

**QUESTION No. 1**  
**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor John Paschoud**  
**of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport**

**Question**

There appears to have been a large volume of public feedback on the implementation of Modal Traffic Filters (LTNs) via the Web-based 'CommonPlace' platform. Ward councillors and also residents who had contacted their ward councillors via the usual channels have been told that they must record their views via CommonPlace, rather than more traditional means of expressing their opinions to the Council.

I want to know how we are using that feedback to help us understand public opinion, and allow it to influence our reviews of and adjustments to these changes to the roads in which people live, walk, cycle and drive.

Using the consultation on Silverdale and Bishopthorpe Road (<https://lewishamcovidresidentialstreets.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/silverdale-and-bishopthorpe-road/details>) as an example, please can you summarise and quantify the consensus (or possibly two or more consensi) of the opinions expressed.

When I tried to do this myself, using just the information publicly visible, there were 553 comments counted by the platform; but also 20+ other contributors agreeing with many of the comments posted. How are these counted, and how is the influence of a comment weighted by supporting agreements? How many individual residents of Lewisham have contributed to this feedback? How many of those were resident in Sydenham ward? How many of those were resident in Perry Vale ward?

How is the identity and address (particularly as a Lewisham resident) of each contributor to a CommonPlace consultation verified and controlled?

What is the cost structure for our use of the CommonPlace platform? What has been the Council's total expenditure incurred for all use of CommonPlace, over the 12 month period ending 30th September 2020? (If this has been paid for in advance or has yet to be paid for, please estimate the total cost incurred over this period.)

**Reply**

Commonplace is being used as our initial engagement tool for all schemes that are being implemented as part of the Council's COVID19 transport response for the duration that the temporary traffic order is in place. If and when the Council moves to an experimental traffic order (ETO), there will be a separate statutory and public consultation process. The format is yet to be developed, but is likely to be distinct from Commonplace. A decision on whether to extend the measures through an experimental traffic order (ETO) will be based on feedback from the Commonplace website, along with granular analysis of the monitoring data collected.

In terms of the Commonplace analysis being undertaken in the meantime, an officer is providing weekly feedback to the project team on the emerging issues on Commonplace to help inform officers of the operational effectiveness of the temporary measures.

Officers also have access to the raw data from Commonplace which can be interrogated to provide an analysis of any one location. However, it should be noted that a higher degree of negativity is expected early on in a scheme's implementation. This is because it has not had the opportunity to "bed in". People are still getting used to the new street layout and adjusting their travel patterns accordingly (specifically, taking different routes and/or switching modes). A scheme is likely to be most disruptive in the period immediately following its implementation. Any quantitative analysis of the comments can therefore be misleading in terms of resident's current views of the scheme, and whether they are dependent on certain components of the scheme being amended. These subtleties cannot be detected by a basic analysis of the responses.

After contributing, any new respondent is asked for their demographic information, which includes a postcode and email address. This makes it possible to identify people from a particular area. If respondents elect not to provide personal information and register, their comments are held separately. A similar approach can be adopted to comments from respondents who have registered, but omitted to provide their postcode. If desired, it is possible to separate comments where no postcode was supplied and examine manually whether there seems to be a common theme to these.

Commonplace has in place policies and practices to address attempts at systematic "gaming" of its websites. For example, it might remove, if necessary, multiple identical comments from a single individual. However, "manipulation" is a very broad term. For example, a resident may use social media to promote a comment they have made and invite people to "Agree" with them. That in itself would not count as "manipulation".

The way that Commonplace is structured also mitigates against some forms of abuse. For example, you can only "Agree" once with a comment, and cannot agree with your own comment. If you disagree, you need to record a comment of your own, stating your view – with which others may if they choose to, agree also. It does not

enable talk-back chains, so it is not easy for anyone to systematically dismiss comments already recorded. It is not possible to see who has made an agreement. It could be the case that they may have left a very similar comment, and then "agreed" with a number of similar comments, therefore essentially amplifying their point several times. Rather than attaching too much to the numbers it is important to examine the content of the comments received.

