

PUBLIC QUESTION NO 1.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Roger Stocker

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

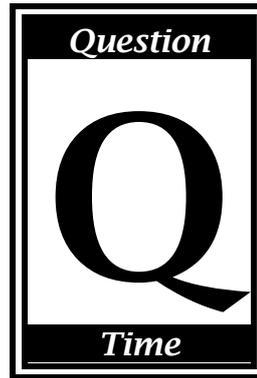
Please supply an update on the proposed walking and cycling bridge on the old Catford Dog track site. Please include any financial shortfall.

Reply

The planning permission granted in January 2009 (DC/07/067276) for redevelopment of the Catford Greyhound Stadium site included the provision of a footbridge to Doggett Road. 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 to particular timescales. 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 am disappointed that footbridge to Doggett Road has not been delivered in accordance with the agreement. I have instructed council officers to request a greater amount of contributions from Barratt Homes. These negotiations are ongoing and

officers hope to resolve the outstanding contribution and finalise the position at the site in the coming months.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 2.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Fiona Silk

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

Does the Cabinet member agree with my suggestions for the lake in Beckenham Place Park?

Firstly, regarding access to dogs - something that was promised during the initial consultation prior to the re-development of the park. I suggest that it is closed to dogs during the summer holidays when the lake will be heavily used by families, but open again in September. Outside of this "peak" time, dogs could be restricted to one section, say away from the reeds, which is what they do at Hampstead Heath.

I understand that there is an argument that dogs will dirty the water, but compared to children weeing (and in many cases pooing) in it, and the pests and diseases that will be brought in by wild fowl, I would say that our canine friends are the least of the worries for water quality!

With regards to the charges, I understand that the council needs to generate some income from the lake, but I do feel a more preferable solution would be that Lewisham supply a lifeguard and that they are on site from, say, 10am till 7pm, and

that swimming fees cover that cost. Then responsible adults that want to swim in a public body of water the rest of the time would be free to do so.

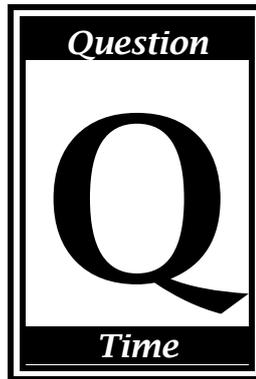
Reply

We ask that dog owners keep their dogs on leads around the new lake at Beckenham Place Park and keep them out of the lake itself, there are several reasons for this, but the main ones are:

- The marginal aquatic planting needs to avoid disturbance if it is to establish strongly. Failure to establish will have a negative impact on water quality and could mean the lake is unavailable for swimming
- Waterfowl are breeding and raising their young on the lake, they are less likely to do this successfully if they are chased by dogs as has been reported in recent months.
- Our aim is to facilitate swimming and boating in the lake. Whilst users may be competent swimmers they may not be comfortable around dogs and this creates the potential for conflicts between users.
- Maintaining good water quality is important for the lake and whilst there is little we can do to stop wild animals entering the lake, by asking owners to keep their dogs out of the lake we remove one potential contamination route.

Due to the large number of dogs that use Beckenham Place Park, the impact they would have if allowed in the lake could be particularly detrimental to lake ecology and for this reason we do not currently propose to allow access, even in winter. Permitting access in the colder months is not ideal as incidents can occur where dog owners perceive their pet to be in difficulty and then enter the water to attempt to help them. The majority of serious accidents around water tend to be ones where people had not planned to enter the water and often involve unprepared rescue attempts.

The Council is reviewing options for management of swimming in the lake to ensure that this facility can be enjoyed safely and responsibly by as many people as possible. This is a unique new facility and we will be reviewing our findings and lessons from the first months of operation to try to develop a good long term management plan that we can implement in 2020.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 3.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Sean Lowrie

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

In August 2016, construction of telecommunications equipment commenced on Forsythia House, a council building, without consultation of any description.

This installation clearly breaches the council's development plans and was opposed in a letter to the council by 100% of the residents of the building and by a petition submitted to the council containing the signatures of more than 300 local people.

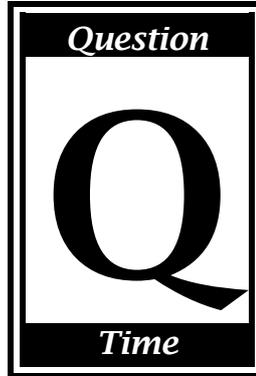
While the council originally misapplied permitted development rights, it has now been a year and a half since a judicial review in the High Court stated that the council had been irrational not to enforce against the installation.

Does the council agree that developments on its own buildings should follow both the letter and the spirit of the planning rules?

And, given that the Court of Appeal has recently and most emphatically upheld the judgement of the High Court, when will the council take the necessary enforcement action?"

Reply

The Council fully accepts The High Court judgement. Council officers are working with the telecommunications equipment operator to ensure the equipment is removed as quickly as possible, which is a significant logistical operation that needs to be planned properly. The operator has undertaken a decommissioning survey and is now seeking the relevant approvals for road closure and installation of a crane for the removal. It is anticipated that the equipment will be removed within the next three months.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 4.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Gwenton Sloley

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

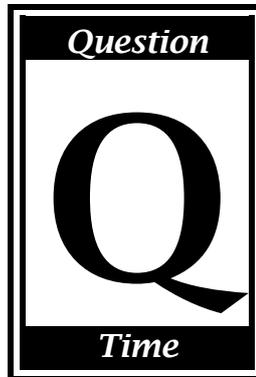
Why does Lewisham Council take over 3 months to answer access request HR questions that should be access with a simple click?

Reply

Subject Access Requests are often complex and require the Council to go back some way to ensure we provide a full response.

They require significant resources to respond on sensitive issues which require careful handling.

The Council tries to respond quickly but occasionally this is not possible and we do so as soon as all the information is ascertained.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 5.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

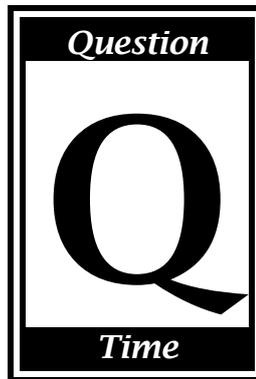
For last Full Council, I asked why there was no planning permission for the beach at Beckenham Place Park and I asked that question prior to the opening of the lake. The Council's response was published after the opening of the lake, after children got into difficulty paddling from the beach, after a child was air lifted to hospital and after the lake was subsequently closed. I know of two people who submitted questions for last Full Council later than me, yet this very important question was listed last i.e. 77 with priority 12. Why?

Reply

The Council Question scheme is as detailed in our Constitution as displayed on the website (see Part IV section C paragraph 13.9). Questioners submitting more than

one question are able to indicate the priority order in which questions will be answered. In the absence of any indicated priority order, questions are listed in order of receipt.

The first round of questions comprises all those indicated as first priority or being the first question received from the questioner; the second round comprises those indicated as second priority or being the second question received from the questioner and so on. Officers do not make independent subjective judgements as to the importance or relevance of questions submitted by the public.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 6.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Hattie Hopkin

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

I live on Sydenham Mews, a tiny lane right behind Sydenham High Street. Hundreds of people live in the flats above Sydenham Road with access around the back, on this Mews. It is where our dustbins are stored, one at each end, and also serves as an access area for businesses ranging from a Subway to a butchers.

Regularly, rubbish is fly tipped, despite warning signs, and recently our one recycling bin was taken away. Two untaxed cars are dumped in the alley way where people need to park, despite them being reported to DVLA. Mounds of meat, bed frames, business waste, recyclables and non-recyclables are thrown in the ever overflowing bins. Is our road the only road in Sydenham that has no recycling scheme? What can be done by you, the council, to work on your greener environment policy to combat the needless waste and lack of sanitation down a road where so many families live?

We have a neighbourhood committee that cleans up the alley every month, but it is a losing battle. Please, how can you help us?

Reply

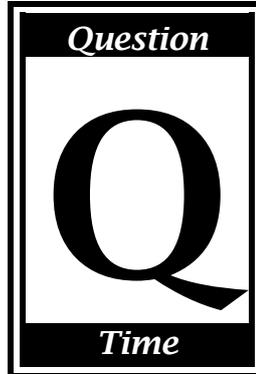
Sydenham Mews is not classified as a public highway, however, the Councils Cleansing Team do visit the mews weekly to check on fly tipping and a street sweeper litter picks the mews at least once a week. Enforcement officers have visited recently and found the location free of fly tipping.

One of the Councils Abandoned Vehicles Enforcement Officers inspected the Mews on the 13th August and placed 7 day notices on the two untaxed vehicles. Both vehicles have now been claimed by the owners and they are legally SORN so are not abandoned, neither the Council nor DVLA therefore have the power to remove.

A member of the commercial waste team has spoken to the businesses along Sydenham Road and advised them of the correct way to dispose of their trade waste. Officers will be monitoring this and should evidence be found that the waste is not being disposed of correctly then fixed penalty notices will be issued where necessary.

Recycling – Residents who live in the flats above the shops do have access to recycling, they can request recycling sacks via the Councils website.

In place of a communal bin recycling can be placed at either entrance to the mews by the refuse bins on a Tuesday for collection.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 7.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Dacres

Question

With regular alterations to properties in the borough, e.g. loft extensions, kitchen extensions, new bathrooms, conservatories etc what is council policy on the road outside the house, and others, being used as a building site? Frequently building materials are delivered and sit in the road, occupying parking spaces, and then a cement mixer machine turns up, ready for work. The pavement is criss-crossed with tubing, a hazard for the elderly, infirm, the disabled and users of buggies. In a residents parking zone are construction workers charged for their use of parking space? Is any monitoring carried out by the council?

