

PUBLIC QUESTION NO 1.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: David Britton

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

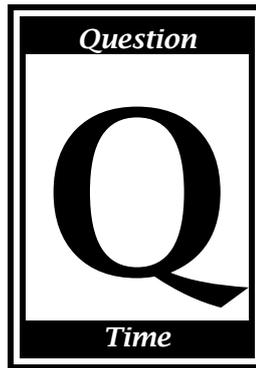
How much of Lewisham Housing is still in the hands of Lewisham Homes and what plans are there to complete the process of transferring properties to RSLs?

Reply

Lewisham Homes currently manage 12,267 tenanted properties and 5,139 leasehold properties.

Since Lewisham Homes was set up as the Council's Arms Length Management Organisation in 2007, there have been no stock transfers affecting the properties in their management. There are no current plans for further stock transfers.

The Council is committed to council housing and building new council homes.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 2.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Trina Lynskey

Member to reply: The Mayor

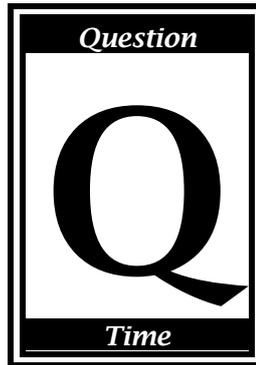
Question

Is the Mayor aware that The Grand Surrey Canal is an important part of Deptford's cultural heritage brought back into public use by the new 'Surrey Canal Linear Park' and the proposed opening of 'Canal Approach' walking and cycling route as part of the Mayor of London funded £2.9m Deptford Parks Liveable Neighbourhood project?

Will the Mayor commit to ensuring the proposed London Overground station at Surrey Canal Road is NOT called 'New Bermondsey' but by its originally intended name of 'Surrey Canal Road'?

Reply

I believe the name of the proposed London Overground station should match both the identity of the community already there and the development to come. The name of the proposed station will be part of the discussions with residents about the wider development, which will be consulted on later this year.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 3.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Rob Powell

Member to reply: Councillor Dacres

Question

I live on Brownhill Road between Wellmeadow Road and the crossroads with Verdant Lane and Hither Green Lane. Are you aware that there are no speed cameras on this section of the South Circular Road, despite there being several on the sections of the road to the West and East. This causes cars, lorries, buses and motorbikes to travel through this section of the road at speeds often in excess of 50 mph. This is exacerbated by the traffic lights at the Verdant Lane intersection as vehicles frequently speed through our section of Brownhill Road towards Lee in order to catch the lights at the crossroads. Likewise, vehicles travelling from Lee towards Catford frequently speed through the crossroads in order to make the lights and continue their excessive speed through our section of Brownhill Road. This poses obvious dangers for pedestrians crossing Brownhill Road from the Corbett Estate who are walking towards Hither Green station. I frequently see pedestrians stood in the central reservation of the South Circular being passed by lorries on both sides as they attempt to cross. There is no pedestrian crossing on the Catford side of the crossroad, meaning pedestrians wishing to cross Brownhill Road at the junction and walk in the direction of Hither Green Lane are forced to dodge traffic. Further to this, the lack of speed cameras and the excessive speeding on this stretch of the

road causes a significant amount of noise pollution for local residents. Paradoxically, this is often at its worst when the road is at its quietest. For example, late at night and in the early hours of the morning haulage lorries frequently drive through this section of the road at speeds in excess of 50mph. Not only does this cause significant noise pollution for residents who are trying to sleep, it also sends vibrations through the Victorian properties on the road. Our building rattles throughout the night and the vibrations can be felt whilst sleeping. We also have concerns about the impact of these vibrations on the structural integrity of our property.

Who is responsible for the installation of speed cameras on Brownhill Road between Wellmeadow Road and Verdant Lane? Is this the responsibility of the Council? If so, please may you install speed cameras on this section of Brownhill Road? If not, please can the Council lobby the appropriate authority to request speed cameras on this section? Can you confirm why there are several speed cameras on other stretches of Brownhill Road, but none on ours? Can you confirm the speed limit on this stretch of Brownhill Road? Please may you consider including Brownhill Road in Lewisham's blanket 20mph speed limit as soon as possible?

Reply

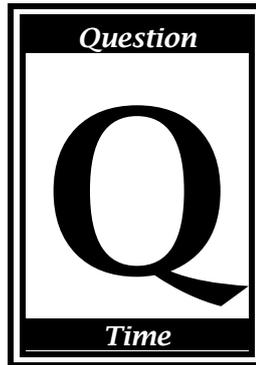
The south circular road A205 is part of the Transport for London road network (TLRN) and not under Lewisham Council's control. The current speed limit on the section of the south circular road referred to is 30mph.

LB Lewisham, Transport for London (TfL) and the Mayor of London are committed to delivering a Vision Zero approach to road danger reduction, to ultimately rid London's roads of death and serious injury.

Originally the provision of London's safety camera was under the jurisdiction of the London Safety Camera Partnership (LSCP). Following the end of the London Safety Camera Partnership in 2010, TfL has continued to fund, operate and maintain London's safety camera network, which helps prevent a significant number of deaths and serious injuries each year.

Historically, in order to prioritise resources, there was a London wide policy to only install speed cameras at locations with a history of four killed or serious injury collisions (KSI) in the preceding three year period, two of which must have been as a result of speeding. The criteria for introducing speed cameras are set so that the roads with the most concerning safety records can be addressed first. Safety cameras present along other stretches of Brownhill Road would have been installed following this criteria.

TfL is currently upgrading its cameras with new digital units, which means that no new safety camera sites are currently being considered for installation. However, once this renewal programme has been completed TfL will be considering new locations and is currently reviewing the method by which these sites will be prioritised.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 4.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: H Presley

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

Question

Is the Mayor aware that there are serious ongoing waste management issues at Housing 4 Women properties on Childers Street/Gosterwood Street? Is the Mayor aware that the unmanaged fly tipping and overfilling of refuse storage areas causes a fire risk? Has the Mayor seen the rats in the refuse storage area? Is the Mayor aware that Housing is a human right and these are homes for some of the most vulnerable women in our community? Can the Mayor explain why ward councillors have raised the issue with the MP instead of the council officers who have a duty to enforce environmental health? Is the Mayor satisfied with the current state of the ground floor units in these properties? Why hasn't the Council taken enforcement action? Will the Council take enforcement action? Why has the Council failed residents of Childers & Gosterwood Street since 2012?

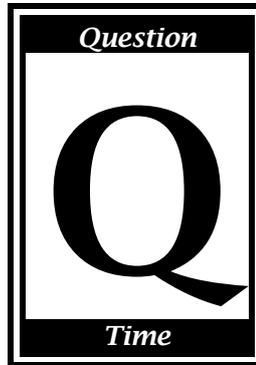
Do you think it is acceptable for Evelyn councillors to be stressed out due to a matter that has been growing for nearly 7 years?

Reply

The Council's Cleansing Enforcement Team is well aware of the issues of fly-tipping and household waste presentation regarding Housing 4 Women Properties at Childers Street and Gosterwood Street. The Council has taken action in relation to these issues. As a result of Council intervention Housing 4 Women are carrying out the following actions:

1. Regular ongoing waste inspections
2. Regular clearance of fly-tipping and overfilled bin storage areas
3. Sending newsletters to residents informing them of how to dispose of their waste correctly.

These locations are being monitored by Cleansing Enforcement on an ongoing basis. If further action becomes necessary then it will be taken without hesitation.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 5.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Shaka Anderson

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

The recent development at the Lewisham Tesco car park recently obtained initial planning permission from the council with a 4-3 vote. This development comes nowhere near the Mayor's manifesto commitment to 50% genuinely affordable housing with new developments in Lewisham as there is only 11% of social/affordable rent properties in this particular development. Can the Mayor provide assurances that he will stick to this manifesto pledge and that the Catford Regeneration Project will provide 50% of genuinely affordable homes of which, we believe that this should be all for social housing. We also need assurances that when these decisions are made, the residents of Catford will be included in having a say in this process by having of a ballot for these residents

Reply

Lewisham is facing the severe effects of a housing crisis, so it is vital we deliver the maximum number of genuinely affordable homes for residents so everyone has somewhere safe and secure to live.

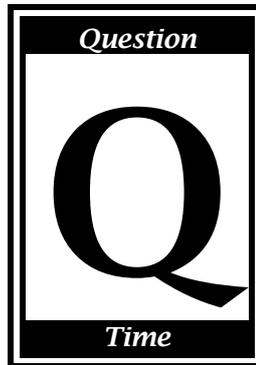
The Lewisham Labour manifesto in the 2018 local elections committed to a target of achieving 50% genuinely affordable homes in developer-led projects. This has been included in the Council's Corporate Strategy, taking it forward as a practical Council policy.

The Lewisham Labour manifesto also committed to introduce ballots on any estate regeneration scheme that includes replacing existing homes. This means that Council tenants and resident leaseholders in affected properties, in Catford and across Lewisham, will be balloted prior to any development plans that involve the demolition and replacement of existing Council homes.

Residents should have their say over the direction of the Catford Regeneration Project. Team Catford leads on this major community engagement project and has so far had over 200 hours of face-to-face engagement with residents and local businesses, with presence at the monthly Catford Broadway food market and pop-up shop Catford Cornucopia. It also issues quarterly community and businesses newsletters so that the local community is continually engaged and can have their say.

We have been encouraging residents to help shape the future of Catford town centre by contributing to an [interactive map](#) and submitting their views to hello@teamcatford.com and through social media channels.

Officers recently completed a workshop with local councillors to seek their views, and a formal consultation on the first draft masterplan is planned for September 2019. As with all Council consultations, it will be promoted widely to ensure residents' views are heard and considered.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 6.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: John Hamilton

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

Honor Oak Community Centre, of which I am a trustee, has been told that the building's ownership is being transferred from Lewisham Council to Lewisham Homes. We have been told that Lewisham Homes is consulting its tenants in the area on how much they use the centre.

In Autumn 2015 the previous administration threatened 23 community centres with closure with the declared aim of building much-needed council houses on the sites. A decision was made in 2015 to transfer the sites to Lewisham Homes.

Many of the community centres were given a 2-year reprieve as a result of the campaigns waged by residents and trustees and in the case of Honor Oak Community Centre the current cabinet member for housing denied, at the centre's AGM in 2017, that there had ever been a plan to close it and demolish (someone's memory at fault here!).

Since we have not been told of any new plans to demolish, please could you explain why it is necessary to transfer the building to Lewisham Homes? Which other community centres are being transferred? Are there plans to demolish any community centres in the near or medium term?

Reply

Honor Oak Community Centre located at 50 Turnham Road, London SE4 2JD is a Council-owned community building managed by Honor Oak Community Centre Association under a Premises Management Agreement. The organisation has an appointed management committee to oversee management responsibility in line with their Management Agreement.

Following the community assets review in 2015 the council is implementing the agreed changes to its portfolio of community buildings. This includes seeking alternative management for a number of buildings. The proposal is for management of the following five community centres to be transferred to Lewisham Homes.

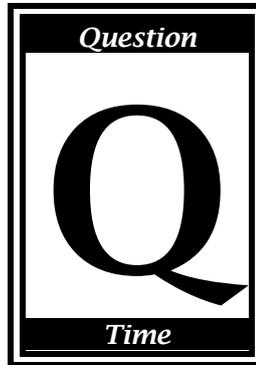
- Honor Oak Community Centre
- Evelyn Community Centre
- Scotney Hall
- Barnes Wallis
- 2000 Community Action Centre

This would form part of the management agreement between the Council and Lewisham Homes and will require Mayor and Cabinet approval.

In order to establish feedback on the transfer proposals, consultation is to take place with current management organisations, regular users and residents of the above centres.

Lewisham Homes have commenced consultation with residents and consultation with Premises Management Organisations and regular users will commence within the next few weeks.