LB Lewisham has an annual corporate license with Commonplace which costs £50,000 per annum. This applies for the next 3 years, and as a result of recent negotiations the third year will be at no cost to the Council. The cost of the annual license is shared between those teams in the Council who use this engagement tool and their contribution is dependent on their level of use.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Curran**  
**of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport**

**Question**

What actions are being taken to secure the future of the vital, bio-diverse green space known as The Railway Children Urban National Park in the light of criminal damage committed to the Ringway Centre access gates and the gates to the land behind the Ringway Centre and what action is being taken against the culprits?"

**Reply**

In addition to the layers of planning designations currently applied across the site and the existing Tree Preservation Orders on the northern sections of the Green Corridor the Council recently made an Area TPO on the land known as 'Horse Meadows' behind the Ringway Centre. The TPO was 'made' in response to the escalating actions of the landowner in recent weeks. Notice of the proposed Area TPO has been issued to the landowner and neighbouring properties. A site notice has also been displayed adjacent to the area.

Whilst the Area TPO is effective immediately the council has 6 months to confirm the order.

Grove Park Nature Reserve has recently been declared as a statutory 'Local Nature Reserve'.

A habitat survey and desktop analysis were conducted by the London Wildlife Trust to determine if Hither Green Sidings SINC (LeB29) meets the criteria of Metropolitan SINC. If the report recommends to change the status of the SINC to Metropolitan then the London Wildlife Sites Board will need to be consulted for approval.

We are aware that the landowner has removed access to the 'Horse Meadow' area to exclude the local community. This is being investigated by the Council's legal team.

**QUESTION No. 3**  
**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Walsh**  
**of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport**

**Question**

Could the cabinet member confirm that all playgrounds in Lewisham, including those run by registered social landlord's such as Lewisham homes, are again open.

**Reply**

I can confirm that children's playgrounds in our parks are open. However there is currently a reduction in the availability of some pieces of play equipment such as swings to facilitate the social distancing of users. Lewisham Homes Ltd is the Council's housing company. It is not a Registered Social Landlord. All playgrounds and ball courts managed by Lewisham Homes are open. We cannot comment on other RSL's. We do not hold records of RSLs' management of play areas.

**Question 4**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Hall  
of the Cabinet member for Health and Adult Social Care**

**Question**

Please give an update on the rate of immunisations for the last three years across the London Borough of Lewisham? If possible please give a breakdown by ward.

**Reply**

The following is the rate of immunisation in the London Borough of Lewisham for the last three years:

Measures Name	2017-18				2018-19				2019-20			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
DTaP/IPV/Hib (D3) at 1 year	89.6%	89.5%	90.2%	89.4%	88.6%	88.4%	88.4%	88.1%	89.8%	89.0%	89.6%	87.5%
First Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR1) at 2 years	88.6%	86.7%	89.4%	87.8%	84.7%	84.4%	84.4%	82.5%	83.2%	82.1%	85.1%	84.0%
Haemophilus influenzae type b (HIB) / Meningitis C booster at 2 years	87.3%	87.2%	89.9%	88.4%	84.8%	83.8%	84.8%	82.7%	83.0%	81.4%	85.3%	83.2%

Measures Name	2017-18				2018-19				2019-20			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Pneumococcal booster at 2 years	87.2%	86.7%	88.4%	87.6%	84.2%	83.8%	84.3%	81.6%	81.7%	80.7%	84.4%	82.9%
DTaP/IPV (D4) at 5 years	84.4%	81.6%	84.8%	85.2%	77.6%	78.6%	78.0%	77.7%	78.6%	77.8%	74.9%	79.5%
Second Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR2) at 5 years	85.1%	84.4%	87.2%	88.7%	83.5%	85.3%	86.1%	86.3%	85.1%	86.7%	85.5%	85.2%

Measures Name	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Uptake of Flu vaccine in persons 65+	68.1%	64.5%	63.2%

Because of the changes in the data collection methodology by the NHS England, we do not get information as per the wards.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Powell**  
**of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Performance**

**Question**

The Macpherson report into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, published in 1999, asked that "consideration be given to amendment of the national curriculum aimed at valuing cultural diversity and preventing racism, in order better to reflect the needs of a diverse society". As Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education, could you provide an update on what progress has been made in Lewisham with regards to "decolonising the curriculum", and adequately representing Black History as a standardised part of History teaching in our schools?