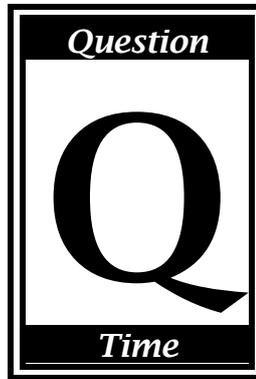
Reply

A licence is required to store materials on the highway. The same applies to the placing of skips on the road. There is an extra charge if a pay and display parking bay is used or a specific parking bay is requested to place a skip or store materials.

Council highway inspectors ensure that the roads are kept clear of obstructions and will instruct construction workers to clear an area if required.

If there is a specific site that is causing concern it can be reported via the council web site using the link below

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/roads-and-pavements/road-and-pavement-obstructions>



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 8.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Janet Hurst

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

Figures released by WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) indicate that in 2017/8 Lewisham Council collected just 11kg of plastic waste per household for recycling, against 42kg collected by Bexley, 25kg by Bromley and 20kg by Greenwich. What action is Lewisham taking to improve this dismal recycling rate, and are our officials talking to neighbouring boroughs to get advice on what they are doing differently?

Reply

A common challenge for Local Authorities is the negative correlation between lower recycling rates and high density housing, high levels of multi- occupancy dwellings

and transient populations. Lewisham has a high transient population and a high level of flats and HMO's. This tends to impact on the quality of waste sent for recycling and the provision of information/education. Projects are currently being introduced on a number of estates to ensure that residents are provided with the correct information and are encouraged to reduce the amount of waste thrown away and to re-use items.

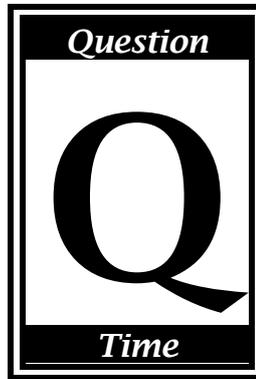
Lewisham concentrates efforts at the top of the waste hierarchy and encourages households to reduce and reuse waste through a number of different projects and engagement. Officers attend events across the borough, including assemblies, resident association meeting and schools promoting reduce, re-use and recycling.

A new comprehensive communication strategy is currently being approved, following the borough wide consultation 'Barriers to Waste Disposal' This will allow regular information and advice to be communicated through a number of different means, ensuring that residents are informed with up to date information on recycling, re-use and reducing the amount of waste thrown away.

One of the key messages that Officers will focus on is the reduction of single use plastics. A number of actions have recently been implemented, these include a web page giving advice on how to reduce the amount of plastics used and a number of fleet vehicles promoting 'reduce single use plastic' .

We are working on new and improved information leaflets providing information on the types of materials that can be recycled and a break down on acceptable plastic that can be recycled within Lewisham.

Officers attend regular meetings with neighbouring boroughs and meetings with representatives from all London Boroughs at a number of different Local Authority advisory bodies.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 9.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Kanini

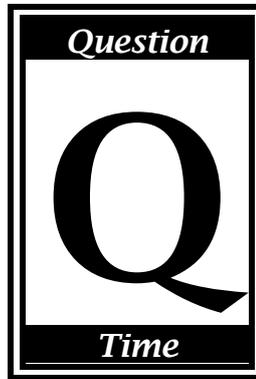
Member to reply: Councillor Dacres

Question

What has become of our Street Sign for the top end of Inchmery Road? It was removed 18 months ago when the pavements around the Sandhurst Parade of shops were refurbished.

Reply

As you have stated the street sign was removed during the Sandhurst Parade works. The sign should have been put back but it appears to have been lost. An order has now been placed for a replacement. It will be several weeks before it is back in place as each street sign is specially made.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 10.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Tonge

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

Will the Mayor please explain why this Council seems institutionally Incapable of complying with UK Legislation?

Do you accept that related to the ongoing fiasco of the regeneration of Beckenham Place Park there have been a number of instances whereby Freedom of Information Requests have been ignored, Health and Safety legislation has been breached and attempts have been made to frustrate the public right of audit, do the Mayor, Councillors and Council Officers consider themselves to be above the law of the land?

Does the Mayor agree such behaviours have been allowed to become institutional within some departments of the Council; the Regeneration Team being a prime example?

Will the Mayor please advise what he is going to do to restore confidence that the Council and its Officers behave in strict compliance with the provisions and spirit of extant legislation?

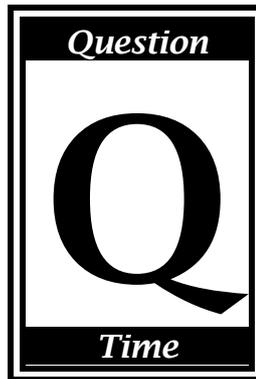
Reply

Despite Council staff numbers being reduced by around 50% as a result of the Government's significant funding cuts since 2010, the Council always aims to respond to Freedom of Information requests within the required time. However, regrettably there will be occasions when this is not possible because of the complexity, sensitivity, volume of requests or resources available and service priorities. On those occasions the Council responds as soon as possible.

The Council monitors a range of performance management indicators and these indicators include Freedom of Information requests. Where performance is not on target, mitigating action is taken to address the issues. As at 30 September 2019 all Freedom of Information requests on this matter have been answered

No attempts have been made to frustrate the public right of audit in respect of the Park. Whilst there were delays due to staff absence, I understand that arrangements were made to provide the relevant information for inspection.

The Council has been engaging positively with the Health and Safety Executive throughout the summer in relation to Beckenham Place Park; the issues that have arisen were dealt with quickly and effectively and the Council does not consider it has been in breach of Health and Safety legislation.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 11.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

The DCMS has published a comprehensive document on the Government's website entitled Public Libraries in England: extended basic database (as of 1 July 2016) - but updated to 11 January 2018. Lewisham Libraries are included in this survey.

Notice of their Statutory Status, whether operated purely by the Council or in partnership with organisations of various types is reported.

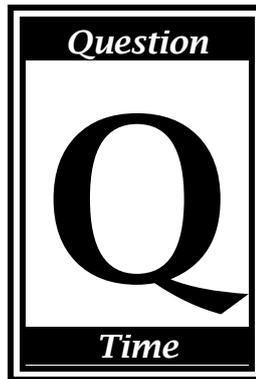
Unfortunately, some of those listed do not have Statutory Status which is alarming to those of us who regard a Public Library Service as an important service provided to the public resident in any Local Authority.

So, does Lewisham council have any plans to extend its current number of non-Statutory Library establishments either from its current number of libraries in the borough or even offer additional establishments similar status, so reducing their responsibilities under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act?

Reply

The file we accessed on 19 September 2019 (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777677/Public_libraries_in_England-_extended_basic_dataset_as_on_1_July_2016_.csv) correctly shows all Lewisham Libraries in April 2010 and in July 2016 as being part of the statutory service.

All Lewisham's public libraries are part of its statutory service, and the council has no plans to change this.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 12.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Tracey Jarrett

Member to reply: Councillor Best

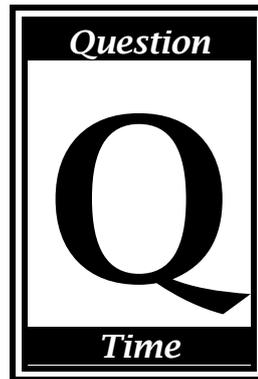
Question

What has been the Equality Impact Assessment in respect of older adult day services, done as part of this proposal to see how it could adversely or positively affect the African, African Caribbean and Asian communities, and what mitigating action has been suggested for any adverse effects?

Reply

The Council carried out an Equality Analysis Assessment in respect of the proposed changes to older adult day services. The Equality Analysis Assessment was published as an Appendix to the 5 June Mayor and Cabinet Report 'Re-

commissioning Building Based Day services for Older Adults'. The Equalities Analysis did not conclude that people from African, African Caribbean and Asian communities would be adversely affected by the proposed changes, as the proposed day service offer will continue to support people in a person-centred way and meet their cultural needs and preferences.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 13.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Kate Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

The Culverley Green Residents Association (an Association open to all residents living in the Culverley Green Conservation Area) has become increasingly aware of issues within the local area concerning the management by London and Quadrant Housing Association of a number of their multi-occupied "street properties". Whilst we understand that these types of housing units can be difficult to manage, the HA does have a duty of care to its tenants. We know of tenants who have mental and physical health difficulties but whose problems have not apparently been taken into account and which has caused them distress. What oversight does the Council have over the treatment of these vulnerable tenants some of whom were the Council's tenants before L&Q took over the properties?

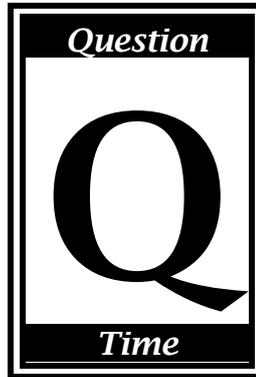
Reply

The properties in the local area around the Culverley Green Conservation Area were likely part of the Chrysalis Stock Transfer from Lewisham Council to London and Quadrant (L&Q), in October 2010. Since then, L&Q have had landlord and tenancy management responsibilities for these properties and residents.

Lewisham Council's Strategic Housing team regularly liaise with L&Q through regular communications and meetings. As part of this, Lewisham Council will work with L&Q to resolve any issues raised to the Council relating to general issues and specific casework.

Where residents are supported by social services or any other support services provided by Lewisham Council, those service providers will liaise with L&Q where appropriate.

I will look into the issues with the Council and L&Q. In the meantime, I am very happy to meet with the Culverley Green Residents Association. Please email me at cldr_paul.bell@lewisham.gov.uk.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 14.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Bobby Dean

Member to reply: Councillor Bourne

Question

How has the maintenance and hygiene issues at Glassmill Leisure Centre got so bad and what is being done to fix its multiple issues?