There are no immediate plans to demolish any of the 5 centres, it was recommended that the Honour Oak Community and Youth Community space are earmarked for housing development with youth and community space. This was agreed to allow time for further consultation and design work be undertaken.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 7.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Geraldine Tompkins

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

I live at in Duncombe Hill, Honor Oak Park:

During the Second World War a Nazi Bomb dropped on to Nos: 1-3 Duncombe Hill. This caused destruction, carnage, severe damage and distress.

In later peace time, a little Green was established there. Consisting of trees, wild flowers, grass and TWO benches. The pathway is roughly designed as a Christian Cross. The sitting Areas are used constantly and lovingly by the nearby One Stop Hostel. Neighbours and residents love and respect this Area too. Also local school children use the Area. The trees are under a Tree Protection Order.

During your Election campaign, you promised not to allow Public Land to be sold to Developers or Profiteers. In May 2018 you were elected Mayor. The Land Registry

clearly states this land was sold on 12th June 2018. So six weeks after becoming Mayor you allowed land to be sold to Investor Alliance Ltd. of Luton. Please confirm the legality of this transaction. Where are your promises now?

Please contact Investor Alliance and tell them the Sale contravened Lewisham Council policy, and request a reverse transaction. Please instruct your officers who organise selling land, that it is not appropriate. Can disciplinary action be taken? Is this a broken promise very soon into your Leadership?

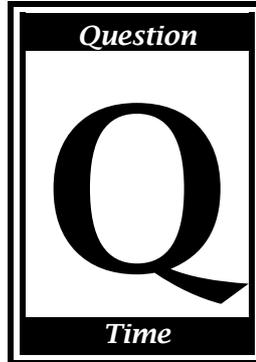
On 27th January 2019 high hoardings were erected round the Green. There are now two sets of high dangerously unlawful hoardings on this land, both contravening planning procedures. Your enforcement team seem to think it could take 9 months to take them all down. Please inform Investor Alliance that unless they are removed by 28th February, you have received notice from the residents of the Area that the green hoardings will be taken down. The brown ones also need removing. Please request that a missing bench is re-instated, and the grass made good.

Reply

The Council has never owned the site of 1 Duncombe Hill, which has been fenced off. We acquired the adjacent site of 3 Duncombe Hill in 1939, which remains in Council ownership.

I share residents' concern about the hoardings that have been erected without planning permission and the Council is urging the developer to remove it as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, the Council is unable to demand the fencing is taken down by 28th February as a result of planned unofficial action by residents to dismantle the hoardings. However, I assure you we are taking the proper steps to deal with this issue and fully appreciate the value the Green holds for residents.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 8.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Andrea Carey Fuller

Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

How many air pollution monitors does Lewisham Council have up around the Borough? Where are these located? How often is the data collected from these?

Please can the Council provide an up to date report on Air Pollution figures around the Borough, and say why it does not include this information in its Annual Monitoring Report as it directly relates to environmental reports for planning purposes. Please give individual numbers per ward.

Reply

There are 3 continuous monitoring locations, with plans for another site in the near future. They can be found at:

- Catford Town Hall

- 272 New Cross Road
- Loampit Vale, Lewisham

These monitoring locations are part of the London Air Quality Network and are accessible via the LondonAir website and Lewisham's site. The real-time data is available to view on these sites:

<http://www.londonair.org.uk/LondonAir/Default.aspx>

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/pages/air-quality-monitoring.aspx>

There are also 50 nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube locations across the borough. For details on reports for these see link:

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/pages/air-quality-monitoring.aspx>

These tubes are collected every month. This data is reported annually as they are used to measure the Nitrogen Dioxide Annual Mean. The diffusion tubes are bias adjusted through local and national adjustments. These reports are released as quickly as possible, but the data has to be compiled first. This means the reports are released early in the year All our monitoring data is used when reporting yearly to the GLA and DEFRA, where data is evaluated and prioritisation for actions reflect monitored levels, which are primarily used to validate modelling of air quality London wide and on a borough by borough basis.

You can view these reports on Lewisham's website:

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/Pages/Air-quality-reviews.aspx>.

For the last Annual Status report, which was released in April 2018 please see:

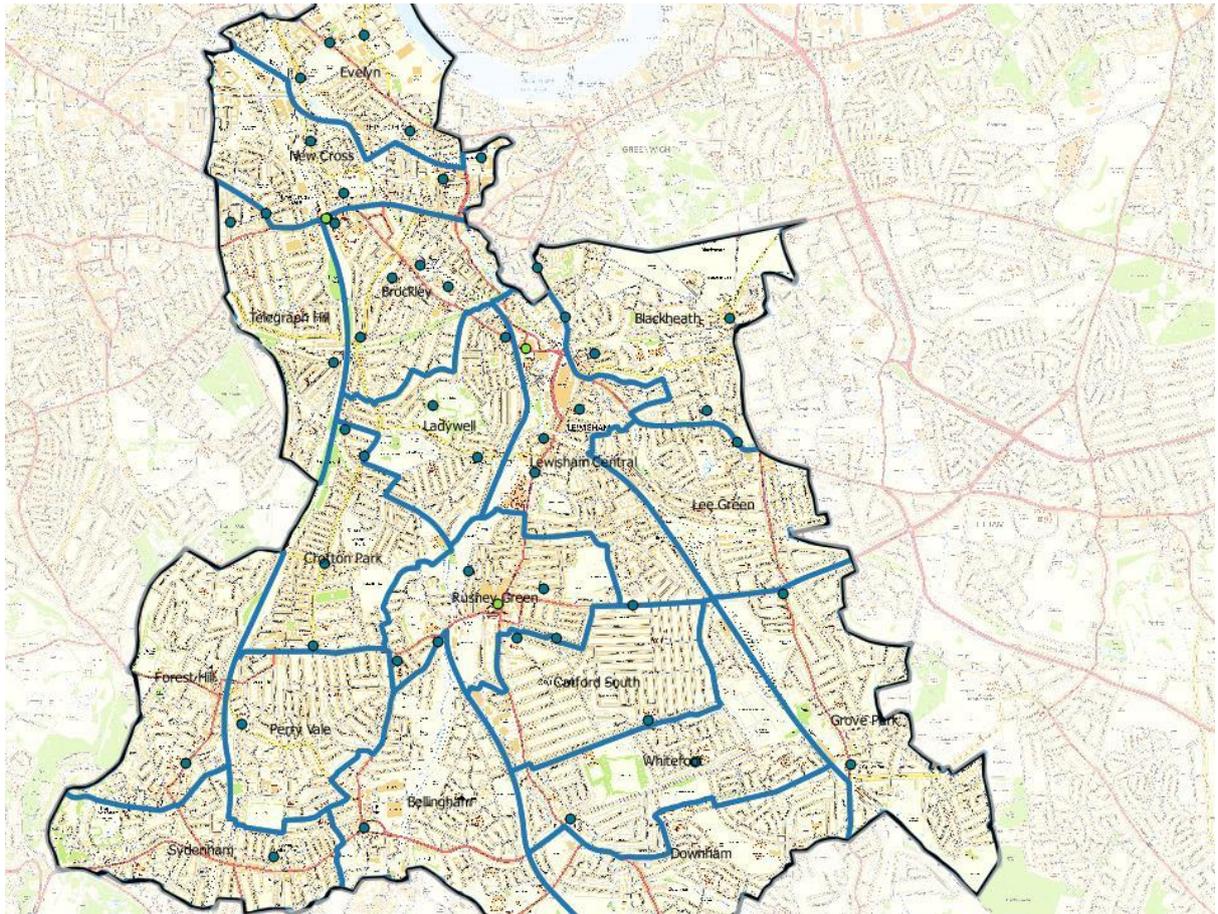
[https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/Documents/LB%20Lewisham%202018 ASR reporting on 2017.pdf](https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/Documents/LB%20Lewisham%202018%20ASR%20reporting%20on%202017.pdf)

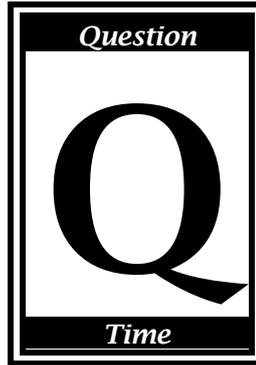
Currently air pollution isn't reported through the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). However, there is a process of reviewing the AMR and its contents to align with the monitoring outcomes in the Draft London Plan and the Council's emerging Local Plan, and the Council will consider this at that point.

You can also look at current levels are available by post code through the Lewisham Air website: <https://www.londonair.org.uk/LondonAir/nowcast.aspx> . Additionally, the Lewisham Air app can be downloaded via Google Play or Apple Store, which provides all the current air quality data by location

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/Pages/Download-our-air-quality-app.aspx> . Both of these options provide modelled air quality data which is updated against the real time monitoring data across London.

Please see image below which gives an overview of the monitoring locations by Ward:





PUBLIC QUESTION NO 9.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Matt Barker

Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

Will the London Borough of Lewisham consider declaring a climate emergency and therefore enact decarbonisation policies, such as using renewable energy, improving energy efficiency in buildings and improving walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure?

Reply

At the Full Council meeting on the 27th February Lewisham Council is due to consider a motion on a Climate Emergency proposed by Cllr Tauseef Anwar and Cllr Louise Krupski.

This motion calls for a number of measures for the Council to take if it is passed by Full Council including:

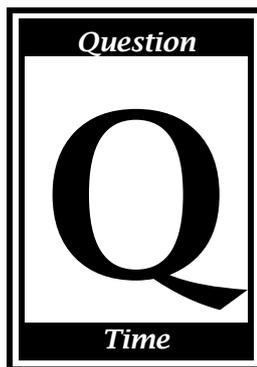
- Declare a climate emergency
- Pledge to do everything within the Council's power to make Lewisham carbon neutral by 2030

- Launch a review, and report to Mayor & Cabinet, on delivering a Zero-Carbon Lewisham
- Task an executive director with responsibility for reducing carbon emissions from the Council's activities

The Council takes the issue of climate change seriously and has a range of existing policies in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as air pollution in Lewisham.

Lewisham's recycling rate has significantly increased in recent years and have recently rolled out food waste collection for the first time. Between July-October 2017 to 2018 the percentage of household waste sent for recycling, composting or re-use increased by 280%.

At the heart of Lewisham's Draft Transport Strategy and Local Implementation Plan 2019-2041 (LIP3) is improving walking, cycling and public across the whole Borough. We adopted a 'Healthy Streets' approach that will help create a transport network that is safe and inclusive for all, which will encourage a good public transport experience. We will also continue to support and promote the Back the Bakerloo Campaign to extend the Bakerloo Line to Lewisham and through to Hayes.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 10.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Janet Hurst

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

Question

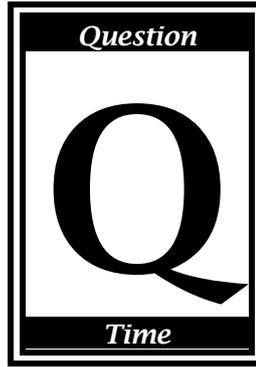
Are you aware that there is a fly-tipping 'hot spot' at the end of Haddington Road, BR1, close to the junction with Oakridge Road? Some time ago a temporary CCTV camera was installed in an attempt to deter / identify perpetrators. Is this camera still operating, and, if not, could it please be re-instated? Has anyone been prosecuted for fly-tipping at this location?

One way of reducing flytipping in the southern end of the borough would be to provide local facilities for disposal of bulky waste. Are there any plans to do this? Driving to Landmann Way from BR1 involves a round trip of at least an hour and a half, and a significant amount of fuel, so is hardly environmental. Alternatively, could Lewisham negotiate an arrangement with Bromley Council for residents in the southern wards to use their facilities at Waldo Road or Churchfields free of charge? These locations are only about 15 minutes' drive away.

Reply

The Council's Cleansing Enforcement Team previously placed a re-deployable CCTV camera at Haddington Road, BR1 as part of a pilot scheme in the Whitefoot/Downham area. The camera was somewhat successful in deterring fly-tipping at a previously identified low level hotspot within Haddington Road. The camera is now deployed at another location as part of the pilot and cannot be re-deployed back at Haddington Road at this time.