**Reply**

Unfortunately, national government has made relatively little progress since Macpherson in building a curriculum to prevent racism. In recent years, history in the national curriculum has been if anything narrowed. At a local level, however, there is better news. Lewisham Learning, our schools led school improvement partnership, is now building on the work it launched in 2019 at its 'Leading an inclusive and aspirational curriculum conference' by leading on a project called 'Embedding race equality in schools and raising the achievement of Black Caribbean pupils in the Borough', which was launched in July 2020. The project will focus specifically on work in schools (primary and secondary) and will feed into and be informed by the wider work of the Council and its partners to improve the lives of Black children and young people.

In devising the project plan, key stakeholders have been consulted - people from schools, the Local Authority, Council Members, parent and community groups and young people - to take stock of where Lewisham is in terms of advancing race equality and providing more equitable outcomes for Black Caribbean pupils. The project steering group will feed back to stakeholders as the project goes on.

The project has a significant focus on working with all schools to ensure that their curriculum means that Black and minority ethnic history is taught across the themes of the history curriculum; teaching about Black civil rights history and reflecting the contribution of Black people across the ages, locally in the UK and more widely. Work



has begun to explore how schools can be supported to audit racially diverse books and resources, as well as reviewing and improving their curriculum

Thirty Lewisham schools are working on a project called 'Your Voice Can Change the World', led by Rathfern Primary School. It is a connecting schools project with South Africa, a country whose anti-apartheid struggle is globally recognised as a fight against a brutally racist regime and where significant work has been done in recent years by many schools to reflect local and national history in the curriculum. This work is focusing on how the curriculum in Lewisham schools can support pupils to learn about local, national and worldwide Black history and how we can stand up and oppose racism. The Rathfern Research Network is supporting this work with three academics whose focus is decolonising the curriculum. Learning from this work is being shared with all Lewisham schools, for example running seminars which are attended by over fifty Lewisham educators.

**QUESTION No. 6**  
**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Paschoud**  
**of the Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees and Accountability**

**Question**

What are the levels of specialist professional and vocational qualifications held by the staff who support use of Information Technology in the Council?

The answers should include all those staff directly employed by Lewisham Council specifically in IT support roles, and those employed in the ICT Service which we share with the boroughs of Southwark and Brent, who are available to support the use of IT by Lewisham Council. Please give the total number of such personnel (as full-time equivalents if not all individuals work full time), and the numbers holding each highest level of professional/vocational qualification, at NVQ levels 3, 4 and 5 in relevant subjects ("Communicating and information technology" in the NVQ economic framework).

How many of these IT staff hold Chartered IT Professional (CITP) and/or Chartered Engineer (CEng) status?

Please provide for comparison the equivalent figures for the total numbers and the numbers holding each level of highest qualification (in the appropriate relevant subjects) of Council staff in each of the other specialist professional fields of: (a) Town and Country Planning; and (b) Law.

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**Reply**

The generic roles in the Council's IT and Digital service do not specify minimum criteria for CITP, CEng or NVQ qualifications. We therefore do not monitor and record whether individual members of staff have them.

That said, we do require specific professional qualifications against a number of technical roles and these are specified in individual job descriptions. However, we also place a high value on experience and skills, and we ensure that career progression is open to long-serving members of staff with professional qualifications

that may predate some of the more current vocational qualifications. We recognise that technology qualifications are constantly changing in line with the technologies they support.