Reply

Fusion has acknowledged that the standards of maintenance and hygiene at Glassmill Leisure Centre have not been of the required standard recently.

The Council has met Fusion to demand better and for these issues be addressed through a detailed improvement plan covering maintenance, cleaning, recruitment, training, strategy planning and communications.

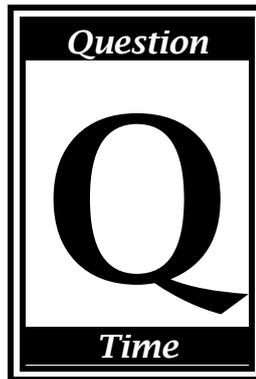
There have been some improvements as part of this process but further progress is required to reach the required standard. Council Officers will be meeting with Directors from Fusion on Wednesday 16th October to review the plan and agree what actions are required to ensure the correct standards are achieved and maintained.

With specific reference to cleanliness issues Fusion monitor performance on this issue through Customer feedback received through verbal, written or comments left online. There is a third party that completes a deep clean of areas every day and all other cleaning around the facility is completed by Fusion Staff. The management team walk the facility on numerous occasions throughout the day, and the Regional Business Manager will conduct a building tour at least twice a month.

Council officers visit the facility throughout the month and complete a tour of the facility with the General Manager.

Any issues raised by the council or the general public are raised and discussed in a monthly meeting between Lewisham Council and Fusion Lifestyle.

Fusion were approached regarding this and responded 'While we strive to keep our standards consistently high, we acknowledge that there are peak time when standards may not be where we expect them to be. We will continue to work with our partners at Lewisham council to ensure cleaning schedules remain flexible in order to react when and where necessary'



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 15.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Further to the reply to question 14 at the -Council meeting on the 27th February 2019, please provide an update on the enforcement of the S106 agreement with Barratt Homes for the Catford Green development relating to the construction of a footbridge over the railway line, or alternatively securing a financial contribution from Barratt Homes towards a footbridge

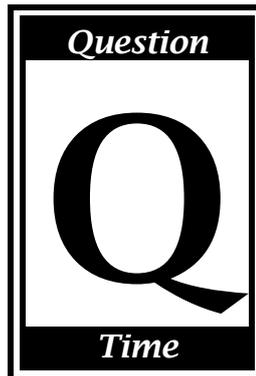
Please also state when a full public consultation on the draft Catford Masterplan that was planned for September 2019 will now commence.

Reply

The planning permission granted in January 2009 (DC/07/067276) for redevelopment of the Catford Greyhound Stadium site included the provision of a footbridge to Doggett Road. This included a legal agreement that made allowance for a financial contribution to be made to the Council in the event the development did not provide a footbridge to particular timescales.

I am disappointed that footbridge to Doggett Road has not been delivered in accordance with the agreement. In my reply to your question on 27th February 2019 I confirmed I had instructed council officers to request a greater amount of contributions from Barratt Homes. These negotiations are ongoing and officers hope to resolve the outstanding contribution and finalise the position at the site in the coming months.

Public consultation on the draft Catford Masterplan will take place in early 2020, as conversations with key partners including TfL that must take place first are ongoing.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 16.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Rosalind Huish

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

With regards to Beckenham Place Park, please provide information on the methodology being used for monitoring the demographic of park visitors. Specifically how the information is collected. The methodology is referred to in appendix 3 of this link <http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s64440/Beckenham%20Place%20Park%20Update.pdf>

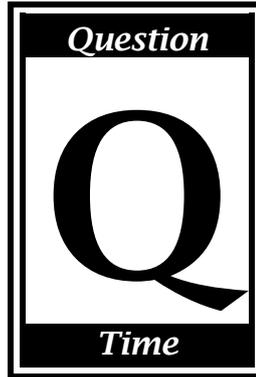
Reply

The primary means by which the demographic of park visitors has been monitored in Beckenham Place Park is through a visitor observation survey. This involves those undertaking the survey to walk a set route through the park once during a one hour period, and noting everyone they see. They make broad assumptions by sight concerning ethnicity and age, and observe the park users activity, and record whether they are alone, with a dog or in a group. If observers see the same people twice in this period (which they rarely do) they do not record them again. This method is repeated over a one week period such that at the end of the week observations have been made at every hour of the day, both on a weekday and at the weekend. This is a recognised, accepted methodology for gathering park use data over a large park with many entrances.

These observational surveys were undertaken in November 2015, March 2016 and March 2018. As this provides no summer data, statistics from camera people counters used in August 2013 supplemented the data.

In addition to the observational data, a group of four students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA undertook face to face surveys with park users in both April 2016 and March 2018 to understand how perceptions of the park and use of the park had changed. These were conducted in the park in 2018, and the sample size was small – 100 interviews were completed in 2018, and 226 to create the baseline in 2016. Nevertheless, the data can provide a useful indicator of the likely trend over time.

The observational and face to face surveys will be repeated again by WPI students in spring 2020.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 17.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Hebditch

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

What policies, procedures, procurement or practices have changed to cut emissions from the council's own operations and estate since the Council declared a climate emergency in February?

Reply

The Council recognises there is widespread interest in the declaration of a climate emergency and the importance of demonstrating our commitment to cutting emissions from our own operations and estate. A webpage on the Council's website

has been set up to provide information to residents and others interested in the work we are doing

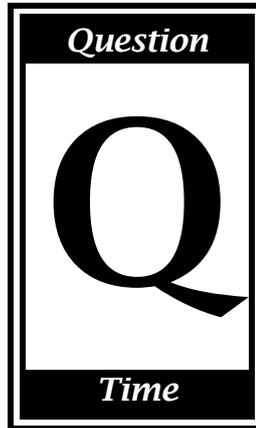
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/environment/energyefficiency/making-the-borough-carbon-neutral-by-2030-climate-emergency-declaration>.

The declaration of a climate emergency requested a new Lewisham action plan on climate change to be agreed by Mayor and Cabinet before the end of the municipal year 2019/20. Officers are currently working on this action plan and in particular the evidence base that will support delivery of a new borough-wide target for carbon reduction.

Actions delivered since the declaration that will contribute towards carbon reduction across the Council's operations and estate include:

- Refurbishment of the main Council office Laurence House, including upgrades to heating and ventilation systems and energy efficiency lighting and further extension of flexible working practices allowing reductions in overall office space;
- Approval of a new fleet vehicle replacement programme;
- Removal of single use plastic cups from Laurence House and the civic suite;
- Creation of a climate emergency working group chaired by the Executive Director for Housing, Environment and Regeneration;
- A new staff forum to identify opportunities and share good practice;
- The launch of a new Community Energy Fund for the borough that, amongst other things, has the potential to deliver carbon reduction initiatives in schools and Council-owned community buildings.

Further actions are being developed with the corporate estates team, Lewisham Homes, schools and other teams across the Council and these will be set out in the Council's action plan.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 18 .

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Gwenton Sloley

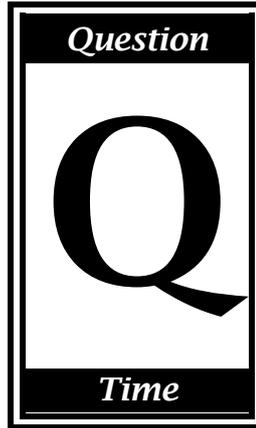
Member to reply: Councillor Reid

Question

Is it correct procedures for Lewisham Council to have staff visiting vulnerable clients without DBS checked or ID badge for 6 years also sending sensitive email to none protected personal yahoo address?

Reply

Any Lewisham Council Officer who currently works with or supports any vulnerable clients must possess a valid DBS. There are clear guidelines for officers and handling of sensitive emails.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 19.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

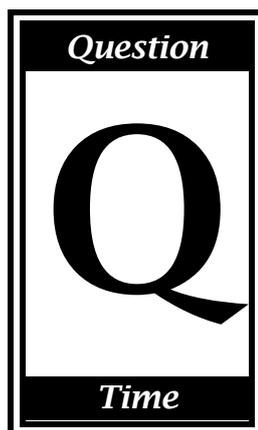
Question

The Council's response to my question listed as 77 priority 12 at last Full Council was that the lake at Beckenham Place Park will not have a sandy beach when full, yet the Council promoted the beach for safe paddling both on its website and on a publicity board in the park. Please explain how that negates the necessity for planning permission.

Reply

The restored lake is detailed in the Council's planning application which received approval in October 2017. The application details the nature of the construction proposed and it is determined on these factors. It does not necessarily provide detail on all potential future uses.

The promotion of leisure activities in the park is not a planning matter.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 20.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

How many trained library staff are now on duty for the London Borough of Lewisham? What was this figure for one year ago? For both times how many were back office staff and how many were front line library staff - in the library service? What proportion of library staff are career and/or experienced staff who could be expected to deal effectively with public enquiries of a varied and perhaps confidential

nature? What specific training is given by library management in Lewisham to enable its staff to provide such an outcome?

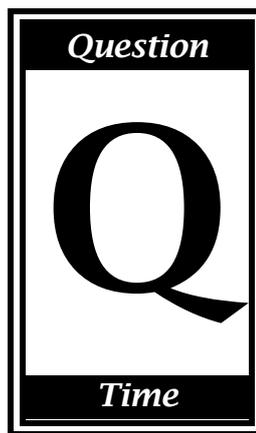
Reply

All Lewisham Library and Information staff are trained

According to our CIPFA returns Lewisham Library & Information Service had 75 FTE staff in March 2018, comprising 80 staff, and 75 FTE staff in March 2019, comprising 78 staff. Of these 7 posts are not frontline.

All staff are expected to deal effectively with public enquiries of a varied and confidential nature. All Lewisham Council employees are expected to provide the highest possible standard of service to the public, and the Council as a whole. They are expected to act in accordance with the trust the public has placed in them and to comply with the law and the employee code of conduct.