There have been no prosecutions in relation to fly-tipping at Haddington Road, BR1. There was an enforcement notice served regarding fly-tipping on private land there last year, but no other incidents have come to the attention of Cleansing Enforcement during the past 12 months.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 11.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Patrycja Borecka

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Following on from the 'Public Question No7' from the previous council meeting about homes completed to a habitable standard, the answer was:

2013/2014 928 homes
2014/2015 1776 homes
2015/2016 1702 homes
2016/2017 1781 homes
2017/2018 awaiting report

I would like a breakdown of exactly what type of properties were completed: number of council flats, properties for housing associations and private housing, within the period from 2013/2014-2017/2018. Also as it has been claimed that by 2022/2023 Lewisham Council will try to deliver 1000 council flats I would like to know more information (could be in draft form) about the locations, the number of flats/houses planned to be built and what facilities, such as nurseries, GP surgery and outdoor green spaces including playgrounds, will be provided.

Reply

The following table summarises the number of new housing units delivered in Lewisham by main tenure type.

This information is drawn from the London Development Database (LDD), which enables development data to be organised by main tenure type. However, owing to LDD functionality, we are unable to provide specifics regarding ownership in the affordable housing category (i.e. whether public/council or housing association).

| New housing units delivered by tenure type in Lewisham | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>2013-14</i> | <i>2014-15</i> | <i>2015-16</i> | <i>2016-17</i> | <i>2017-18</i> |
| <i>Social rent</i> | 45 | 273 | 157 | 110 | 1 |
| <i>Affordable rent</i> | 119 | 13 | 5 | 98 | 5 |
| <i>Intermediate</i> | 60 | 164 | 49 | 119 | 33 |
| <i>Private</i> | 528 | 1,018 | 1,322 | 1,227 | 450 |

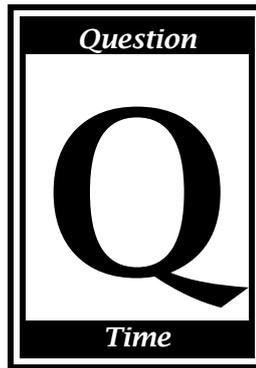
Source: London Development Database / Lewisham AMR

Note: Table is set out in financial years (i.e. 1st April to 31st March). The figures are for new build developments only. It does not include 'vacant homes brought back into use' through targeted enforcement action, which for monitoring purposes, is factored towards overall housing delivery figures.

The Council is committed to delivering 1000 social homes of varying sizes and types; these will not all be flats. We have a pressing need for larger family accommodation and where we can provide houses to meet these demands, we will endeavour to do so.

The process of site selection and due diligence has resulted in a number of development opportunities to be progressed to help meet this objective. These are currently being considered by Councillors and we will look forward to sharing this more widely in the coming weeks.

Feasibility on these sites is still at an early stage and until we have full design teams appointed, we will not know exactly what non-residential features may come forward. We are committed to ensuring that we do not just develop bricks and mortar; must build communities and improve the surrounding areas both in terms of public realm and where, required, social infrastructure.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 12.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

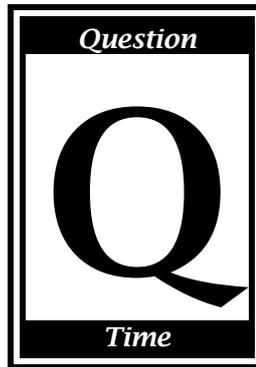
Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

Question

Please explain how residents of Downham coming into Beckenham Place Park in the east can access the woods from the railway bridge, given the only path has been wrecked by earth moving vehicles with consequent large areas of mud and puddles?

Reply

The unmade path from the railway bridge to the woods remains open but like many of the unmade paths in the park it becomes muddy, particularly following rainy weather. The landscape contractors carrying out work in this area are doing their best to keep the route free from mud during their work in this location.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 13.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Andrew Tonge

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

Question

Beckenham Place Park Regeneration

Given that the apparent ground works prime contractor, ID Verde, has received payment from the council of £721,050 between April and November 2018, yet does not appear on the London Tenders Portal Contracts database, will the Council please advise what contracting arrangement is in place, what the contract value is and what the scope of the contract is? An explanation as to why the contract does not appear on the data base is also required.

This contractor has received substantial payments from the Council and has clearly started many tasks, but seems incapable of finishing works and restoring public access. Given that many paths and other works are substantially complete, will the Council please explain why these incomplete works have been abandoned with resultant severe constraints on accessibility for park users and why the Council Project Manager seems incapable of controlling the contractor?

Will the Council please explain how value for money and contract compliance is assured? Noting the substantial payments, particularly in November 2018, (£235,600), will the council please explain how such sums are justified when the work is characterised by intermittent working, extremely low staff numbers on task and incomplete work?

Reply

Idverde were appointed to deliver landscape works as part of the plans for the regeneration of Beckenham Place Park. This includes soft and hard landscaping in the park landscape including: lake construction, gardens restoration, play provision, new car park, restoration of mansion carriage drive, mounded garden, removal of golf course features, entrance improvements, new path creation and old path restoration. They are appointed under a JCT contract with a contract sum of £2,362,377. The details of the contract award have not yet been completed on the tender portal.

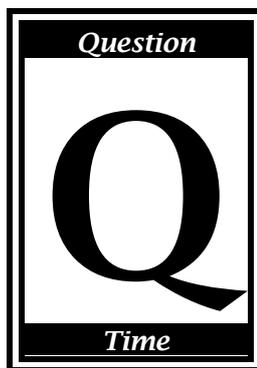
Landscape works have had to pause during the course of the contract for different reasons. For example, we had to pause work on the lake when contamination was discovered until further sampling and laboratory analysis was undertaken and the planning department had agreed our remediation strategy. We have also paused work in the formal gardens following the discovery of similar contamination.

The new network of paths that runs through the park has been substantially completed, but because access is still needed to certain areas breaks are left in the paths at key locations so that heavy machinery can continue to be moved to where it is needed. These small sections of path will be completed once heavy machinery is no longer required. Similarly, while the excavation and build-up of the new car park was completed early in the contract, that area is then used as the main works compound until near the end of the works before the finishing details are completed.

Landscape works are weather dependant because the movement of heavy machinery when the ground is wet can cause damage or because seeding and planting can only be undertaken at certain times of the year. Newly seeded and planted areas also require a period of establishment before they can be reopened for public access. It is for this reason that staff numbers on site are sometimes low with the contractor redirecting staff to sites where weather is less critical to progress.

The project team and the contractor are working hard to ensure that disruption is minimised and access routes are maintained during these essential works.

Value for money and contract compliance is routinely monitored through weekly site meetings to review the work programme. The team's quantity surveyor reviews all applications for payment from the contractor and certifies the work that has been carried out and the payment that is due under the contract.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 14.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Member to reply: Mayor

Question

Further to the reply to Public Question 37, asked at the Council meeting in November 2018, please state:

(a) what further feedback, if any, that Lewisham Council has received from Barratt Homes

(b) when is the Catford Masterplan expected to be completed?

(c) what is the value of the S106 Agreement that Barratt Homes are obliged to hand over or allocate for transport improvements in the Catford area, which has not yet been allocated

Reply

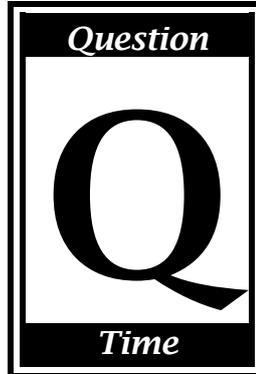
Following the Council's response to Barratt London's letter in June 2018, it has received a letter from Barratt London raising concerns that their abortive costs might

be capped below what they expended. The Council is currently considering its position and will be responding shortly.

The S106 Agreement for Catford Green contains a number of contributions, the largest of which is a footbridge contribution which becomes payable if Barratt London do not themselves deliver the footbridge. The contribution amounts to £2 million, minus abortive costs (for project management, legal fees, Network Rail fees, S278/38 costs and demolition), which Barratt London have suggested is £484,463. I have instructed officers request a greater amount in order to maximise improvements to the area.

The S106 agreement states that, if the footbridge contribution becomes payable to the Council, it is required to take reasonable endeavours to install the footbridge itself. It is not obliged to incur costs in excess of the net footbridge contribution. If the Council finds it is unable to deliver the footbridge, the S106 can be used for station improvement purposes and other infrastructure improvements in the surrounding development area.

A full public consultation on the draft Catford Masterplan is planned for September 2019. As with all Council consultations, it will be promoted widely to ensure residents' views are heard and considered.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 15.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Dr Julia Galliers

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

We are a group of Lewisham residents who believe as a Borough we should live up to our long proud history of welcoming refugees. We would like to thank Lewisham Council for their brilliant work supporting refugees in recent years, in particular signing up to the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

Are you aware that this year marks the 80th Anniversary of the Kindertransport, the scheme through which Britain welcomed 10,000 child refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe on the eve of World War Two? This anniversary marks the best of what Britain is about.

With Lewisham's Mayoress being a former child refugee who arrived on the Kindertransport in 1939 it seems only appropriate that our Borough lives up to the spirit of the Kindertransport and continues to provide sanctuary for people fleeing persecution.

We are part of the charity Safe Passage's national Our Turn campaign, led by Lord Alf Dubs, asking local authorities across the country to pledge places for the child refugees of today, to carry forward the legacy of the Kindertransport. By pledging these places, Lewisham will join councils across the country in showing Central Government that it must step up and provide full funding for the children's resettlement.

Will you agree to build on the legacy of the Kindertransport by pledging 50 places over the next 10 years – 5 children a year - for at-risk child refugees from Europe and the crisis hit regions?

This is supported by 20 Lewisham residents.

Reply

Like you, I am proud of this borough's history of providing a place of safety and welcome to refugees. With fourteen refugee families resettled in the borough over the past two years and a target of 100 more families by 2022 we aim to support many more children and their families in making Lewisham the leading borough in London for refugee resettlement.

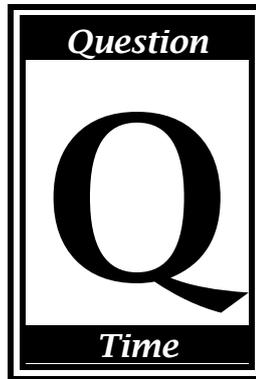
In addition to the children resettled with their families as part of this programme, the Council has strongly supported Lord Alf Dubs' long campaign for the UK to welcome more unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC).

In October 2016, following the closure of the Calais "Jungle", Lewisham offered the Home Office 23 care places for UASCs who were "Dubs Children" ie UASCs with no pre-existing family connection to the UK, but only one had been allocated to Lewisham by February 2017 when the then Home Secretary claimed that local authorities were unable to accept UASCs.

Currently, the Council's Children and Young People's Service are caring for just over 100 unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and care leavers (UASCL) 50 UASCs and 52 UASC care leavers (UASCL) and are currently undertaking a project which aims to increase our in-house fostering placements for UASC's and enhance the overall service we provide to vulnerable asylum seeking children.

These numbers mean that Lewisham currently exceeds the Home Office quota of 48 UASCs under National Transfer Scheme and the London Rota, which are important mechanisms for ensuring that all councils play their part. Nevertheless, we are looking at ways in which we may be able to support additional places in future and I would be happy to share any plans we may make in this regard.

More generally, work is ongoing with partners across Lewisham to build on our offer to refugees and asylum seekers. We continue to seek to provide as much support as we can to all those fleeing conflict and persecution, and this is at the core of our aspiration to become a borough of sanctuary, protecting the rights of all migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 16.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Ms M Taylor

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

What is the present timing, method location and progress to date of the "feasibility study" the Council have committed to in relation to the Library Services?