Staff in the shared service with Brent and Southwark (also known as SICTS) have other more specific qualifications which support the roles which they currently carry out. Examples are ITIL certification and Microsoft professional qualifications. The service has been carrying out various training courses around the technologies that we use and is developing a purpose-driven training programme for the next 12 months. This is one of the strands from the target operating model for SICTS which is currently in development.

It is not possible to provide a like-for-like comparison of qualifications held by staff in planning or legal roles.

In the case of planning, it is a job requirement for development management planning officer posts, strategic planning posts and specialisms such as conservation and urban design to have the relevant professional qualification (apart from planning officer entry level posts who can be working towards their professional qualification).

In the case of law, officers have a variety of qualifications. Any officer providing legal advice will either hold a practising certificate from the Solicitors Regulation Authority or the Bar Council, or may do so under the supervision of an officer holding such practising certificate.

**QUESTION No. 7**  
**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Curran**  
**of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning**

**Question**

Will the Cabinet Member inform us what actions the Council has taken since the welcome declaration that Grove Park Nature reserve now has greater protection as an officially designated “Local Nature Reserve” to protect the Railway Children Urban National Park including tree protection orders and a SINC review of the land containing wet woodland priority habitat?”

**Reply**

In addition to the layers of planning designations currently applied across the site and the existing Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) on the northern sections of the Green Corridor, the Council recently made an Area TPO on the land known as ‘Horse Meadows’ behind the Ringway Centre. The TPO was ‘made’ in response to the escalating actions of the landowner in recent weeks. Notice of the proposed Area TPO has been issued to the landowner and neighbouring properties. A site notice has also been displayed adjacent to the area.

Whilst the Area TPO is effective immediately the council has 6 months to confirm the order before making it permanent.

A habitat survey and desktop analysis were conducted by the London Wildlife Trust to determine if Hither Green Sidings SINC (LeB29) meets the criteria of Metropolitan SINC. If the report recommends to change the status of the SINC to Metropolitan then the London Wildlife Sites Board will need to be consulted for approval before the change can be made official.

I would like to thank Cllrs Curran, Clarke, Moore, Elliott, Ingleby as well as the local community for their work in protecting our heritage.

**QUESTION No.8**  
**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Hall**  
**of The Mayor**

**Question**

Please provide an update on the security and future of The Bridge Leisure Centre?

**Reply**

The Council has recently announced that four leisure centres will open in the coming weeks, starting with Glass Mill, Forest Hill Pools and Ladywell Arena in October and Wavelengths in November.

Our new partner, GLL, is in the process of undertaking an assessment of all leisure centres and we expect to be a position to be more specific about plans for the other centres, including The Bridge, in November.

These assessments include a building condition survey and a review of the readiness to open under COVID-19 secure rules including, increased ventilation requirements. We are aware that our older facilities do not have the necessary modern air handling and ventilation systems, therefore more detailed survey work is required to ensure the facilities can meet the COVID-19 safety conditions.

The Bridge is important to the many residents and groups who used the venue up until the pandemic. The financial challenges of reopening leisure centres should not be underestimated. Once the assessments have been completed, officers will work with GLL to explore the costs associated with reopening, balanced with our ambition to provide an accessible leisure offer for all Lewisham residents.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Powell**  
**of the Cabinet Member for the Community Sector**

**Question**

According to the 2011 Census, 47% of Lewisham residents identified as coming from a Black or Minority Ethnic background, which almost 10 years later may have increased significantly. As Cabinet Member with responsibility for Equalities, could you provide an update on how we as a Council forge effective partnerships with the voluntary sector, private sector and other statutory bodies, in order to improve the social and economic conditions of BAME residents in the borough?

**Reply**

Set out below is a summary of engagement work that the Council is undertaking to improve the social and economic well-being of BAME residents in the borough. It should be noted that the information contained within this response is not exhaustive. However, it does underline the ongoing commitment of the Council to cross-sector and multi-agency engagement in our continued efforts to improve the life experiences of BAME residents living in the borough.