All Lewisham Council staff receive induction training when they join the service. All staff have access to the virtual learning portal through the Intranet system, containing an impressive range of learning and development materials. The Library specific induction training covers all library routines, the use of the ICT systems and any role specific training as appropriate. Ongoing training is delivered as required.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 21.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Kanini

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

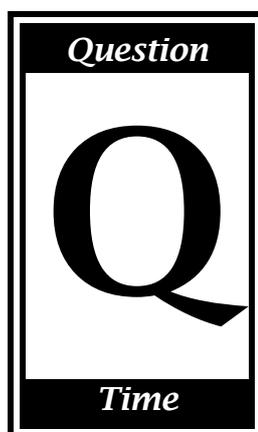
Question

When is the street tree that was damaged and then removed, (in front of the industrial laundry and “victim support”), on Sandhurst parade going to be replaced?

Are you aware the landscaping has only been done less than 2 years ago?

Reply

I am pleased to confirm that the tree that was damaged by the commercial vehicle at Sandhurst Parade will be replaced during the forthcoming planting season. The planting programme will commence in November 2019 and we expect all trees to be planted by February 2020.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 22.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Notably The Manor House, Old Road, Lee, London SE13 5SY has been omitted from the list of upcoming 'Open House' venues in the Borough this year.

The Manor House is a Grade 2 - star Listed Building - one of only 4% of listed buildings in the country.

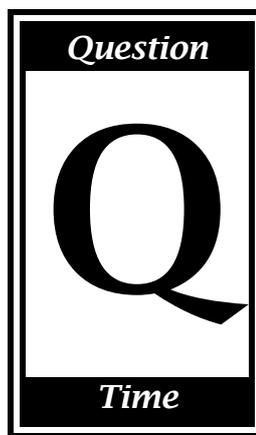
Even if the building is currently managed by a 'partnership organisation' surely it is the duty of the Local Authority to ensure such properties would be included? Bizarrely, the Ice House in its attached Manor House Gardens is included!

Who actually oversees this process?

Reply

Open House London is the world's largest architecture festival and is run by a small team of staff. Lewisham Council is not responsible for the inclusion of properties in the festival but supports Open House weekend with a small sponsorship grant, in return for which it receives approximately 2,000 copies of their guidebook to distribute in the borough.

We are proud of our heritage and its many buildings of cultural and historic significance. Twenty five Lewisham venues were included in this year's Open House programme and I am happy to suggest organisers include The Manor House for next year.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 23.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Tracey Jarrett

Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

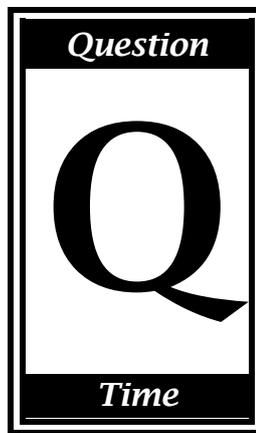
The Government's Race Disparity Unit identifies that Lewisham has the third largest Caribbean population in England, that BAME residents make up more

than half the adult population of the Borough of Lewisham and the Caribbean community represents the largest number of the BAME elders in Lewisham. In the light of these figures what could justify the Council in ceasing to fund the Calabash as “a stand-alone BAME” provision?

Reply

The Council has recently consulted on proposed changes to day services which would bring together three services currently commissioned at Cedar Court, Cinnamon Court and the Calabash Centre into a single service offer. This is in response to a reduction in numbers across all day services and would consolidate resources in order to continue to provide a sustainable and high quality day service. The proposed location for the service is the Calabash Centre. Should the proposals be agreed then the Council would commission an older adult day service which would be inclusive and support people from all backgrounds. According to Census data from 2011, 47% of Lewisham’s adult population people are BAME (from Black and Minority ethnic backgrounds). 66% of people who attend older adult day services are from BAME backgrounds. As such, it is important that, like our existing services, any new commissioned service is able to meet the cultural needs of BAME elders. Other community offerings based in the centre will continue as they are.

Consultations with people who use the day services did not identify any significant objections to the proposals.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 24.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Bobby Dean

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

How many landlords and agents have Lewisham registered with the Mayor of London's Rogue Landlord and Agent Checker database?

Reply

Lewisham Council has so far registered two landlords on the Mayor of London's Rogue Landlord and Checker database, with a further six currently being registered. Of the two registered so far, one was registered due to a breach of a prohibition order and one for unlawful eviction.

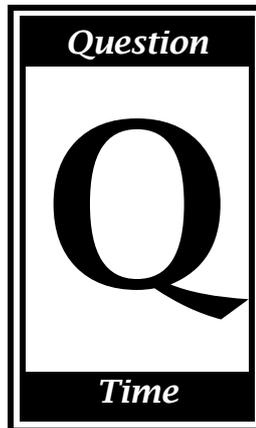
Of the further six landlords being registered, two were convicted for managing an unlicensed House in Multiple Occupation (HMO). The remaining four were convicted for unlawful eviction and harassment offences.

Existing licensing schemes have allowed the Council to address problems with property standards in Lewisham. However, they also have limitations. Significant Council resources are required to find properties and ensure relevant licenses are applied for. There has been evidence of some landlords reducing occupancy level below licensing thresholds by illegally evicting tenants or claiming that tenants are part of the same household when in fact they are not.

To address these issues and raise property standards, the Council has just finished a consultation on proposals to introduce two new licensing schemes for private rented properties. When approved, this would mean all private rented properties in the borough would require a license. There would be significantly less scope for landlords to force / persuade tenants to leave tenancies to bring homes under licensing thresholds. It would also mean that the Council had more control over all HMOs as opposed to just those covered by existing licensing schemes. Introducing these schemes would likely to increase the number of rogue landlords identified in the borough, and added to the register.

The consultation responses are currently being analysed and will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet as part of any proposals to progress with the two new licensing schemes.

Since May 2018, officers have put in a significant amount of time into the data sets that underpin what will become our application to the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. We are determined to deal with rogue landlords who are giving all landlords a bad name. The licensing scheme – if approved in its entire form – will be an opportunity that can deal with this problem across Lewisham. I invite the Secretary of State to agree with me and Lewisham Council that this is not a political issue but one of human decency. We support and work with good landlords. When we work together, we can achieve progress.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 25.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Tonge

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

Beckenham Place Park – Accountability for Alleged Overspend

Is it true that the project scope was considerably reduced from the original scheme owing to the abandonment of the Flood Alleviation scheme? Will the Council confirm the original budget, plus an additional £2M allotted this summer, was required to achieve so little tangible output?

Will the Council please confirm that a root and branches review has taken place on this prestige project?

Does the Mayor accept that measures are required to prevent re-occurrence of this poor financial performance on current and future major capital investment projects and will he further confirm that those Council Officers, their sub-contractors, and most importantly their line managers who will not be deployed on any future major project where there is a risk of haemorrhaging of public funds?

Reply

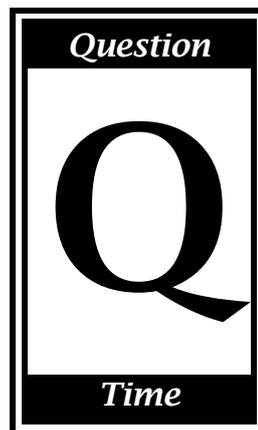
The project to restore Beckenham Place Park included work to the west side of the park led by Lewisham Council and work to the east side of the park in partnership with the Environment Agency, who were planning to create a major flood storage scheme there.

The costs of implementing the flood alleviation scheme increased through the Environment Agency's detailed design process until the scheme was deemed to no longer meet the value for money tests and was put on indefinite hold. The improvements which were planned for the east of the park through this scheme could no longer be implemented.

The Mayor allocated additional funding of £1.1m in summer 2019 so that an alternative plan for the east side of the park could be developed and implemented to complete the restoration of the park.

The project has been kept under regular review throughout its development with frequent reports on progress to various Council committees. No route and branch review is planned.

A small uplift in funds was necessary to complete the works to the west side of the park after a large volume of contamination was encountered during works to restore the lake. Most other aspects of the project fell within normal cost parameters. We are grateful to the council officers involved and to our funders the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Greater London Authority who together with Lewisham Council have invested so much in this park for the benefit of local people.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 26.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Rosalind Huish

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

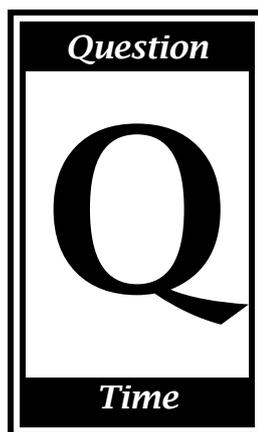
Question

What has the Council done from the destruction of Tidemill garden to now to offset the release of carbon stored in the soil and trees in the garden?

Reply

Tree felling works were carried out on the 27th February as an essential part of clearing the site for building works to commence. Peabody previously had a specialist tree survey carried out to the existing trees on the site to assess their viability to be removed and replanted in the new design, or at another site. The conclusion was that there is very low possibility to guarantee their long term growth and survival. This was due to the size, current locations and existing tree condition.

Through the meetings that have taken place with the working party, 16 existing trees have been retained and a further 61 new trees are proposed to be planted. These will be a mixture of sizes and species.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 27.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Hebditch

Member to reply: Councillor Bourne

Question

In March 2019, the Council agreed an action plan with Fusion to improve performance at Glass Mill. Will the council tell people what actions Fusion is supposed to be taking in the plan and what the results are from Lewisham's promised monitoring of the action plan?

