

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 JANUARY 2019

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Mayor

Question

How can the Mayor support people with disabilities by using powers in the planning system? Or, more widely?

Reply

We all want Lewisham to be a borough where everyone, whatever their circumstances, can enjoy a good quality of life and have their say.

We have committed to launching an Accessibility Commission that will make public services more accessible and make it easier to get around Lewisham. We will be encouraging voluntary groups and individuals to get involved in and lead the Commission when it launches, and want to hear from people with disabilities about how we can improve accessibility and inclusion in Lewisham.

Social inclusion is a key strategic objective within Lewisham's Core Strategy:

Core Strategy Objective 11: Community well-being

5.15 The Council with its partners will provide and support measures and initiatives that promote social inclusion and strengthen the quality of life and well-being for new and existing residents of the borough by:

- c. providing physical, social and green infrastructure, including high quality health and education facilities, that are accessible and suitable to all of Lewisham's residents, to foster independent community living.*

Lewisham also has a number of more detailed planning policies to ensure that all new developments are inclusive and accessible and these policies are material considerations when assessing planning applications.

The Council is also in the process of preparing a new Local Plan and will be reviewing its policies covering accessibility and inclusivity in due course. There will be several opportunities for the public to comment on these emerging planning policies through the new Local Plan process.

All members of the public have the opportunity to comment on planning applications through the council's website and we would encourage anyone with particular issues to do so.

QUESTION No. 2
Priority 2

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23 JANUARY 2019

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Mayor

Question

Will the Mayor outline his criteria for Article 4 Planning Directions?

Reply

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF July 2018) paragraph 53 outlines the overriding criteria for the use of Article 4 Directions:

53. The use of Article 4 directions to remove national permitted development rights should be limited to situations where this is necessary to protect local amenity or the well-being of the area (this could include the use of Article 4 directions to require planning permission for the demolition of local facilities). Similarly, planning conditions should not be used to restrict national permitted development rights unless there is clear justification to do so.

The council has a number of Article 4 Directions covering the boroughs Conservation Areas and, at Mayor and Cabinet on 16th January, agreed the use of an Article 4 Direction on the borough's southern wards to tackle the issue of small HMO's.

When considering the use of an Article 4 Direction It is also essential to consider the Legal and financial risks to the council and the type of Article 4 Direction (immediate or non-immediate) which may be appropriate in any given circumstance.

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23 January 2019

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Mayor

Question

Has any progress been made contacting the owners of the Listed Livesey Hall War Memorial as promised?

Reply

The owners of the Memorial have been identified as Kier Property Developments Ltd and we have confirmed that they are responsible for its upkeep. Officers have both spoken and written to Kier on multiple occasions to request they provide details of their maintenance plans for the memorial. However, to date the Council has had no response. We will continue to chase Kier, as well as explore what options are available to the Council to ensure the Memorial's upkeep should they fail to provide an acceptable response.

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COUNCIL MEETING

23 JANUARY 2019

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities

Question

Is Lewisham Council aware of Gwenton Sloley's case against the Metropolitan Police and what involvement has the Council had with him? Are the Council aware of any safeguarding matters in relation to this case?

Reply

We are aware of reports that Mr Sloley is making a case against the Metropolitan Police. Mr Sloley worked as a consultant through an agency with the council in the violence reduction team. He worked directly to help those involved in serious violence.

Any safeguarding matters related to Mr Solely would be confidential to him and not something the Council would comment on.

The current situation is between Mr Sloley and the police, who I understand have provided him with the relevant information regarding complaints and legal options.

The Mayor and I are happy to speak to Mr Sloley directly if there are specific issues concerning the Council he would like to raise.