**Voluntary and community sector**

The Council is working closely with organisations to gain insight and respond to the needs of the BAME community and to enable access to services. Working collaboratively and in partnership with BAME led organisations, service users and community representatives to identify need and co-design bespoke service provision for and with BAME organisations and communities.

Main grant funding is provided to a variety of voluntary and community organisations delivering a range of services to and for BAME communities and individuals, equality and equity are in-built in the application guidance, criteria and assessment process.

The main grant fund recipients include:

The Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust. The trust provides infrastructure support and assistance to BAME organisations across the Borough and coordinates the BAME Network comprising of voluntary and community sector organisations. Members of the Network sit on the funding partnership steering group working in collaboration to identify and coordinate fundraising to support services provided by the voluntary sector.

#### Lewisham Refugee Migrant Network (LMRN) and Lewisham Refugee Network

Providing services to refugee families and individuals. Services include; family support and assistance, advice and information, ESOL, domestic abuse assistance, mental health support, befriending and housing advice and information.

LMRN and Lewisham Multi-lingual Advice Service are members of the Advice Lewisham partnership providing generalist and specialist advice in person, by phone and online, providing access for BAME residents to free advice and information service.

Metro Charity is also a main grant recipient and our equality partner providing a variety of services to the LGBT community, developing specific projects for BAME individuals.

The Lewisham Community Response hub, a voluntary sector led partnership working with the Council, was set up to support shielded and vulnerable individuals during the pandemic, and received over 14,000 referrals. An analyses undertaken of residents accessing the service mid-way through the pandemic showed that 52% of service users identified as being from BME communities.

The Lewisham community response hub directed a £10,000 donation by LendLease to the BAME network funding steering group to develop and deliver services to vulnerable BAME residents during the height of the pandemic. Services set up included hot food delivery, health and well-being activities and a befriending scheme.

#### **Youth Offending Service**

Volunteers from Lewisham have stepped forward as part of the Council's 'Community Champions' initiative. The scheme aims to reach local black communities in Lewisham to lead and engage in community conversations. As part of this, 'Mutual Gain' led a series of community events across the borough including in Catford, Ladywell, Forest Hill. Using the 'training the trainer model' a total of 20 Community Champions trained in appreciative enquiry.

The Council has also delivered Unconscious Bias Training for staff across the Council. In total more than 100 plus staff have received Unconscious Bias training.

In February 2020 the Cabinet Office Race Disparity Unit hosted a round table session in Lewisham to hear from the community and gather feedback on the Stop and Search (Section.61) powers pilot.

Current initiatives in the Youth Offending Service involving partnership work with external agencies are supporting the BAME community include the following:

- Newly commissioned mentoring offer to support children and young people identified as at risk of exclusion or presenting challenging behaviour at school. This provision aims to reduce the risk of school exclusion and improve attendance, attainment, skills, employability as well as the emotional and mental health well-being of Lewisham children and young people.
- Lewisham's Youth Offending Service were selected by the Youth Justice Board to pilot a Corporate Business Mentoring Circle project in partnership with Department of Work and Pensions for BAME young people.
- Selected by Youth Justice Board to being involved in Levelling the Playing field initiative aimed at reducing health inequalities through sport with Birmingham, Croydon and Cookham Wood Young Offenders Institution. This particular project is in partnership with the Alliance for Sport for all and funded with the London Marathon fund.
- Race-based traumatic stress training has been delivered to all Youth Offending Service staff. The training explored key themes such as micro-aggressions, challenging unconscious bias, racism and mental health and wellbeing, and individual and systemic racism.
- Improved data gathering and monitoring, as well as detailed data analysis has helped to outline the specific issues and areas for focus. In addition, work and activity to spread the Youth Offending Service practice model has also contributed to ensure some progress has been made over the past three years against disproportionality.
- The Youth Offending Service is also a member of the Lewisham BAME Health and Inequalities Working Group with the focus on action and learning including the partnership with Birmingham local authority.
- As an urgent and imminent response to the Black Lives Matters movement and the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on the BAME community, Lewisham Youth Offending Service is devising an Anti-Racist Policy with a Strategic mission and values statement backed up by an action plan following the journey of the child in prevention, through the criminal justice system and for the few to custody. This will result in a renewed framework to address institutional and structural racism in the delivery of our work with partners and children and families.