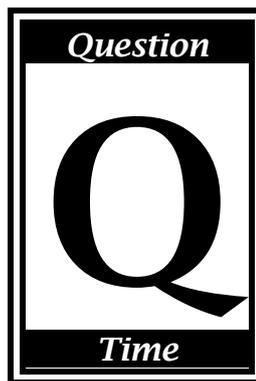
Reply

Fusion has acknowledged that the standards of maintenance and hygiene at Glassmill Leisure Centre have not been of the required standard recently.

The Council has met Fusion to demand better and for these issues be addressed through a detailed improvement plan covering maintenance, cleaning, recruitment, training, strategy planning and communications.

The Action Plan has detailed requirements against each of these headings across each site in the portfolio ranging from the repair of particular pieces of equipment, investment in maintenance and decoration, improved staff recruitment and training and long term investment in plant at the centres e.g. air handling systems.

There have been some improvements as part of this process such as a significant improvement in the delivery of the Swim School programme at the site but further progress is required to ensure that all areas of delivery reach the required standard. Council Officers will be meeting with Directors from Fusion on Wednesday 16th October to review the plan and agree what actions are required to ensure the correct standards are achieved and maintained.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 28.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

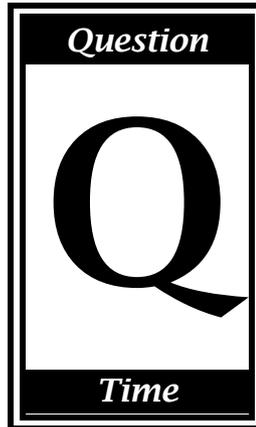
Question

Referring to my question listed as 77, priority 12 at last Full Council, the cabinet member stated that “contamination discovered whilst recreating the lake meant that there was insufficient material of an acceptable standard to construct the mound at the scale originally intended. The circular path originally planned was not practical on the smaller structure.” 1) The original plans stated the mound was to be 10m x 63m, please advise the new dimensions. 2) The contaminated soil was supposed to have been hand-picked to remove the asbestos particles and given that this picked soil, topped with a layer of clean soil, has been relocated in another area of the park, please explain why this process could not have been applied to the mound?

Reply

The mound in Beckenham Place Park measures approximately 30m x 7m.

The contaminated spoil could not be used to construct the mound even after it had been hand-picked to remove visible contamination. This is because the nature of the material was too variable to successfully construct an earthwork of this size and its stability would have been further compromised by the need for a barrier membrane between contaminated materials and clean cover soil.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 29.
Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Gwenton Sloley

Member to reply: Councillor Reid

Question

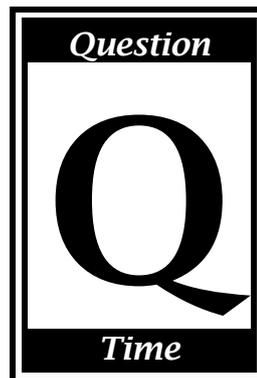
What is the breakdown over the past 3 years 2017-2019 stats of young people diagnosed with ADHD with a mapping to see if it matches the hotspots for violence and criminality?

Reply

Please find below as requested:

Category	17/18 (April 17 – March 18)	18/19 (April 18 – March 19)
No of CYP with ADHD on a CAMHS caseload	232	248
Total no of CYP on a CAMHS caseload	1915	1542
% with ADHD on a CAMHS caseload	12%	16%

We would not map where people with ADHD live against violence hotspots as there are many complexities about mapping locations and individuals. We do have mapping for violence and critical spaces which is regularly reviewed and appropriate actions taken.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 30.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Kanini

Member to reply: Councillor Dacres

Question

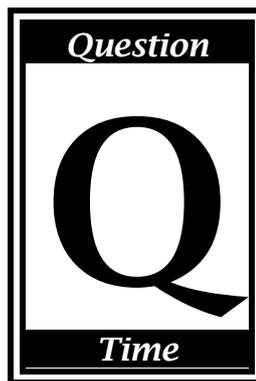
During a Q & A meet and greet with the Mayor in March of this year, I asked the Mayor what is going to happen to the dangerous states of the pavements on Inchmery Road, between Sandhurst Parade of shops and Penerley Road. I was told that an answer would be forthcoming. I am still waiting. Please could you let me know what is happening?

Reply

Unfortunately budgets for footway resurfacing are limited and I'm afraid the footway in Inchmery Road has not been selected for resurfacing during the current financial year. However they will be considered again for inclusion in next year's programme.

In the meantime we do safety inspect every adopted highway on a regular basis. Any area which the inspector thinks may become an imminent danger to users is noted and a repair arranged. Unfortunately the Council's budget for highway maintenance is limited and we focus on repairing the worst areas in the borough. We do not currently have the resources to repair areas that are simply worn and unsightly, but not considered hazardous at this time. Our inspectors will continue to monitor the condition of this road and will arrange for any necessary repairs to be carried out.

If you note any defects that you think may be hazardous please let us know giving a precise location (door number or lamp column ideally) and we will arrange an interim inspection. You can do this via the council web site at <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport>



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 31.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

I understand St.Modwen have decided not to proceed with the planned re-development of The Leegate Centre owing to an unsatisfactory outcome of negotiations between themselves and Lewisham's Planning Department concerning the number of housing units - some of which were intended to be classed as 'social housing units' - in a plan to raise the number of such dwellings in the borough.

Is this so?

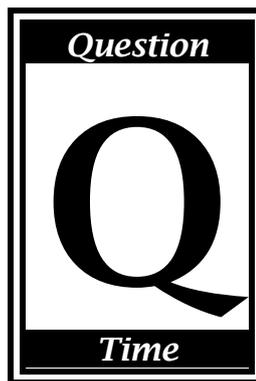
If so, are there any plans for the Council to compulsorily purchase the site from its owners and proceed to redevelop the site forthwith which remains a shocking eyesore to local people?

Reply

Lewisham and the rest of London is facing a severe housing crisis and there is a desperate need for genuinely affordable homes for local people. I am determined that developers are challenged to deliver the highest amount of genuinely affordable homes.

St Modwen have submitted a revised planning application for the Leegate Centre, but the affordable housing offer is significantly below what we would expect from the development. I have instructed officers to work with St Modwen to increase its affordable housing offer and ensure the redevelopment of the site is sustainable.

St Modwen remain committed to the redevelopment of Leegate and these negotiations are ongoing.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 32.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Tracey Jarrett

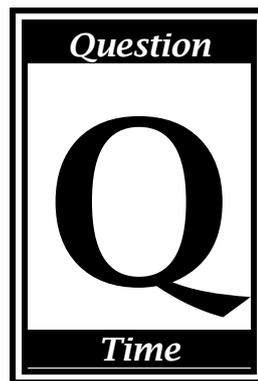
Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

Previous reports to Mayor and Cabinet mention a number of activities funded by Main Grant and other funding, including Irish Centre and Downham Leisure Centre. Why have these not been presented as options for providing places for the people displaced from Cedar Court and Cinnamon Court?

Reply

The Council has recently consulted on proposed changes to day services for older adults which would bring together three building-based day services which are currently provided at Cedar Court, Cinnamon Court and the Calabash Centre into a single service offer. People who attend these services have care and support needs which may mean that they are unable to access wider community activities such as those provided by 'Meet me...' at Downham Leisure Centre and the activities at the Irish Centre which were referenced in earlier reports on the changes.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 33.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Tonge

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

Why is it deemed necessary to have a team of security guards stationed in Beckenham Place Park? Do you accept their sole function appears to be to intimidate ordinary park users and to prevent access to the park, thereby causing traffic chaos on Beckenham Hill?

Given that there is no clear benefit to ordinary park users, will the Council please advise as to how much longer this presence will be in place?

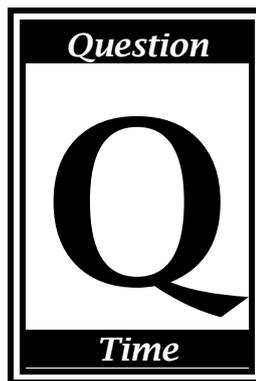
What is the cost of these security guards to date, the weekly ongoing cost and the cost benefit of their presence?

Reply

The security team in Beckenham Place Park have played two principal roles. They have supported the operation of the lake to ensure that it is not overwhelmed by the number of users across the warmer months. There were some incidents of threatening and reckless behaviour which in hot weather were impossible to manage without a security presence.

The security team have also been controlling the number of cars entering the park and restricting the numbers to the space available in the car park. This is because the increased popularity of the park was resulting in parking all along the driveway and other areas of parkland. This prevented access for emergency services and was causing damage within the park. The council have as a result been consulting on the introduction of parking charges which would make it possible to carry out enforcement action on those parking outside the designated areas.

The weekly ongoing cost of these public safety measures is £7,000 but this service will cease in the week commencing 23rd September.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 34.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Rosalind Huish

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

The last two issues of Lewisham Life have included adverts for Capel Manor College which does not have a campus in Lewisham and includes fee paying courses. Assurances were given by councillors that advertising out of borough schools and colleges in Lewisham Life had stopped. Why has this changed?

Reply

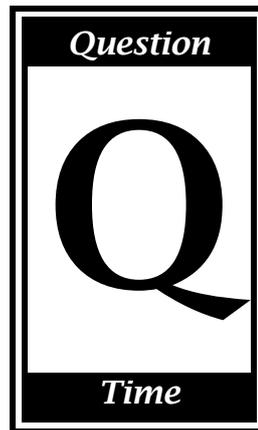
Lewisham Council is committed to giving children and young people the best start in life and to working with our local schools to help them improve, to positively promote their achievements and to encourage local families to apply to Lewisham Schools.

In 2017 we committed to supporting Lewisham schools by ending advertising by out of borough primary and secondary schools in Lewisham Life. This policy has been fully applied.

Capel Manor College is a further education and training college based just outside the borough in Crystal Palace Park farm. It offers a range specialised courses and training such as animal management, arboriculture and countryside and horticulture and landscaping which are not offered by schools and colleges in Lewisham.