Will the feasibility study be covering the present Local Studies Archival Centre as part of the library service or is it investigating the feasibility of alternative arrangements?

Is the council preparing to undertake the safeguarding of the local studies archival materials regardless of their decision on public libraries (This is in light of what has happened in Greenwich Borough with their local history archives)?

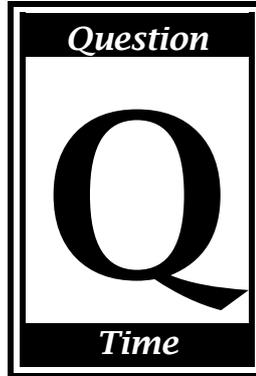
Will the feasibility study cover the needs and new guidelines on use of the library service as a front line provider of minimal required digital skills need for social inclusion expected from central and London government guidelines in 2019?

Reply

The feasibility study will present the options for the redevelopment of the central library building in Lewisham. The report will also address a number of issues, including the future of the provision for the Archives and Local History Service.

The approach that Lewisham is taking in relation to the Archives has no link to any other changes to neighbouring boroughs' provision.

The position of the council has not changed in relation to expressed recognition that public libraries are the interface between the local authority and residents, particularly in relation to the digital agenda. In this context, the council reaffirms the value that libraries contribute to promoting digital inclusion since 1996.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 17.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Gwenton Sloley

Member to reply: Councillor Reid

Question

Has Lewisham Council got an information sharing policy to protect Lewisham Council staff when passing over information regarding gang activity and murders to the police if the staff members also live in Lewisham?

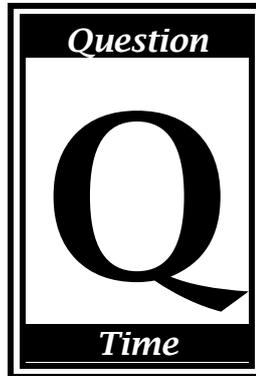
Could I have a copy of the Councils information sharing between Lewisham Council and the police to protect staff being groomed by Lewisham Police to give intelligence regarding murder and other serious crimes?

Reply

There is an information sharing protocol between public sector parties that allows for information to be discussed/shared for crime enforcement purposes, covered by S31 of the Data Protection Act 2018. However there is no information sharing policy/document between the police and the Council that specifically refers to the protection of staff who are required to share confidential information as part of their role.

If any officer feels that they are at risk as a result of information sharing their respective manager would be expected to deal with this directly, using normal employment principles.

The Council, as an employer, takes its health and safety responsibilities towards staff seriously. Assessing risk is an integral part of workforce planning and is therefore reviewed regularly.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 18.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Carol Spurling

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

What are the arrangements and who is responsible for keeping the area in front of the Manor House library tidy and free from rubbish? There are china cups, which have been there since before Christmas, at the edge of the path and in the undergrowth on both sides of the entrance next to Pentland House and bottles/cans and plastic bags in the undergrowth and storage space for leaves. A neighbour, who lives directly opposite the library, clears the empty bottles and rubbish off the wall nearly every day because she is fed up with having to look at the mess from her window.

Are there any plans to deal with the pot-holes on the entrance drive? These were filled in some months ago but have gradually reappeared. They are very dangerous,

both to cars and pedestrians, because they're impossible to see when they're full of leaves and it's dark.

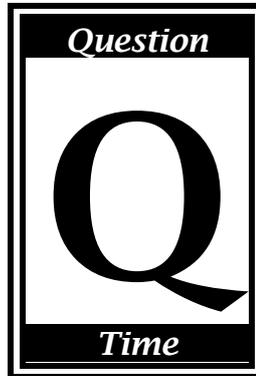
Reply

The Manor House tenant, V22, are responsible for the running and maintenance of the building and grounds, but not for the pavement and road.

They have a volunteer who clears the bottles and cans every week. V22's caretaker also clears rubbish regularly from the pathways and lawn.

However, V22 report that Pentland House residents sit on the wall and congregate long after the building is closed. Their behaviour frustrates our tenant who keep facing the same issues again and again. We will report this behaviour to Pentland House management.

We are looking into the issue raised regarding pot holes on the entrance drive.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 19.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

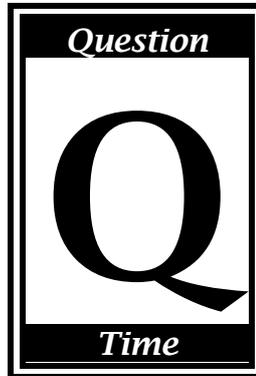
Rumours abound in the London Borough of Lewisham that the Council's financial support of the Freedom Pass may be withdrawn. Clearly, this would be a move which would adversely affect countless numbers of elderly Borough inhabitants who have devoted their voting lives to returning a Labour Council at periodic local elections. Loss of The Freedom Pass (London Councils) is regarded by many as a genuine 'life-line'. Can the Council confirm that the rumours are entirely false, or that plans to withdraw financial support of The Freedom Pass are being seriously considered?

Reply

There are two types of Freedom Passes that the Council is responsible for awarding, mandatory passes for elderly and disabled residents and discretionary ones awarded to residents using our own local criteria.

Those awarded to elderly and disabled residents are subject to statute and partially funded by Transport for London. The Council would not legally be able to withdraw this concession.

Discretionary passes are subject to our own criteria and funded by the Council. This scheme could be amended or withdrawn or the qualifying criteria amended, any of which would influence the numbers receiving the concession and therefore the cost. However, this has been considered in the past and rejected and there is no plan to highlight this in future as a potential financial saving to the Council.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 20.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

National government and local government continue to increase service coverage for the public through use of IT/computers/technology, the policy known as "digital by default."

Some members of the public will visit/contact their local library service in order to deal with such coverage as they may not have the skills or equipment to do so as an individual.

The community libraries in Lewisham are largely staffed by volunteers, so, how does the council ensure that the volunteers trained and equipped to cope with the public? What is the level of training given? How are questions of data protection and confidentiality allowed for under any training given? If this is given by the community library provider who monitors and sanctions such training?

The hub libraries have trained library staff on duty, but not at all times. How can the public be catered for under such circumstances?

On the subject of training volunteers for the library service, is there a course provided by the council to ensure a good level of service? If not who trains the library volunteers and who monitors the training given to ensure it is adequate in providing a decent public service?

Reply

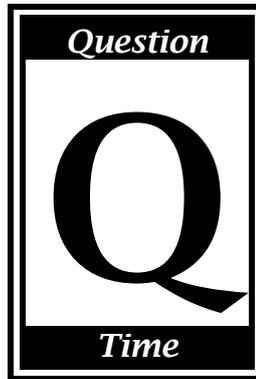
The relationship between the council and partner organisations in the community libraries is regulated by a document that deals with the building and one that relates to the library service provision from the premises.

There is no contractual link between the council and the partner organisation specifically dealing with the IT provision or training support. However, many partner organisations are very active in supporting local residents' access services online.

In this context, each organisation provides staff and volunteers with the training they require, including digital skill training.

The issues of data protection and confidentiality that apply to the council apply to the organisations as well, particularly following the implementation of GDPR. Voluntary organisations are very aware of this.

Although there is no contractual agreement, the Council does, however, offer bespoke training to the staff and volunteers in the community. However, typically, this might be a "refresher" course to help them support regular programmes such as the Summer Reading Challenge or the induct staff into new developments such as the new Library Management System.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 21.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Dr. Alice R. Corble

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

In a letter from Cllr Jonathan Slater on 8th February 2019 Save Lewisham Libraries Campaign were informed that a report is being drafted for the Mayor in the form of a feasibility study for a new or refurbished Lewisham Library building. We now know that Feilden Clegg Bradley architects and WSP engineers are already being consulted on the formation of this report, which indicates a brief for a new library has already been proposed.

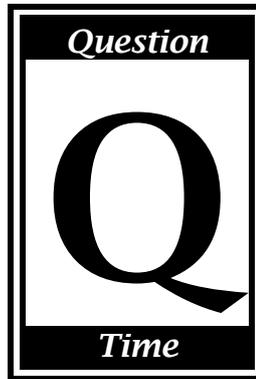
At the full council meeting on 21st November 2018 (having listened to our evidence presented as library professionals, academic experts and campaigners) Mayor Egan assured myself and Caroline Jupp that Save Lewisham Libraries campaigners would

be engaged in dialogue on this feasibility study. However, we have not so far been invited to be part of this process. In the spirit of democratic openness and transparency that is so important to this cabinet, can the Mayor confirm when we will be invited to consult on the particulars of the feasibility study? We ask that this is done in advance of the final report due in May so that we can have active input into the process.

Reply

At this initial stage, the consultants are required to evaluate a number of very high level options.

However, once the report to the Mayor is complete there will be an opportunity for the public to express their views before any decision is taken on the report's recommendations. The Save Lewisham Libraries Campaigners will be contacted directly at that stage.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 22.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Anthony Crowther

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

The Council website states that the Council are:

"working with other public services providers in Lewisham, including the NHS and the emergency services, as well as other London boroughs to minimise any impact of the UK leaving the EU with no withdrawal agreement ('no-deal' Brexit)"

Could you outline what specific actions the Council has taken to prepare for a no-deal Brexit?

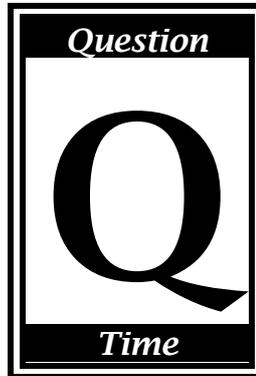
Reply

Lewisham Council is taking active steps to prepare for the local impact of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union on 29 March 2019. The various actions being undertaken, by the Council, are being co-ordinated in concert with other London local authorities, through the London Resilience Forum (LRF). The Council is in regular contact with the LRF and is being kept informed of the latest London wide Brexit emergency planning arrangements. The Council is also heavily engaged with the Borough's own Resilience Forum, which includes key local partners such as the Police, London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service and the South London and Maudsley (SLAM) NHS Trust.

A summary of the action taken to date includes:

- An officer Co-ordination Group has been established to oversee preparations.
- Preparations include Council services reviewing technical guidance, where available from Government to plan for Brexit.
- The Council has established a dedicated webpage on the impact of Brexit. This is being regularly updated so that local residents have access to the latest information on areas such as the Government's settled status scheme, for EU nationals wishing to remain in the UK.

The Council through the London Resilience Forum, has raised several issues with the Government regarding post Brexit arrangements. For example, the powers and remit of the new bodies that will replace EU institutions in areas like trading standards and the timetable for new legislation affecting a range of Council services.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 23.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Richard Hebditch

Member to reply: Amanda de Ryk

Question

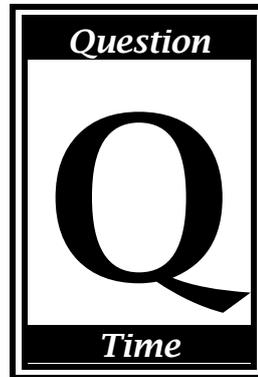
What targets and performance indicators are there as part of Lewisham's Income Generation Strategy?

Reply

The Income Generation Strategy itself has no specific targets attached to it.

This is because income generation is cross-cutting and is driven and delivered by the services themselves. The strategy describes the Council wide overarching principles, processes and culture which will assist in the successful delivery of these by the services.

The strategy sets out the governance and monitoring arrangements (which dovetail into the existing performance and approvals processes) and this will be used to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the strategy. For example; a number of the cuts proposals (see Mayor & Cabinet report of the 21 November 2018) were about services generating income rather than cutting costs.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 24.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Jacqueline Utley

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Why has no option for infill or refurbishment and landscaping to improve the Achilles Street area ever been presented or discussed with residents, businesses and community groups directly affected by the 'regeneration' proposals?

Reply

In 2014 the Council did develop proposals for an infill scheme in the Achilles Street area that would have provided 22 new homes. This infill development was presented to residents on Achilles Street, and other local people in June 2014. Information

about these infill proposals were also discussed with residents at consultation events concerning the more comprehensive redevelopment proposals during 2016 and 2017.

