are planned or what money may be available to improve the railway footpath from Forest Hill to Sydenham Park.

Reply

There are no planned improvements or funds identified to improve the railway footpath from Forest Hill to Sydenham Park.

QUESTION No. 8
Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

21 JUNE 2017

Question

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Older People

What progress is being made in the Council's bid to become London Borough of Culture?

Reply

Due to the purdah period prior to the General Election the launch of the GLA's Borough of Culture competition has been delayed until Friday 30 June and, as such, we are yet to see the full details of the bidding process.

However, the Council remains positive about the opportunity and has already met with officers from the GLA twice to discuss it and is currently in the process of interviewing expert partners who may be able to assist with the bid once the prospectus is released. The closing date for bids is 1 December 2017 and there will be significant publicity relating to the bid once the details are known.

QUESTION No. 9

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

21 JUNE 2017

Question by Councillor Upex

of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Question

What steps have been taken to improve the ongoing financial difficulties faced by Forest Hill School? Has the Council exhausted all routes to improving their situation? Please explain to residents and parents the role that central government plays in school funding and the role of the local authority and ensure that this is better communicated to parents who are understandably worried about the future of the school and of their children's education.

Reply

The funding of mainstream schools is mainly determined by central government, with the DfE determining the size of the ring fenced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). There is little local discretion either in terms of the overall quantum or in its distribution to individual schools. For the first time, all schools are experiencing a financial squeeze as nationally their funding is failing to keep up with rising costs. Lewisham has joined with other boroughs in protesting about the national underfunding of education.

For individual schools, responsibility for the budget sits squarely with the governing body following decades of increasing autonomy for schools. The local authority does not have a fund it can use to bail out schools which get into financial difficulties, either in the council's General Fund or in the DSG. The council is required to be totally transparent with all schools, ensuring fairness and much of the local decision making on school funding lies with the Schools Forum which is made up of school representatives.

Council officers have worked closely with the headteacher and governors of Forest Hill School to help the school to set a financial plan that enables it to recover from its deficit situation. In particular the HR Team has supported with the staff restructuring. The school's staffing spend was higher than that of other similar sized schools and needed to be put onto a sustainable footing. The school also experienced a serious

dip in GCSE results in 2016 and the Local Authority and Lewisham Secondary Challenge have been providing school improvement support to the school all year.

The headteacher and governors have been working to keep parents and prospective parents informed and reassured, with support from the council's Communications Team but this has been challenging given the amount of misleading information circulating on social media. The headteacher has been personally visiting all feeder primary schools and meeting with parents to reassure them.

QUESTION No. 10
Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

21 JUNE 2017

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Cabinet Member for Health Wellbeing and Older People

Question

What progress is being made on the future plans for the Broadway Theatre?

Reply

£1.22M of capital funding has been earmarked for improvements to the Broadway Theatre and an outline project plan has been agreed. Further consideration is needed to the phasing of works in order to allow the potential to match council funding with a Heritage Lottery Bid. A full conservation management plan has been commissioned to inform this bid and should be completed by November 2017. Little Nan's have taken on the operation of the café bar enhancing the offer for residents.

QUESTION No. 11
Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

21 JUNE 2017

Question by Councillor Upex
of the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Older People

Question

Please provide figures of the number of downloaded books through the on line library service by Lewisham residents over the past 3 years, if possible provide a breakdown of the figures for each ward.

Reply

The figures for the number of downloaded books for the last 3 years are as follows

Year	eBooks	eAudiobooks	Total downloads
2014-15	1844	1120	2964
2015-16	3884	3420	7304
2016-17	8779	5927	14706

We are unable to breakdown this figure by ward as our eLibrary service does not record detailed information by library card number.