Capel Manor College is also specialist provision which supports young people who have special education needs and provided excellent information, advice and guidance to young people at risk of not having post-16 education pathways. There is also 14-16 provision that offers alternative provision to young people looking for a foundation level pathway to further education.

I am satisfied that advertising by Capel Manor College is not contrary to our decision in 2017.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 35.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Hebditch

Member to reply: Chair of the Sustainable Development Committee – Councillor Curran

Question

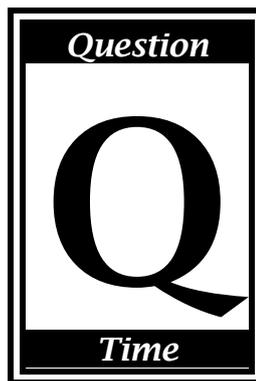
Given the Council declared a climate emergency almost eight months ago, what has your committee done to scrutinise the Council's progress of actions on climate change (given that the motion said this was an emergency)?

Reply

When my Committee met on 4 June 2019, it scrutinised a report on the Home Energy Conservation Act which included details of the work on the Climate Emergency: <https://tinyurl.com/SDSC040619> . At the meeting councillors heard from officers about the work that was taking place to respond to the declaration, which included the commissioning of work to evaluate options to respond to the emergency. The Committee referred its views to Mayor and Cabinet (<https://tinyurl.com/SDSCreferral260919>) – requesting additional resources to be made available to the officers carrying out this important work.

The issue is scheduled to return to my Committee on 4 December 2019 before the officer response to the declaration is presented to Mayor and Cabinet before the end of the municipal year, as set out in the February declaration.

Moreover, as part of its work programme, my Committee regularly reviews related issues of importance to the declaration of the climate emergency - such as air quality, parking policy and the management of green spaces. In addition, the Committee benefits from the Council's clean air and cycling champions being amongst its membership.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 36.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Gwenton Sloley

Member to reply: Councillor Reid

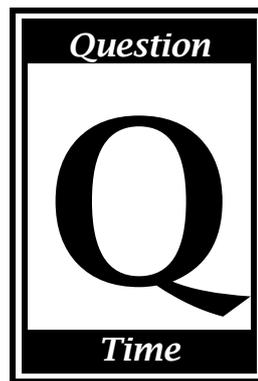
Question

What if the breakdown of young people on the youth offending database with special needs and ADHD; also how many have been excluded from mainstream school?

Reply

35% are identified as SEND or SEND support.

11% are excluded from mainstream school.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 37.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

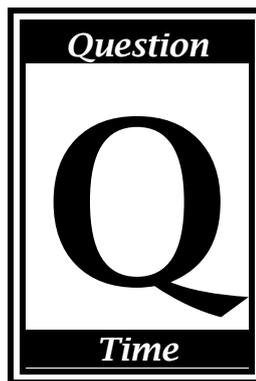
Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

A consultant's report, published on the website, set out protocols for treatment and disposal of asbestos contaminated material excavated at Beckenham Place Park and the council confirmed in a Freedom of Information request that these had been adhered to. In a separate FOI the council were asked to provide all the documents set out in that report and, more than forty days later, have failed to do so. Why? Please also explain why blurred photos (on the website Whatdotheyknow) of operatives in locations clearly not Beckenham Place Park, have been provided as part of the evidence required by the consultant's report. Please also explain why you have provided a photo (also on the website Whatdotheyknow) of an indistinct blue blob in the far bottom right hand corner, situated outside the fenced off asbestos compound in Beckenham Place Park, which you claim to be an air monitor, when clearly the consultant's report required distinct photos of every stage of the operation of dealing with the asbestos.

Reply

The Council provided the information requested in the FOI. The photographs provided were of operatives in Beckenham Place Park. The blue item referred to is indeed the air monitor used in the park. The asbestos operatives and the contractor overseeing them did not want to expose more operatives to any potential risk than necessary, and do not ordinarily allow cameras or phones into the contaminated area as this equipment cannot be contained such that it would be considered clean. As a result only minimal photographs were taken of the operation. The environmental consultant and the independent verifier are satisfied that all the correct procedures, as detailed in the remediation report, were complied with.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 38.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Dacres

Question

'Healthier Neighbourhoods' is currently a major endeavour by Lewisham Council which concentrates on freedom of movement for cyclists and walkers, but restricts movement for car owners and other motor vehicles.

The scheme is supposed to reduce harmful effluent in the atmosphere -a worthy endeavour in itself. However, has anyone in the Council considered cycling to a supermarket to purchase a family's weekly shopping of foodstuffs, load up the cycle with the goods and then ride home safely is unlikely to be an easy task for anyone, least of all the elderly?

Meanwhile, plans are being drawn to restrict several through-routes for cars and vehicles, creating severe congestion on roads unrestricted to traffic, which will in turn cause even more effluent in the atmosphere as vehicles clog up at traffic lights, road junctions and bus-stops. Is there a Plan B?

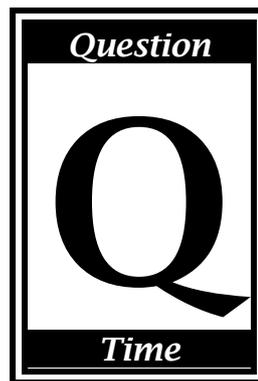
Reply

The aim of the Council's Healthy Neighbourhoods programme is to encourage people living, working and visiting the area, to walk, cycle and use public transport more frequently, where this is feasible. This will help to ease congestion, enhance the street environment and local air quality and improve public health. The scheme's objectives will primarily be achieved through the introduction of 'modal filters' on certain streets, usually current rat runs, meaning that only pedestrians and cyclists are permitted to pass these points. The modal filters will be complemented by a range of additional measures such as closures outside school entrances, new pedestrian crossings, cycle routes, cycle parking and planting.

It is recognised that not all trips can be made on foot or by bike, for instance those involving the transportation of large/heavy loads or by those with certain disabilities. Vehicles will still be able to access all areas of a neighbourhood if necessary, but may have to take a slightly more circuitous route. The only exception to this is any sections of street designated as a 'school street' during school pick up and drop off times. The package of interventions outlined above is designed to encourage people to consider the best mode to use for each journey they make, without prohibiting vehicular trips altogether.

Emerging evidence from other boroughs who have implemented similar strategies (such as London Borough of Waltham Forest) has shown that after a degree of initial disruption as people get used to the new arrangement, a reduction in traffic levels and associated congestion can be seen, as well as an improvement in local air quality. This is because people generally adapt their travel patterns rather than sitting in congestion, for instance by switching their mode of travel, sharing a vehicle with others, travelling at a different time or eliminating their need to travel on a particular day by working at home or shopping online.

All measures have been co-designed in collaboration with the local community through an extensive engagement exercise. The modal filters will initially be trialed for a minimum of six months before a decision is made on whether to make the features permanent. During this time the scheme will be closely monitored by the Council, with further feedback sought from the local community.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 39.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Tonge

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

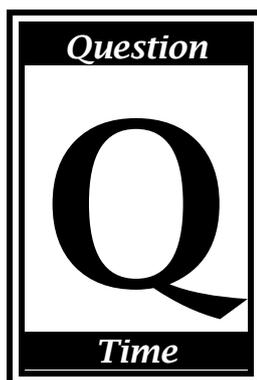
Question

Given that the contracting model for IDVerde has previously been explained in an answer to a public question with regard to Beckenham Place Park, will the Council please confirm that all payments to IDVerde have been made and that the significant remedial work still required within some areas of the park will be conducted by IDVerde at no further cost to the London Borough of Lewisham and its tax-payers.

Will the Council please confirm that it will require IDVerde to make good the deficiencies of their work to date with no contract extension and no further payment?

Reply

Not all payments have been made to idverde because some small areas of work are still to be completed. All snagging and defects will be completed by idverde at no further cost to the council this will not involve any contract extension.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 40.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Rosalind Huish

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

In a November 2018 reply to questions Cllr Bonavia advised he expected the monthly performance reports (which stopped in March 2018) to be available on the website 'in the new year'. As at 17/09/19 they have still not been published- why?

Reply

The Council's new Corporate Strategy was published in February 2019. As part of the performance management framework for the new strategy, considerable work has taken place to develop a suite of performance indicators that would be monitored in-year and against which progress would be reported back to the public.

The intention behind this process is to get the widest range of indicators that have clear definitions and robust collection methods. As a result, the depth, breadth and presentation of the indicators will be more detailed and extensive than previously reported and the final version will include input from the new Chief Executive (due to start at the end of October) who will be responsible for carrying these forward for delivery.

There is currently a wide range of performance published on the Council's website that is accessible to the public. This includes various progress reports and updates presented periodically to Select Committees. In the past 12 months the above-mentioned information has included the following:

June 2019

- Lewisham Homes 2018/19 performance update (Housing Select Committee)

April 2019

- Leisure contracts update (Healthier Communities Select Committee)

March 2019

- Planning and monitoring report (Sustainable Development Select Committee)

February 2019

- Adult Learning in Lewisham Annual Report (Healthier Communities Select Committee)

January 2019

- Waste and recycling service update (Sustainable Development Select Committee)

December 2018

- SEND strategy update (Children and Young People's Select Committee)
- Homelessness Reduction Act Update (Housing Select Committee)

November 2018

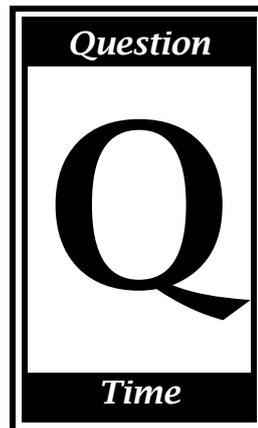
- Safe Lewisham Plan (Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee)

September 2018

- BAME achievement (Children and Young People's Select Committee)
- Annual Report on exclusions and attendance (Children and Young People's Select Committee)

In addition to the above, the Lewisham Observatory contains a wide range of information, include ward level data. The Observatory can be accessed via:
<https://www.observatory.lewisham.gov.uk/>

In the meantime, we remain committed to publishing the more accessible version of performance indicators as soon as possible.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 41.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Hebditch

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

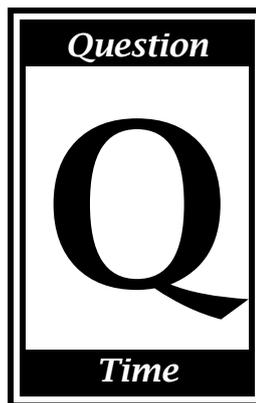
Question

Who is on the Council's climate emergency working group that the Council website says was launched in June 2019?