Through the continuing consultation with residents on the estate, there are a number of recurring issues being reported about their current homes:

- Issues with recurrent damp due to poor insulation.
- Lack of accessibility due to either very small lifts in Austin and Fenton House, or absence of lifts at 363 New Cross Road and Azalea House.
- Issues with traffic and parking.

There is a chronic shortage of social housing available for people in housing need in Lewisham, at the moment there are just under 10,000 families in priority need on the housing register waiting to be securely housed in a suitable property in Lewisham. Almost 2000 families are currently in temporary accommodation including 600 in nightly paid accommodation. A similar situation is repeated across London.

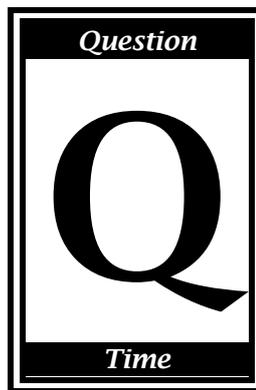
As well as often being of poor quality and unstable for families in housing need, temporary accommodation creates a cost pressure to the Council's general fund that has averaged £2.3m for the past 3 years. The number of families in temporary accommodation continues to grow.

To help address this acute housing need the Council is building new homes across the borough, both with the Council's own resources and through working with Lewisham Homes and other housing partners. The Council submitted 501 new social homes for planning by March 2018, which are now being delivered across the borough and is now working to deliver a further 1000 new social homes by 2022.

The Council is proposing the full redevelopment of the Achilles Street estate. We will build significantly more than the 22 social rented homes that the infill proposal could have provided. We will also address the issues that current residents are reporting by delivering high quality, accessible modern homes, providing new public spaces and space for local businesses.

As agreed by Mayor and Cabinet on the 12th December 2018, a ballot will be held on Achilles Street estate, so that residents will be able to decide whether the redevelopment proposals should go ahead or not.

We are talking to all of the residents to make sure that our proposals meet their needs and will deliver the new homes that they need, as well as helping Lewisham to address the Housing Crisis.



ED R & R
PUBLIC QUESTION NO 25.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Nicola Johnson

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

The open green space at the junction of Brockley Rise and Duncombe Hill SE23 1QY ("the Land") was purchased by Investor Alliance Limited ("IAL"), a property investment company, on 20 June 2018. Until the weekend of 26/27 January 2019, when a fence was erected around the Land closing it off from public access, the Land was accessible to and used by the public and was maintained by Lewisham

Council.

1. When was the Land first sold by Lewisham Council to a private owner? What were the terms of the contractual arrangement between the Council and the private owner (and its successors) regarding maintenance of the Land and public access to the Land?
2. Five of the trees on the Land are protected by a Tree Preservation Order dated 9 November 2018. Will the Council be confirming this TPO to ensure long term protection of the trees?
3. Why was the previous TPO, issued in May 2018, not confirmed by the Council?
4. Why did the Council issue a TPO on the trees on the Land for the first time in May 2018?
 - a. Is any of the land forming the green space at this junction owned by Lewisham Council? If so, please can you provide a plan which clearly identifies the land that the Council still owns?
5. The Lewisham Development Management Local Plan (DMLP) dated 26 November 2014 sets out the Council's planning policies for managing development in the London Borough of Lewisham. Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 makes clear that determination of planning applications must be made in accordance with the DMLP unless material considerations indicate otherwise. On page 176/177 of DMLP, Lewisham Council lists the Land (which is clearly delineated with ID ref 63 on the Policies Map) as a London Square protected by the London Squares Preservation Act 1931, which prevents development on the Land. Has the Council made IAL aware that the Land is a protected London Square upon which development is not permitted? Will the Council confirm that it will ensure that the provisions of the London Squares Preservation Act 1931 are fully complied with so that the Land is protected from development?

Reply

The Council has never owned the site of 1 Duncombe Hill, the site which has been fenced off. We acquired the adjacent site of 3 Duncombe Hill, along with 6 Duncombe Hill in 1947 under the Local Government Act 1939, which remains in Council ownership. The Council had an agreement dating back to 1968 with the London and Provincial Poster Group, the then-owners of 1 Duncombe Hill, in which is paid 5p a year for the use of land as an advertising hoarding. The land continued to be used as an advertising hoarding, most recently by JC Decaux until they were sold the site to the current owner Investor Alliance limited.

I share residents' concern about the hoardings that have been erected without planning permission and the Council is urging the developer to remove it as soon as possible.

The provisional Tree Preservation Order (TPO) made on 9th November 2018 is in the process of being confirmed. Most TPOs are provisional and lapse after six months unless local authorities confirm them, which we are working towards.

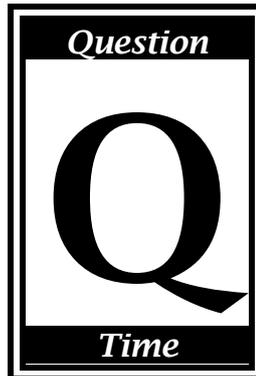
The previous TPO on six trees, on 10th May 2018, was not confirmed when it became clear there was not a clear boundary on the eastern side of the land sold at auction. Five of those TPO trees are on land sold at auction and one tree remains in Council ownership.

The TPO in May 2018 was made in response to local residents' concerns about the forthcoming auction sale of the green open space, the auction particulars referred to the land as a 'development opportunity'. This meant a TPO was urgently required to be served on the owners and auction house prior to the auction sale, in order to preserve the trees in the area.

The plan below identifies the location of the land owned by the Council in the vicinity (identified in orange).



Lewisham's Development Management Local Plan refers to the Brockley Hill Trust Gardens, which are protected by the Brockley Hill TPO made in 1973. It is a private trust garden land surrounded and enclosed by properties on Duncombe Hill, Brockley View, Lowther Hill and Brockley Rise. We will make clear to Investor Alliance Limited that the land is protected and cannot be developed on.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 26.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Rosalind Huish

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

With regards to councillor casework:

- does the council use an end to end case management system for casework
- what is the number of casework items per ward for the last 12 months
- and how is casework monitored - both for resolutions and outcomes?

Reply

Does the council use an end to end case management system for casework?

The Council uses a system called iCasework which allows staff to manage not only casework, but also complaints, and Information Requests (Subject Access Requests, Freedom of Information Requests, etc). In terms of Members casework, they have a facility which allows them to log their enquiries via a dedicated online portal. The portal sends an automatic notification to the Casework and Complaints Team as soon as any casework is submitted, which allows staff to pick up the case. Staff can then ensure the correct department provides information to enable a response to be sent to the Member, within the corporate 10 working day turnaround time.

What is the number of casework items per ward for the last 12 months?

Please see link to the most recent annual complaints report for data relating to wards and volume of cases for the 2017-18 financial year.

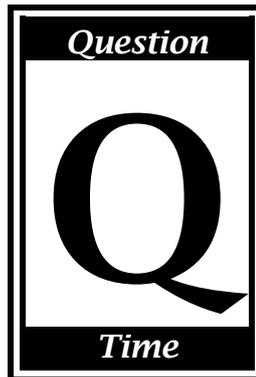
<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s61285/Annual%20Complaints%20Report%202017-18.pdf>

How is casework monitored - both for resolutions and outcomes?

The iCasework system allows the Casework and Complaints Team to monitor all casework to ensure that services return their information in a timely manner, and that a response is sent to Members within corporate timescales.

Members have access to their casework via the online portal and are able to monitor them to their conclusion.

Regular case management reports are run to ensure compliance with the timescales, and performance is reported to senior management teams on a monthly basis.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 27.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Heather Gilmore

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

In the rolling out of the Local Democracy Review, you promised a review of how residents, community groups and businesses can have a stronger say in local decisions to make our council even more democratic, open and transparent. What do you consider are the benefits or indeed impediments to increased democracy of an executive Mayoral system in realising this goal?

Reply

In July 2018, Full Council agreed to establish a Local Democracy Review Working Group (consisting of eight councillors) with the following Terms of Reference:

'To make recommendations to Council about how the Mayor and Council could:

- *Enhance their openness and transparency*
- *Further develop public involvement in Council decisions*
- *Promote effective decision-making'*

The key elements of the Working Group's methodology were also agreed:

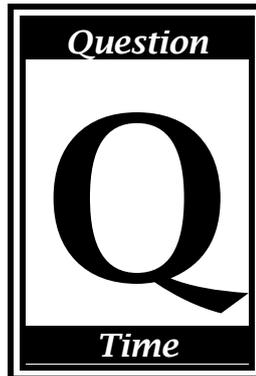
- a) A review of the Council's current arrangements to involve residents
- b) A review of the methods used by other authorities to involve residents
- c) A review of methods used by other authorities to promote openness and transparency in Council decision-making
- d) Consultation with Overview and Scrutiny members about how to develop councillor participation in the scrutiny process
- e) Engagement with the Local Assemblies programme to explore best practice and the role of Assemblies in engaging with residents
- f) Engage the public, especially members of the public who are less likely to be aware or able to participate in the review, and other stakeholders
- g) Consult Mayor and Cabinet on any recommendations made and formulate recommendations for full Council, which incorporate advice on all relevant implications (including equalities, environmental, service, financial, legal and any other relevant matters)

The Working Group is currently reviewing evidence from 705 individual responses to the Review questionnaire and over 40 public engagement events and is due to make recommendations at its meeting on 26 March 2019.

As for choice of council system of government, the Borough of Lewisham has had an elected executive Mayor alongside elected councillors since 2002. Lewisham Council held a referendum on adopting a directly elected Mayoral model in October 2001, with a majority voting in favour of an elected Mayor.

I believe that having a directly elected executive Mayor is more democratic. The whole borough votes on the leader of the Council, rather than the decision being made in private by councillors. Furthermore, political party members directly elect their Mayoral candidate. This model gives greater legitimacy and accountability for Lewisham residents.

Under whichever system a council may operate, it should be good practice to regularly examine how it can be made more democratic, open and transparent and I look forward to the Working Group's recommendations next month.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 28.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Andy Worthington

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Shortly after the last local election it was announced that Lewisham Council have identified 50 more sites for potential re-development in the borough. How can the public access information regarding these sites? Can you provide a link to the council portal where this information is held?

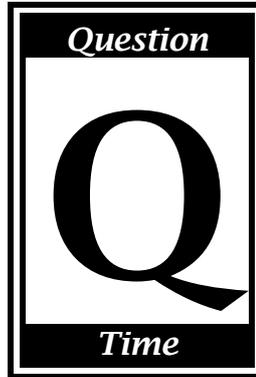
Reply

As part of the manifesto upon which the Mayor of Lewisham was elected in 2018, the Mayor pledged to deliver 1,000 new social homes. Since the election, the Council has been identifying what Council land could come forward for development in order to meet that pledge, and a number of sites have been identified as having potential for redevelopment. We have not yet taken a formal decision to confirm that these sites will be taken forward, however we intend to confirm the details of the programme in the Spring.

The Council, together with Lewisham Homes, the Council-owned housing company, are currently working on a website that the public will be able to use to locate sites and monitor progress of development.

It is imperative to focus on the human tragedy of not having a decent home in which to live in. The suffering caused by being homeless is immense and Lewisham Council is determined to provide homes for as many people and families as we can.

This administration believes that a decent, genuinely affordable and secure home is a human right. We are doing as much as we can, as fast as we can despite crippling austerity and a government that does not share our aspirations.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 29.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Anne Caron-Delion

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

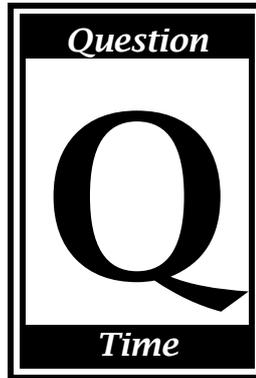
County Enforcements filmed volunteers and visitors to Tidemill Garden from the roof of the old Tidemill school from July 2018, when the meanwhile use of the garden was still in place. What have you found out about this in your internal investigation of the issue? Where is this footage held, how has it been used and has it been passed on to third parties?