## **Public Health**

Our Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is a statutory committee whose members include Healthwatch and representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector. In 2018, the Board agreed that its main priority should be tackling health inequalities, with an initial focus on Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities in Lewisham, and specifically the key issues of mental health, obesity and cancer.



To assist in this effort the Board has worked closely with the Lewisham BME Network, a community development project, managed by the Stephen Charitable Lawrence Trust, comprised of over 120 BAME stakeholder groups. Together they have co-produced an 'Addressing BAME Health Inequalities Action Plan 2019-2022' which is underpinned by targeted engagement with local residents, representative groups, community organisations and statutory partners such as the NHS. A BAME health inequalities working group has also been established to oversee implementation of this 25-point action plan, meeting bi-weekly since April 2020 in response to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities.

An additional area of work that has been added to the existing action plan is a ground-breaking partnership between Lewisham Council and Birmingham City Council. The aim of the partnership is to jointly undertake a series of reviews in order to explore in depth the inequalities experienced by Black African and Black Caribbean groups and their drivers. 'The Birmingham and Lewisham African & Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR)' will run over an 18-month period, with an external advisory board and academic board set up with the aim of representing a wide range of different aspects of the Black African and Black Caribbean communities in Lewisham. The review will inform the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board partnership and influence both Councils, NHS, academic and community and voluntary sector partners to make sustainable changes that start to address decades of inequalities.

The Public Health team has also recently commissioned Lewisham based BAME organisations to conduct two research projects with Black African and Black Caribbean people; the obesity insight commissioning and 'Food for Purpose'.

## **Economy and Partnerships**

The Economy & Partnership team develops grant funded programmes to support residents with employment, up-skilling and business (start-up or growth) on an inclusive growth basis; which means we actively engage partnerships, undertake outreach and sign-post to reach the BAME resident/business communities and track the socio-economic outcomes.

## **Education**

Lewisham Learning, our schools led school improvement partnership, is now building on the work it launched in 2019 at its 'Leading an inclusive and aspirational curriculum conference' by leading on a project called 'Embedding race equality in schools and raising the achievement of Black Caribbean pupils in the Borough', which was launched in July 2020. The Schools Race Equality Steering Group was established in July 2020 to coordinate action to address this across the borough for schools and settings.

The steering group commissioned a significant stakeholder consultation – with parents, Young Mayor’s Programme, Lewisham Council BAME Professional Network, headteachers and community group representatives. The group has undertaken a race equality analysis of attainment and progress by ethnicity in Lewisham schools with a focus on educational outcomes for children with a Black Caribbean heritage. This was followed by a study of good practice in other London boroughs. These pieces of work will feed in to the three year development plan which identifies the key actions for schools and the education community to improve outcomes for Lewisham’s Black Caribbean children and young people.

The three year plan will incorporate:

- Anti-racism policy and policy reviews
- Anti-racist training, using data to provide targeted provision for schools where it is known support and challenge is needed
- Decolonised and diverse curriculum
- Regular headteacher briefings
- Co-create a Lewisham Race Equality Framework collaboratively over two years ensuring a range of schools and stakeholders are involved with this
- Enhanced access to work experience and mentors, monitoring and auditing of decolonised and diverse curriculum
- Support, training to improve recruitment and retention of teachers and improved representation in senior leadership
- Engage parents, partners and community throughout

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Hall**  
**of the Cabinet member for Environment and Transport**

**Question**

- (a) How much has the Council spent on The Mansion in Beckenham Place Park over the last five years and how much income has it received?
- (b) Have the Friends of Beckenham Place Park been found suitable accommodation?