Reply

The Council's climate emergency working group is chaired by the Executive Director for Housing, Environment and Regeneration. Core members of the group are the Climate Resilience Manager and Sustainability Manager from the team leading on the response to the climate emergency declaration. The working group is tasked with ensuring a coordinated approach to carbon reduction across housing, the Council's corporate estate, transport, regeneration, planning and other services and, as such, membership of the group and attendance changes based on the focus of each meeting. To date participants of the working group include:

- The Director of Environment
- Service Group Manager for Highways and Transport
- Service Group Manager for Property Asset Strategy & Estates
- Service Group Manager for Housing Partnership & Service Improvement
- Principal Policy Officer Planning
- Senior Contract Officer Waste and Recycling
- Media Officer Communications Team
- Housing Data Analyst
- Lewisham Homes' Head of Environmental Services



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 42.

Priority 5

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Gwenton Soley

Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

Anonymous the collective, have ran a suicide prevention team on line. Why is it that Lewisham Council refuse to engage with such a model? The local Crofton Park Safer Neighbourhood MPS have also seen that such a platform could only benefit eliminating load on public services?

Reply

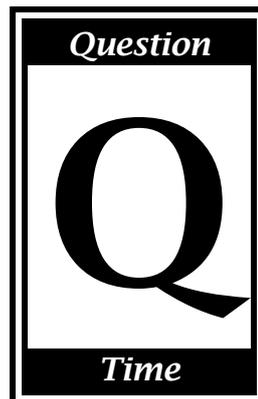
Lewisham Council launched its new Suicide Prevention Strategy on the 11th September 2019.

(<https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/strategies>)

The action plan included in the strategy outlines how Lewisham Council will be working with a multi-agency steering to implement the strategy. The multi-agency strategy steering group is open to using innovative evidence based strategies to help to prevent suicide.

There are a variety of services currently offering support for people experiencing a mental health crisis. These are outlined on the Council's website:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/socialcare/health/mental-health/get-help-with-mental-health>



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 43.

Priority 5

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

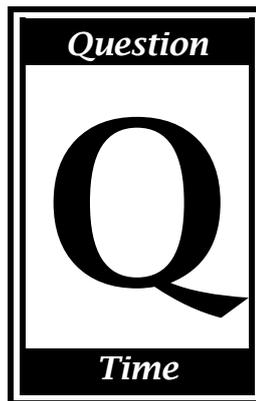
Question

Please explain why, as at the date of submission of this question (17th September 2019) the Council have not provided all the documents requested as per Section 26 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Specifically:-

- All necessary back up calculations to demonstrate the invoice value for id Verde's work at Beckenham Place Park
- Variations issued in relation to id Verde's contract for the Beckenham Place Park contract
- Contract monitoring reports for id Verde for the Beckenham Place Park contract.

Reply

The Council have explained that the above documents are confidential and commercially sensitive and that they are exempt from disclosure.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 44.

Priority 5

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Tonge

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

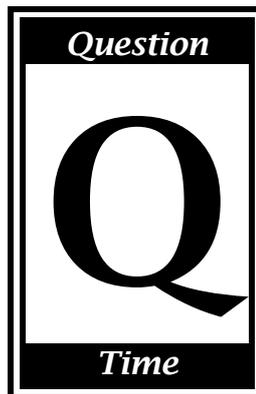
Beckenham Place Park

Will the Council please confirm that it has acted fully in accordance with UK Health and Safety Legislation and has reported to the HSE the RIDDOR Reportable incident of the 22nd July where a child had to be evacuated by Air Ambulance?

Will the Council please advise of the outcome of the HSE investigation?

Reply

The Council did submit a RIDDOR report regarding the incident referred to on 26th July. Whilst the Council has been in regular contact with the HSE throughout the summer in relation to the general operation of the lake, to our knowledge they have not carried out any investigation specific to this incident.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 45.

Priority 6

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Gwenton Sloley

Member to reply: Councillor Best

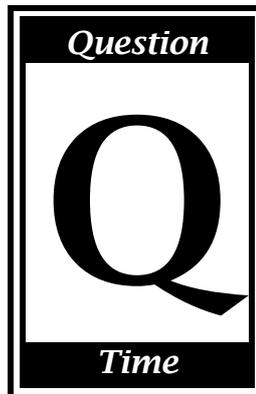
Question

With a national attempted suicide rate at 41% populous, what Positive Action has Lewisham Implemented, and why is Lewisham referring LGBT to charities, rather than engaging with them.

Reply

Lewisham Council launched its new Suicide Prevention Strategy on the 11th September 2019. The strategy and action plan outline the multi-agency actions that the Council and its partners are taking to prevent suicide locally.
(<https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/strategies>)

Lewisham Council is currently implementing 21 recommendations arising from the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee's review entitled: "Provision for the LGBT+ Community in Lewisham", which was adopted by the Committee on 13th December 2017. An update on the implementation of the recommendations took place in March 2019
(<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s63183/04ProvisionfortheLGBTCommunity6monthupdateReportSSCSC120319.pdf>) and outlines the breadth of work taking place across Lewisham Council to meet the needs of Lewisham's LGBT+ residents.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 46.

Priority 6

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

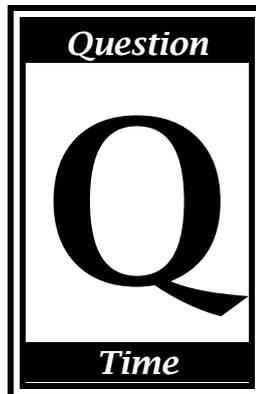
Question

Please explain why the Freedom of Information request regarding the Health and Safety Assessment for the lake at Beckenham Place Park has not been answered after more than the 20 statutory days.

Reply

Despite Council staff numbers being reduced by around 50% as a result of the Government's significant funding cuts since 2010, the Council always aims to respond to Freedom of Information requests within the required time. However, regrettably there will be occasions when this is not possible because of the complexity, sensitivity, volume of requests or resources available and service priorities. On those occasions the Council responds as soon as possible.

The Council monitors a range of performance management indicators and these indicators include Freedom of Information requests. Where performance is not on target mitigating action is taken to address the issues. I understand that the Freedom of Information request to which you refer has now been answered.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 47.

Priority 6

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Tonge

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

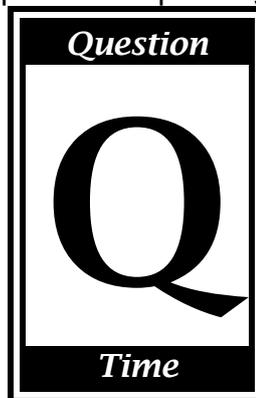
Question

It is believed that significant procurement of high cost plants has taken place for Beckenham Place Park, yet these plants have been abandoned on the site of one of the previous tennis courts to wither and die. Has the project been further subsidised from public funds to the tune of £2Million in the summer. Do the project management team have the comprehension as to the consequences of their actions, both in direct financial impact and with respect to the reputational status of the Council?

Reply

A small proportion of the more than 10,000 plants delivered to the site have not yet been planted and a small proportion of these have failed. This is in part due to the late completion of some of the planting areas, which were to receive the plants and the unfavourable time of year for planting. The park staff and volunteers have been watering the plants as often as possible, until they can be planted in their final places.

Additional funds of £1.936m were agreed by the Council in April 2019. This funding will be used to improve the east side of the park, to restore other buildings in the park, to replace old worn out equipment and to deal with contamination encountered on site. None of this funding is for replacement planting.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 48.

Priority 7

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Gwenton Sloley

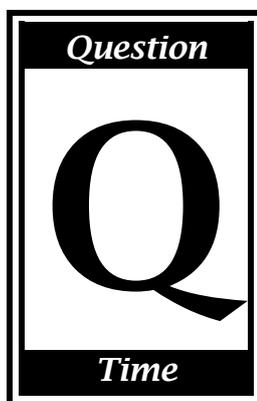
Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

What are the figures of people that have committed suicide in Lewisham from the LGBT community over the past three years 2017-2019?

Reply

The results of the most recent suicide audit for Lewisham are included in the new Lewisham Suicide Prevention Strategy (<https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/strategies>). Information on sexual orientation was not available to include in this audit. The public health team is currently undertaking a needs assessment for LGBT+ residents in Lewisham, which will include a focus on mental health needs.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 49.

Priority 7

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

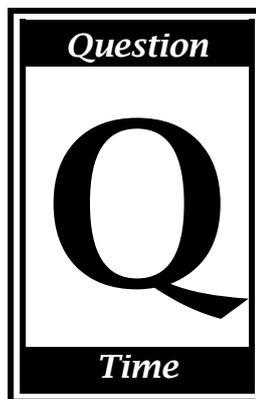
Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

Given the debacle and the eyesore of the mound in the west of Beckenham Place Park, why are consultants proposing building more mounds in the east of the park?