Reply

County Enforcement have confirmed that any filming of the site only began in August, once notice had been served on the garden group and occupiers began to set up camp in the garden. The purpose of this filming was to monitor the numbers of people on the site, any buildings being erected and any obstructive equipment being put together prior to the eviction. All of this information was used by County Enforcement to enable them to put together their risk assessment of the site to ensure that the eviction could be carried out in the safest way possible.

All footage is stored in accordance with Data Protection and GDPR regulations. Footage held by the security company will not be published in the public domain

As a Council, we do not like having to evict people, whether they be Lewisham residents or not. It is always as a last resort. As you know, the scheme was granted planning permission by elected councillors in September 2017.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 30.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: H Presley

Member to reply: Councillor Reid

Question

What is being done about the increase in youth violence in Lewisham?

What support is there for victims of violent crime?

Despite the increase in muggings in New Cross, why did Lewisham Council fail to advise schools & parents?

What will Lewisham Council do to encourage victims to report violent crimes who are too scared due to fear of reprisals?

Will Lewisham Council install more CCTV around school routes so children can feel safer?

What action is Lewisham Council taking to make school children feel safer who fear the streets due to the increase in violent crimes in Lewisham streets?

Reply

We know the large scale damage and fear that violence causes communities and individuals and we must all do what we can to reduce and eliminate violence from our society. Serious violence is something the whole Council takes extremely seriously and through our corporate strategy we have set out the need for a public health approach to tackling youth violence to be adopted across the borough.

We are also keen to explore how we can improve our joint engagement with residents around incidents of violent crime and hearing from a wide range of stakeholders and residents to co design the solutions is an important part of this approach. To achieve this, I have launched a borough wide community dialogue to tackle serious violence.

Council officers work closely with Police colleagues and other partners to tackle all aspects of crime across the borough. While there has been an increase in street robbery in the New Cross area from November to January, the Police have been running proactive operations in this area to tackle the issue. This has included liaising with schools, through the schools police officers and these officers have been responsible for recent arrests in relation to street robbery. The Council communicates regularly with schools on a range of issues and support and advice on school or student safety is a key aspect of this. This support to schools can come either from regular dialogue with Council safeguarding officers, where schools can raise a range of concerns, through to direct contact with officers from the Council's Violence Reduction Team for specific advice on issues of student safety.

There are a range of services, some local to Lewisham and others more widely available, which support victims of violent crime. The Athena service, run by Refuge, provides confidential, non-judgmental support to those living in Lewisham who are experiencing gender-based violence. Officers from the Council's Violence Reduction Team, along with Police Officers, offer direct support to victims of youth violence and their families in Lewisham. Support to victims of violence is also offered through Victim Support Lewisham, the Safer London Foundation and by a wide range of youth and community support groups based in Lewisham.

The Council has commissioned Youth First, Lewisham's Youth Service, to deliver key workshops in all of Lewisham's secondary schools, offering advice and support pathways in relation to knife crime, drugs, online safety, bullying and healthy relationships.

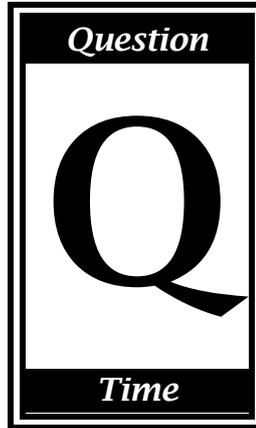
Lewisham Council has been working with Crimestoppers to support the promotion of www.Fearless.org. Fearless is Crimestoppers youth service aimed [at 11-16](#) year olds, which aims to increase awareness of the dangers surrounding street crime, drugs and violence. Fearless is a site where young people can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality. This site also provides a safe place to give information about crime - 100% anonymously.

The Council has also been working closely with the charity *FOR JIMMY* for the past year, to design safety conferences which bring together teachers and students from

local schools to meet with representatives of the Council, Police and local businesses to look at safety planning in specific locations based on the concerns and issues raised by the young people. *FOR JIMMY* also runs the Safe Havens Programme. A Safe Haven is a safe place young people can turn to if they feel they are in danger. Shops and businesses display a sticker that promises protection, building a safer community on the local high street. This scheme is supported by the Council and the Police.

The CCTV network across Lewisham is focused on the main thoroughfares and high streets. Whilst there is not CCTV coverage on all of the routes that may take children to school, the Council and the Police regularly review crime hotspot areas and where there is supporting evidence of criminal activities taking place, the Council can look to deploy temporary mobile CCTV Cameras to specific areas.

There is always more we can all do to protect children from harm and violence and I am keen to hear solutions of how we can all do this across the borough.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 31

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Andrea Carey Fuller

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

While the Cabinet Member for Housing is arranging for Deptford Neighbourhood Forum to meet with Peabody to discuss a positive way forward for Tidemill, could the Council push Sherry Green Homes and Peabody to develop the empty land site in Amersham Vale which received planning permission on 29th September 2016 to start building the 24 family homes that are so desperately needed?

There is no reason even though this site is 'linked' to Tidemill that work on building homes on Amersham Vale should not have already started and could begin now which would allow the Council more time to negotiate a better deal for land use on the Tidemill Site.

Both pieces of land are Council owned land - and the 24 family homes on Amersham Vale (which are maisonettes more suitable to family housing than apartments) could have already been built - especially given that Peabody state they are in a very strong financial position (unlike the Council or those needing homes) in their most recent financial report - stating that they have " a surplus of £175 million in 2017/18 (£180 million in 2016/17)".

Would you agree that it is fair that the Council should not be allowing Peabody or Sherry Green to sit on Amersham Vale just to make more cost savings when the human cost to those waiting for these 24 homes is more as are the interim temporary accommodation costs to the Council?

Reply

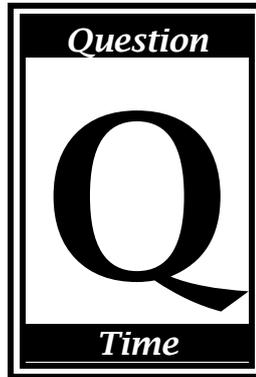
The Amersham Vale site will provide 120 new homes, 24 social homes, 15 homes for shared ownership and 81 for private sale, with the sale homes helping subsidise the overall scheme which includes the linked site at Tidemill.

Lewisham Council entered into a Development Agreement with Peabody (formerly Family Mosaic) and Sherrygreen Homes in September 2015 to develop both the Tidemill and Amersham Vale sites.

Although Sherrygreen are no longer included within the Tidemill site, they continue to be cited on the legal documents as the Development Agreement for the two sites are tied. For this reason, works were not able to begin on the housing at the Amersham Vale site until the outcome of the judicial review on the Tidemill site. However, work has been carried out on Amersham Vale as part of the scheme, providing the brand new Charlottenberg Park which opened to the public in 2016. The park includes a new playground, separate space for ball games, and in addition to new lawns and hedges, hundreds of new trees have been planted in the park.

As the judicial review has now been determined, work on the much needed new genuinely affordable homes can now finally commence on both the Amersham Vale and Tidemill sites which will be available to those households who desperately need them.

Given how long we all have been discussing, analysing and reviewing all and every aspect of the details of this scheme, we must start work enabling the building of these homes. In line with the manifesto we were elected on, The Mayor and I are focused on delivering an increase in social homes in the borough.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 32

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

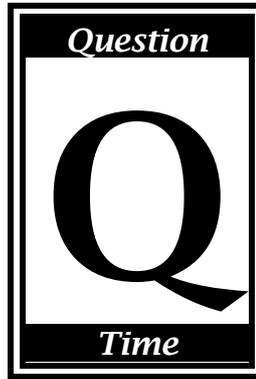
Question

Please advise whether the Council has been granted a licence by Environment Agency to abstract, at the site of the lake in Beckenham Place Park, more than the permitted limit of 20 cubic metres of water a day via the bore?

Reply

We applied for and received a licence for standard abstraction at 20m³ per day prior to drilling our borehole. Following completion of the borehole and some pump tests

we applied to abstract at a higher rate which will allow us to fill the lake quicker. A draft licence allowing us to abstract 65m3 of water per day was sent by the Environment Agency for this and it was due to be issued formally last week.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO.33

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: John Hamilton

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

What criteria did you use when you decided to employ County Security to evict campaigners from Tidemill Wildlife Garden?

What was the period of time specified in the initial contract with County Security for guarding the garden?

When did you become aware of this company's history of anti-union activity?

When did you terminate the contract?

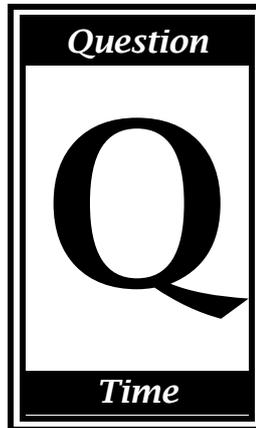
How much has been paid so far to County Security?

Reply

County Enforcement have previously provided services to the Council. They were appointed to carry out the eviction of the Old Tidemill garden on a spot purchase basis following the possession order granted by the Court, after the group failed to return the site to the Council as previously agreed and it became illegally occupied. As County Enforcement had knowledge of the site and it was expected that any ongoing security would be very short-term, they remained on the site. Unfortunately, following the legal challenges against the scheme and the numerous attempts to reoccupy the site, security has had to remain in place for longer than was anticipated. Regrettably this has been at great cost. The Council has spent £1,372,890 on securing the Tidemill site since the eviction on 29 October 2018.

County Enforcement ceased managing the security arrangements on the Tidemill site on 18 February 2019, however security is still required due to repeated attempts to illegally gain access to the site.

Since it came to my attention late last year of the history of County Enforcement, I asked for immediate action to replace them. They do not fit with Lewisham's values and my values. As a result, our procurement procedures are being reviewed.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 34

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Andrew Tonge

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

Question

Will the Council please explain the cavalier attitude to health and safety in the Beckenham Place Regeneration? There has been a smoke and mirrors approach to the disposal of asbestos found in the excavations, contractor's activities have left many public areas hazardous, and there is a clear lack of oversight and direction from the Council's project manager. Typical of the lack of safety awareness is the state of the fencing around ID Verde's compound. As can be seen from the photograph the fence is leaning into the single access road and forms a hazard to both vehicles and pedestrians. Will the council please advise the name of the responsible person within Lewisham Council to whom future health and safety

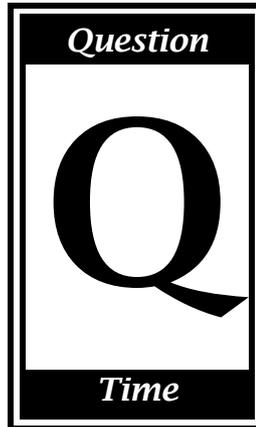
breaches should be reported? There is no clear point of contact on the Council website,

Reply

Since the discovery of asbestos contamination on site the Council and their contractor have followed the appropriate procedures and have clearly communicated with the public. Works were immediately halted, air monitoring was put in place, and an experienced environmental consultancy undertook extensive sampling and laboratory analysis. Based on the results of the laboratory analysis an appropriate remediation strategy was prepared and submitted to the planning department for approval. Once approval was secured the strategy was implemented with contamination hand-picked and bagged by contractors before being disposed of off-site. The affected soils were then encapsulated as agreed.

There are a few km of fencing currently on site, either protecting work sites or allowing seeded areas to become established. These fences are checked throughout the day and re-erected/repositioned as needed.

Any immediate concerns about health and safety can be reported to IDverde's customer care line (0800 917 6263) or to the site office. Issues can also be raised with the Council's project manager Alison Taylor.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 35

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Member to reply: Councillor Dacres

Question

What measures is Lewisham Council taking to reduce idling of vehicles and whether it will follow the example of other council and ensure that penalty charge notices are issued to drivers who refuse requests to turn off idling vehicles?

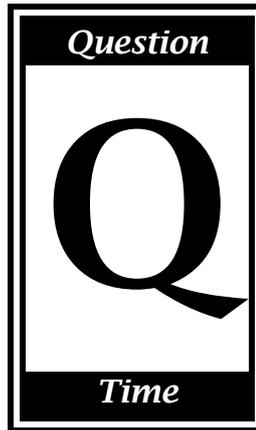
Reply

Following a number of anti-idling events last year, the Council have been working with www.idlingaction.london running anti-idling action events and are planning a further 4 this academic year, 3 events have already been run this school year.

There is also an Anti-Idling Banner Competition being held for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils in schools across Lewisham over the next couple of months. They are being invited to design a poster with a view to the winning design being displayed in local car parks and areas where drivers tend to keep their engines running.

The Council has signed up to a pan-London Mayors Air Quality Funded (MAQF) project for further anti idling events for the next three years from April 2019. This has the potential of increasing the number of idling events the Council can run to a total of 8 per year.

As part of signing up to the MAQF project Lewisham Council have accepted the need to begin to enforce idling vehicles, where drivers refuse requests. The process of delegating authorised officers to enforce the legislation under the Road Traffic Regulations, is underway and officer enforcement is expected by the end of 2019/beginning of 2020.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 36

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Ms M Taylor

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda de Ryk

Question

Can the Council clarify the role of Lewisham's newly appointed Communications and Strategy Officer whose appointment and salary made headline news in the Mercury recently?

Is her job description:

to improve only internal communication across council departments and personnel?

to improve the Council's quality of information sharing with its residents;

to liaise on behalf of the Council with outside organisations

to fulfil other functions and if so which?

Will the Council also please notify the ward councillors of her role?

Reply

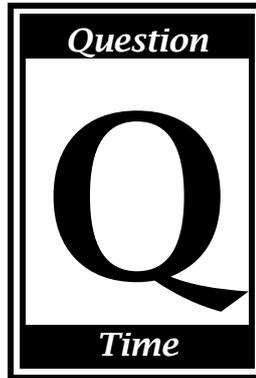
The post you are referring to is I believe the Assistant Director of Strategy and Communications which was wrongly titled by the media. The role of the post holder includes.

Job Purpose

1. To act as the focus within the Council's management to help develop the Mayor's forward strategy agenda for the Council.
2. To establish and implement corporate and partnership strategies and support the Mayor and Council's consultation.
3. To liaise with the Mayor and senior managers on the devising and implementation of a Communication strategy and action plan.

Accountabilities:

- Day to day liaison with the Mayor, and managerially accountable to the Chief Executive
- Managerial leadership of Mayor and Cabinet Office team; economy & partnerships team; communications team;
- Corporate projects as required by the mayor and Chief Executive



ED Com Servs
PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 37

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

What will be the business rate to be applied to each of the community libraries in the LBL for the financial year 2019/2020?

Will this be payable by the tenants of each building? Will the rates be subject to any discount available if so, what is the discount?

Reply

What will be the business rate to be applied to each of the community libraries in the LBL for the financial year 2019/2020?

The Council does not have the figures for the Business Rates payable for 2019/2020 as yet.

Will this be payable by the tenants of each building?

Yes, each tenant will be responsible for payment of the rates.

Will the rates be subject to any discount available if so, what is the discount?

The organisations currently running the libraries are registered charities and qualify for 80% Mandatory Relief and a further 20% top up in some instances.

The following accounts are in receipt of Mandatory Rate Relief (80%) and Discretionary Rate Relief (20% top up) for 2018/19:

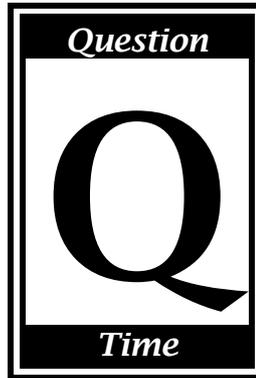
- 1) Bold Vision – 283 to 285 New Cross Road, New Cross, London SE14 6AS
- 2) Eco Learning Limited – **Public Library, Sydenham Road**, Sydenham, London SE26 5SE
- 3) Eco Learning Limited – **Brockley Branch Library**, 375 Brockley Road, Brockley, London SE4 2AG
- 4) Eco Learning Limited – **Riverside**, Foreshore, Deptford, London SE8 3AQ
- 5) Eco Learning Limited – **Grove Park Public Library**, Somertrees Avenue, Lee, London SE12 0BX
- 6) The Archibald Corbett Community Library Arts and Heritage Centre – **Public Library Torrison Road**, Catford, London SE6 1RQ

The following accounts are in receipt of Mandatory Rate Relief (80%) for 2018/19:

- 1) The Albany 2001 Company – **Deptford Lounge**, Giffin Street, Deptford, London SE8 4RJ
- 2) V22 Communities – **Manor House Library**, 34 Old Road, Lewisham, London SE13 5SR
- 3) V22 Communities – **Public Library, Dartmouth Road**, Forest Hill, London SE23 3HZ

The following accounts are run by LBL and not in receipt of any discounts;

- 1) LBL – 199 to 201 Lewisham High Street, Lewisham, London SE13 6LY
- 2) LBL – Downham Health and Leisure Centre, Moorside Road, Kent BR1 5EP



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 38

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

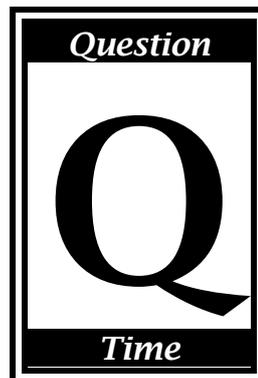
Question

Where on the Council's website can the Borough of Lewisham's Library Budget Book for the financial year 2019/20 be found?

Reply

The Council's Budget Book does not offer the detailed breakdown of each Service's spend. However, some financial information is publicly available through the Annual CIPFA Returns, which offer the Actual for a financial year and the Estimates for the following one. The Estimates for 2019-2020 will be available on the 2018-2019

Actuals. The data set will be forwarded to CIPFA by July 2019 and the report will be available usually before December 2019.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 39

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Richard Hebditch

Member to reply: Councillor De Ryk

Question

How many applicants from a BAME background applied for the post of Assistant Director of Communications and Strategy, and how many applicants from a BAME background were shortlisted/interviewed?

Reply

In relation to the role of Assistant Director of Communications and Strategy, five

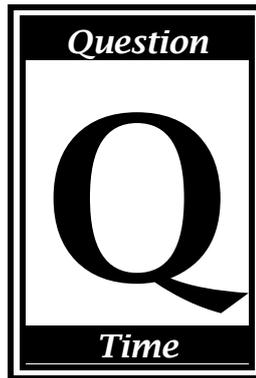
applicants were shortlisted for the role, none of which were from a BAME background. Three people were shortlisted for officer interview and two women and one man were interviewed at the final member's panel.

The profile for new appointments in the council in 2017-2018 was 53.1% BAME and 40% non BAME and 6.9% undisclosed. This is a greater proportionate rate (6.5%) than Lewisham Borough's BAME profile from the 2011 census of 46.6%. The Council is proactively working to increase BAME representation in management positions. While we compare favourably to other London Boroughs, we are still not where we want to be.

.

Further information with regards to the Council's employment profile can be found in the Mayor and Cabinet report published 12 December 2018

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s61296/Employee%20Profile%20Response%20to%20Referral%20from%20SSCC.pdf>



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 40

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Rosalind Huish

Member to reply: Councillor de Ryk

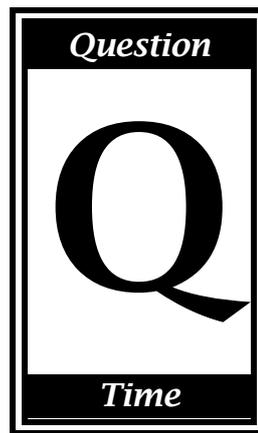
Question

The Mayor has cited budget cuts from £400m to £230m in social media posts. Please explain the origin of those figures.

Reply

Since 2010, we have faced savage cuts to our budget. Our funding from government has been cut whilst at the same time pressure on our services has increased. We

have had to make £165 million of cuts in the eight years since 2010. If we were still funded at 2010 levels, our budget would be £406m today.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 41

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Heather Gilmore

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Are Sherry Green Homes going to profit from the Amersham Vale/Tidemill development and if so what is the estimated figure and how many units will they be managing the sale of on these sites?

Reply

The linked sites at Amersham Vale and Tidemill are known as the Deptford Southern Housing sites.

The Tidemill site will provide:

- 117 social homes, including up to 13 homes reserved for the tenants at 2-30A Reginald Road.
- 3 homes reserved for the existing leaseholders at 2-30A Reginald Road.
- An additional 38 shared ownership homes, which will be aimed at first time buyers who cannot afford to buy a property on the open market.
- An additional 51 homes will be for private sale to help subsidise the development.

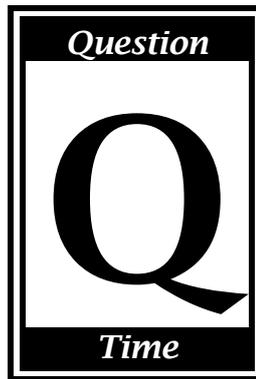
The Amersham Vale site will provide:

- 120 new homes in total.
- Including 24 social homes for rent and 15 homes for shared ownership.
- 81 homes will be for private sale, again, to help subsidise the overall scheme.

Lewisham Council entered into a Development Agreement with Peabody (formerly Family Mosaic) and Sherrygreen Homes in September 2015 to develop both the Tidemill and Amersham Vale sites.

Sherrygreen Homes are now only involved in the Amersham Vale site. With the homes not yet built and economic uncertainty, any figures relating to potential profit are not yet known.

Lewisham Council is not in the business of supporting developer profits. We are enabling and building new social homes and homes for people who do not qualify for the housing register. I am very keen to monitor the situation with Sherrygreen and report to Council updates when known.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 42

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

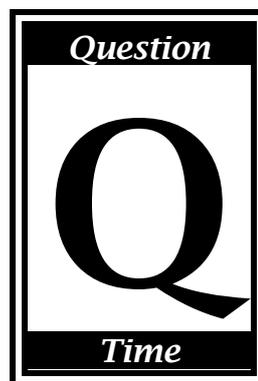
Why has the Council spending over £250 spreadsheets for December 2018 and January 2019 not been published on the website?

Reply

We apologise for the delay in the publication of the December and January data. We always strive to publish this data as soon as possible and these data sets are now available on the website, under our open data and transparency section.

Transparency and openness is a vital part of any democracy. The Local Government Transparency Code 2015 requires local authorities in England to publish expenditure over £500. Our commitment to transparency in Lewisham has meant we have gone beyond what is required of us in the Code and we publish council spending over £250.

The delay in the publication was due to staff taking annual leave in early January. We are taking steps to ensure that we avoid such delays again.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 43

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: The Mayor

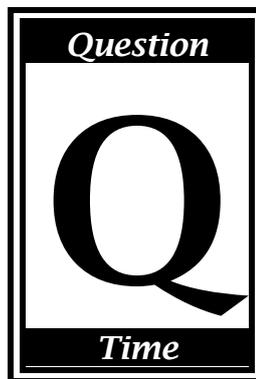
Question

Has there been any progress on the Planning Application to Lewisham Council, by St. Modwen Properties plc?

Is the Council in discussions with St Modwen as to the continuation of the planning application, or any alterations to that application?

Reply

Yes, I have had two meetings before the New Year with St Modwen and their representatives. I have asked them to reassess their plans so they can include more social housing.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 44

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

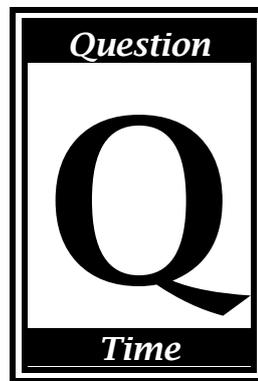
Question

What proportion of the Library Budget for the financial year 2019/20 is to be allocated for the intended purchase of bookstock?