Reply

We are not proposing to create further 'mounds' in Beckenham Place Park at this stage but our consultants did produce a drawing to stimulate discussion with local people about changes they'd like to see when the east of the park is improved. Part of these improvements could include enhanced water habitats and smaller scale flood storage, this would require earth movement and re-use within the park so we wanted to start a conversation about these options.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 50.

Priority 7

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Mr Tonge

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

Will the Council please explain why requests for services placed online whilst being automatically acknowledged with an envirocase number seem to be totally ignored by the Cleansing Team who seem completely incapable of even the most basic communication? (8 weeks and counting without the courtesy of any communication).

Will the Council please also explain why it is made so difficult for Council Departments to be contacted by any conventional (non-online) method?

Reply

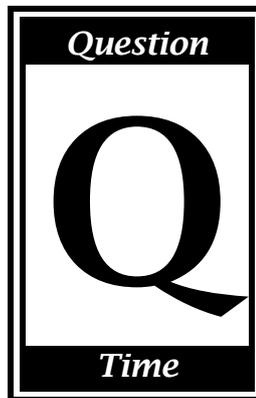
The Waste service usually action replacement or new bin requests within 28 working days and we are sorry that this didn't happen in your case. The service have just implemented a new ward based delivery system where residents can choose their delivery slot and this has cut waiting times considerably. We have viewed your request and haven't been able to identify the delay and for this we apologise. We understand you now have your replacement bin.

The Council promotes on line services because:

- they are easier for most customers to access as they are available all day every day and don't require travel to our office or phone calls.
- they are much more efficient for the Council which means there are more resources available for other Council services like social care.

The Council supports on line services with digital zones across the borough where customers can go and get help if they need it and also works with various landlords and community groups to tackle digital exclusion.

The Council realises that there are some customers who are unable to use on line services and for this reason provides an alternative. For Environmental Services there is a call back service where customers can leave their details and we promise to call back within 2 hours to either help them go on line or do the transaction for them. Last month the Customer Service Centre received 1,659 call back requests and responded to 99% of these within the 2 hours.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 51.

Priority 8

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Gwenton Sloley

Member to reply: Councillor De Ryk

Question

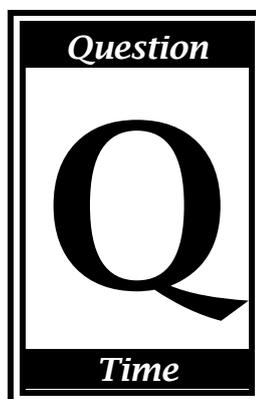
Please define the ethnic origins of staff working within Lewisham, and all services that work within the borough, but also demonstrate how this proportionately represents the society it serves.

Reply

The Council does not hold data on the ethnicity on all services that work in the Borough. Below is a breakdown on the data we do hold which relates to directly employed staff across the Council and schools, which is referenced against the 2011 census data on ethnicity.

	2011 Census	Council inc Schools	Difference
Arab	0.50%	0.14%	▼ -0.36%
Asian Bangladeshi	0.50%	0.51%	▲ 0.01%
Asian Chinese	2.20%	0.39%	▼ -1.81%
Asian Indian	1.70%	1.37%	▼ -0.33%
Asian Other	4.30%	1.06%	▼ -3.24%
Asian Pakistani	0.60%	0.39%	▼ -0.21%
Black African	11.60%	6.58%	▼ -5.02%
Black Caribbean	11.20%	15.25%	▲ 4.05%
Black Other	4.40%	2.14%	▼ -2.26%
Mixed Other	1.90%	1.50%	▼ -0.40%
Mixed White and Asian	1.10%	0.67%	▼ -0.43%
Mixed White and Black African	1.30%	0.67%	▼ -0.63%

Mixed White and Black Caribbean	3.10%	2.07%	▼ -1.03%
Other Ethnic group	2.10%	1.13%	▼ -0.97%
Prefer not to say		1.69%	▲ 1.69%
UnKnown		1.26%	▲ 1.26%
White British/Eng/Welsh/Scot/NIrish	41.50%	50.59%	▲ 9.09%
White Irish	2.80%	1.69%	▼ -1.11%
White Other	10.10%	6.42%	▼ -3.68%
White Turkish / Turkish Cypriot		0.48%	▲ 0.48%



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 52.

Priority 8

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

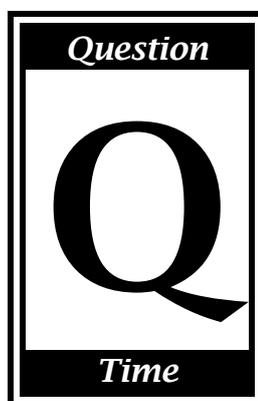
Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

Why was the re-launch of Beckenham Place Park scheduled for July when so much of the regeneration project was not complete?

Reply

The relaunch was scheduled for July based on expected completion of key project areas, the majority of which were complete at this time. Some areas of the landscape had only recently been seeded and these areas will take some time to establish which is why some areas of bare earth were visible.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 53.

Priority 9

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Gwenton Sloley

Member to reply: Councillor De Ryk

Question

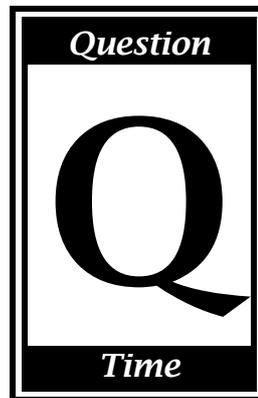
What is the ethnic breakdown of management structure in Lewisham Council?

Reply

Due to the lower numbers of management population compared to Council question 51 that looks at total workforce population, it would not be appropriate to categorise ethnicity in a more detailed level than BAME and white.

The ethnic origin of our managers (taken as Service Manager and above) is 17% BAME. This is proportionate to the average across London Councils for the top 5% of earners. The Council has a commitment for its workforce to better match the Borough's profile, and we are broadly achieving this with 42.9 % of Council employees identifying themselves as BAME and 53.3% of new hires in 2018/19 identifying themselves as BAME.

Wishing to further enhance management capability and the ability for council employees to progress their careers into both middle management and senior management, and to promote greater diversity at senior levels, we are significantly investing in management training over the next four years. This significant investment, supported by apprenticeship levy funding, has been procured and will start at the beginning of next year. The Council has also appointed a Mayoral advisor to support the increase in numbers of BAME employees at a senior management level.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 54.

Priority 9

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

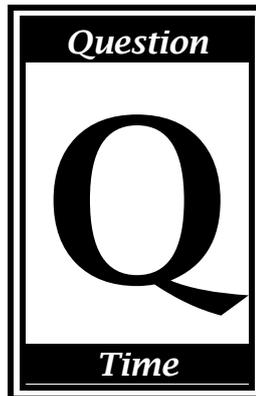
Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

Why does the terraced gardens and pleasure ground at Beckenham Place Park still have chipped, broken, uneven crazy paving and steps? Why were these decades old and dangerous infrastructure elements not replaced as part of the regeneration?

Reply

There have been some difficulties sourcing the necessary materials to replace the stair treads within the formal gardens, which will be resolved shortly. It has not been possible to replace and re-lay all the existing paths in the park within the existing budget, so some areas like the older crazy paving which are safe to use, will remain in place until resources can be found to improve them.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 55.

Priority 10

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Gwenton Sloley

Member to reply: Councillor De Ryk

Question

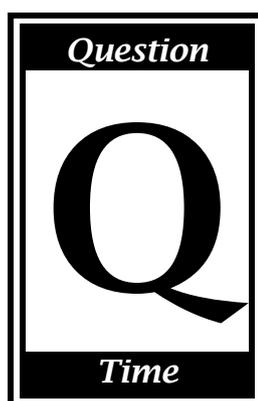
What is the number of sexual assault offences investigated against managers over the past 3 years 2017-2019?

Reply

2017 – One Case

2018 – No Cases

2019 – One Compliant Received – under investigation



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 56.

Priority 10

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

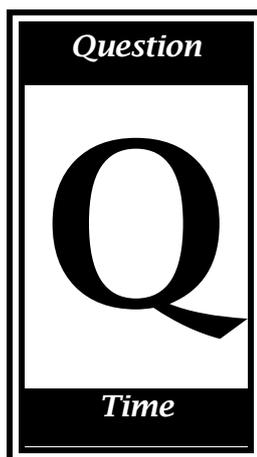
Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

Did the Council achieve the income for the new cafe in Beckenham Place Park as per the details advertised by the estate agent, Hindwoods?

Reply

There was substantial interest in the café opportunity in the restored stable at Beckenham Place Park and the Council achieved the expected the rental terms.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 57.

Priority 11

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

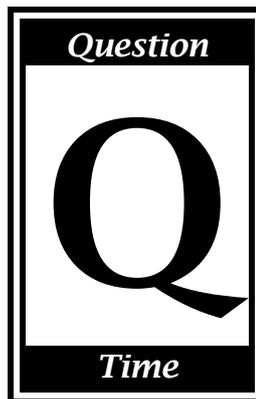
Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

On Sunday 15th September TFL tweeted that the route 54 bus had to be diverted away from Beckenham Hill Road via Catford Hill and 3 other roads not on the route. This was because of badly parked cars of people attending an event in Beckenham Place Park for which there is insufficient parking spaces. What is the Council's strategy for dealing with this recurring situation?

Reply

The Council has already put in place measures to combat issues on Beckenham Hill Road. These include the introduction of double yellow lines where traffic islands create pinch points in the road, which larger vehicles have found it impossible to pass due to inconsiderate parking. This area is being actively enforced, including on weekends when it has proved to be more of an issue. We are consulting on further yellow lining in the area and will extend this further if necessary.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 58.

Priority 12

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2019

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

What was the Council's spend on the maintenance of street trees for the last financial year?

Reply

The Council's spend on maintenance of street trees for financial year 2018-2019 was £ 295,861.11