Reply

The budget for the Service will be sanctioned in February at which point each area of spend will be set for the year 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020.

The actual proportion of the budget specifically for the book fund in the last financial year is just over 10% and there are no reductions to the fund planned. The vast majority of the library budget is spend on staffing and associated costs.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 45

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Rosalind Huish

Member to reply: Councillor Barnham

Question

Is the SEN budget allocated from central government funding?

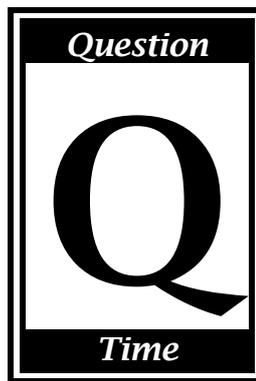
Reply

In general, all funding for schools education is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which is set by central government, and allocated to schools via the council, according to strict rules set by central government. The DSG funds the running costs of schools and some other areas of education-related spending, including early years education, and funding for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Within the DSG, there is a specific “block” known as the High Needs Block, which provides targeted funding for SEND both in mainstream and special schools as well as funding out-of-borough placements.

High Needs Funding is intended to support the education of children who have education, health and care plans (EHCPs) for their special educational needs. In addition to this, mainstream schools use funding within their delegated budget share to support needs at a level below that of an EHCP.

Lewisham, in common with many other councils, has experienced growing pressure on the High Needs budget, which has not been matched by resources from central government. In recognition of this, Lewisham’s schools – through the local School Forum – recently agreed to additional funding of High Needs in 2019/20, by transfer from the main schools funding block.

Aside from these main elements of SEND funding, some other costs are met from the Council’s General Fund, not from DSG. These include the cost of preparing EHCPs and administering the legal framework, and the cost of home-school transport of children with SEND.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 46

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Mr Hamilton

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Do you have any confidence that Peabody is a suitable partner for Lewisham Council to work with?

Now that finance is available through the public works loans board for councils to build council housing, will you reconsider the plans for cooperation and, instead, make plans to go ahead with building the much needed council housing we need without around half the homes being sold off by the developer - Peabody?

Reply

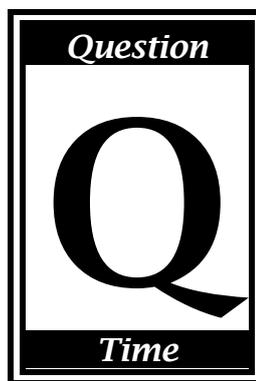
Peabody are a key strategic partner– as are other housing associations - for the Council with our priorities and values very much aligned.

Peabody (previously Family Mosaic) have delivered hundreds of new genuinely affordable homes for our residents. The historically low grant rates and restrictions on borrowing has meant that the sale homes have had to part subsidise the affordable homes, but the partnership between the Council and Peabody has been able to provide a significant uplift on the amount of Social homes available in the borough.

The Council has embarked on the largest Council housing building programme for a generation, and will be directly delivering as many Council homes as possible, while also working with our housing partners such as Peabody to deliver even more genuinely affordable homes. This complimentary approach ensures that the maximum amount of Social homes are built for our residents in the most need.

Going forward, we will only be partnering with housing associations who offer lifetime tenancies for social rented properties, preferably in perpetuity. The Tidemill and Amersham Vale scheme will offer lifetime tenancies, in perpetuity. Developing our own land is the main priority going forward.

We are constantly working with housing associations to support them in being the best they can be. We will not accept poor landlords, whether they be social or private.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 47

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Heather Gilmore

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

The occupation of Tidemill garden was not illegal until the 24th October 2018, contrary to the continual announcements to the contrary by Council Spokespeople. Leading up to and including the occupation of Tidemill garden from 29th August, County Enforcement filmed campaigners, occupants and users of the

garden daily from the roof of the Old School and other locations. The security personnel told us they had been instructed to do this by the Council. Which officer instructed them to do this and what process was undertaken to authorise this action? Which department holds this footage and how has it been used by council officials? Has any of this footage been passed to third parties?

Reply

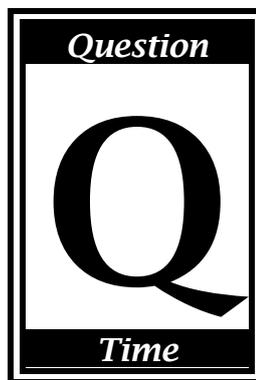
Notice was served on the garden group on the 1st of August 2018, giving 28 days to return the garden to the Council. Unfortunately, the group did not keep to the terms of the agreement made between them and the Council and instead, occupied the garden meaning Court action needed to be taken.

The Occupation of the garden was illegal from the date that the notice period expired, being the 29th August. After this date the garden was occupied illegally without the consent, permission or licence of the Council and this was the basis for possession being sought through the Courts.

County Enforcement were already securing the old school building when they were notified that their services may be required to carry out an eviction on the old garden site, in the event that the group did not return the site at during the notice period. To prepare for a possible eviction, County Enforcement observed the activities on site in order to prepare for any eviction. There was no specific instruction to film, but it is accepted that information gathering is necessary to ensure that any eviction is carried out as safely as possible.

All footage is stored in accordance with Data Protection and GDPR regulations. Footage taken will not be published.

As I have previously stated, eviction is the last resort. As a council, we heard the campaigners and stopped preparing the site until the legal process was completed. I understand why some members of the community were frustrated by the process and feeling they were not listened to. The only reason to build on this site is to maximise social housing provision.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 48

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Councillor de Ryk

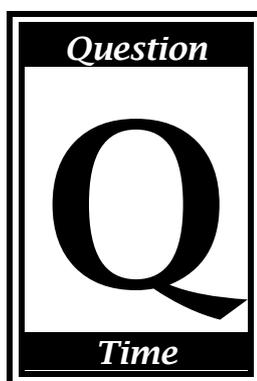
Question

On the Council spending over £250 spreadsheet for November 2018 there is a redacted name for an item of £2,250.00 in relation to Beckenham Place Park. Please advise the type of service provided.

Reply

This was redacted in error as the company name was incorrectly assumed to be that of an individual which we do not publish for data protection reasons.

The payment was to a Chartered Quantity Surveyor firm – Huntley Cartwright – for services in support of the ongoing works in the park.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 49

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Heather Gilmore

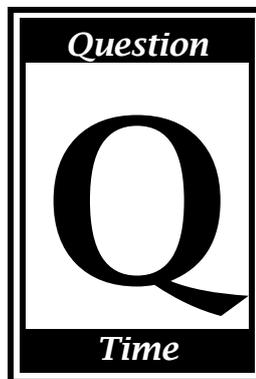
Member to reply: Cllr Paul Bell

Question

What is the name of the Tree Surgery company the council is going to employ to cut down the trees in Old Tidemill Wildlife Garden following the departure of Artemis who walked away from the contract on ethical grounds?

Reply

The Council has granted a licence to Peabody for the Tidemill site permitting them to undertake tree work. Therefore Peabody will be contracting the arboriculturalists, not the Council.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 50

Priority 5

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

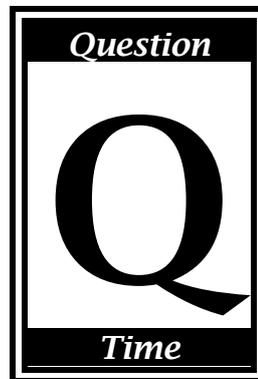
Question

On the Council spending over £250 spreadsheet for November 2018 a company is listed for Beckenham Place Park that cannot be traced via an internet search, other

than the Companies House entry. Please advise what service was provided by Agen (Environmental) previously Court and Son?

Reply

This payment to the company identified was for environment services, more specifically the cutting and clearing of meadow grass.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 51

Priority 5

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Heather Gilmore

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

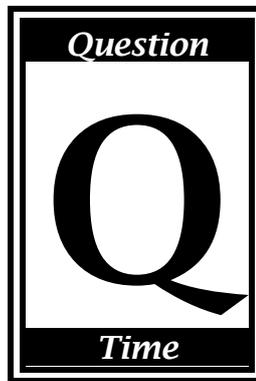
Question

What is the legal framework being used by Council Officers to prevent them giving you access and indeed publishing the Risk Assessment allegedly drawn up for the

eviction of occupants of Tidemill Wildlife Garden on 29th October 2018 and its impact on local residents thereafter?

Reply

A formal request for a copy of the Risk Assessment produced by County Enforcement was requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Having considered the request and applying the public interest test, the Council is of the view that the document is exempt from release under Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The requester is entitled to request a review of this decision and has been given the information on how to do this should they wish.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 52

Priority 6

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

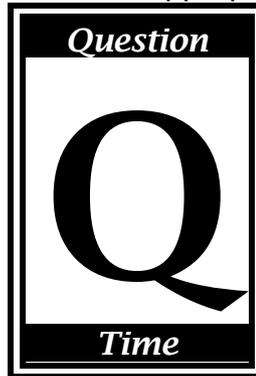
Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

Question

Please explain why there are so many large puddles and new boggy areas, i.e. those that are unrelated to the movement of construction vehicles, on the grassed parkland of Beckenham Place Park? For example, in the area of the ditch recently partially blocked up by the Council's contractors, where a large pool of water has formed, complete with its own silty beach.

Reply

A drainage pipe enters Beckenham Place Park at the low point in the landscape near to the Foxgrove Club, this may relate to the Foxgrove Spring which appears on old maps of the area. We have sampled the water from this pipe and found it to be of high quality. However, we cannot be absolutely certain that it does not connect to some element of Bromley's highway drainage system. For this reason we have created a swale to inhibit the onward flow of the water towards the lake. Over time this will become a seasonally wet pond and the regraded silty beach will be seeded with a wet meadow wildflower seed mix in the spring to aid its establishment. Smaller swales have also been created where new paths need protection from erosion by surface water flows, these will also be seeded appropriately in the spring.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 53

Priority 6

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Heather Gilmore

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

Question

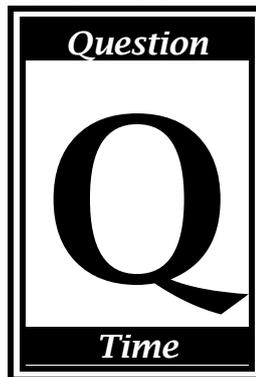
Which Council budget heading does the £100k salary for the newly created post of Head of Communications and Strategy come under? When will the post of CEO be re-advertised? Is the post of Housing Strategy and Programmes Team Manager going to be replaced? If so when will this post be advertised?

Reply

The salary for the recently advertised post of Assistant Director of Strategy and Communications comes under the Chief Executives Budget. This is not a new post and is one we have had for several years.

The recruitment timeline for the Chief Executive post is currently under consideration and we will be making public our approach in the coming months.

We don't have a role called Housing Strategy and Programmes Team Manager. We had a role previously called Service Group Manager - Housing Strategy and Programmes. The role was vacated and has been redesigned to be called Service Group Manager Housing Partnerships and Service Improvement. This has now been advertised, with interviews taking place 1st March.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 54

Priority 7

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

Question

Please explain why the spoil excavated to form the lake in Beckenham Place Park is considered suitable for a mounded garden, complete with access path, but had previously been identified as being unsuitable to form a bund wall

Reply

Some of the material excavated to rebuild the lake in Beckenham Place Park has been analysed and found suitable for the construction of a mound feature in Beckenham Place Park. Our soil engineer has analysed its suitability for the creation of this mound only.

During the development of the Environment Agency's plan for the Ravensbourne Flood alleviation scheme the Agency carried out their own analysis of soils for the creation of the dry reservoir bund and found that they were not suitable.

Our assumption is that the needs of an engineered reservoir are more stringent than a landscape feature like the mounded garden that is not designed to retain large volumes of water.