**Reply**

- (a) The annual upkeep cost in the year prior to closure of the golf course was in the region of £50k per annum for planned preventative maintenance and utilities.

Following closure of the golf course in October 2016 and in preparation for meanwhile use of the building some essential pre-occupation works were carried out to restore electricity, heating and water services in the building in addition to some repairs to the roof of the building. These basic repairs to make the building useable cost £40,000. In 2019 the fire alarm required replacement and was renewed at a cost of £17,800.

The mansion is let on a peppercorn meanwhile use basis, the purpose of the occupation is to avoid the high cost of annual upkeep and security costs. The Council does receive a small income from events which utilise space outside the mansion, this is seasonal in nature but in the period between August 2018 and August 2019 this amounted to £4,490.

- (b) Officers met with the Friends of Beckenham Place Park before lockdown for an initial discussion regarding potential solutions following the RJK properties decision to allocate the room the Friends were occupying at the Mansion for other purposes.

RJK properties subsequently offered to accommodate the Friends in the Mansion in alternative ways including storing artefacts and assisting with the curation of displays and accommodating talks etc.

Officers also agreed to meet with the Friends to discuss the matter further, unfortunately due to implementation of COVID restrictions this follow up meeting has not yet taken place.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Curran**  
**of the Cabinet member for Housing and Planning**

**Question**

What steps are being taken by the Council to protect the trees, fauna and flora of the railway land between Forest Hill and New Cross, in particular the section between Courtrai Road and Eddystone Road known as the Buckthorne Cutting?

**Reply**

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) comprising of 1 woodland, 3 groups, and 6 individual trees covers the Land to the rear of 66-114 Buckthorne Road and adjacent to 8 Courtrai Road, known as the former scout hut site. This means that all tree works carried out within this area require permission.

Further north, whilst the cuttings are designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), they are not covered by TPOs. Given the pressure on resources available to the planning service this significantly limits proactive work of this nature that can be carried out. The planning service has a single tree officer whose primary role is to assess all tree applications received by the council. This is a statutory duty. Our tree officer has worked and is working tirelessly for the Council. She is an asset to us.

If there is an imminent threat to trees within the cutting then the Council will consider the use of TPOs to protect against the loss of valuable tree cover.

It should also be noted that Network Rail, as a statutory infrastructure provider, have the power to carry out tree works for the ongoing maintenance of the railway without seeking permission from the Council. This is the case with or without a TPO.

Lewisham Council has a legal interest in 37 of Lewisham's 64 SINCs, including Devonshire Road and Garthorne Road Nature Reserves, which are both part of the New Cross Gate to Forest Hill SINC. Maintaining the ecological quality and provision of public access, where possible, for these sites is a challenge with the Council's current resources. The Council-controlled sites must be the priority for the Local Authority whose duty under the NERC Act 2006, in exercising its functions, is to "have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity." The Council's Nature Conservation Service is

directly responsible for the conservation management of Devonshire Road and Garthorne Road Nature Reserves. The team also recognises and supports the aspirations for all private SINC sites to be afforded positive conservation management and would offer advice and guidance to any landowner wishing to do this. It is not possible for the Local Authority to carry out this management on behalf of private landowners nor impose it.

**QUESTION No. 12**  
**Priority 4**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Hall**  
**of the Cabinet member for Environment and Transport**

**Question**

How many allotments are there in the London Borough of Lewisham, please list? How many are self-managed? What is the current waiting list?

**Reply**

There are 37 allotment sites on land owned by LBL, 27 of which are self-managed 10 are managed directly by the council.

	<b>Name of Site</b>	<b>Direct- or self-managed</b>
1	Ballamore Road	Self-managed
2	Barmeston Road	Self-managed
3	Blackhorse Road	Self-managed
4	Blythe Hill	Direct-managed
5	Broadmead	Self-managed
6	Castillon Road	Self-managed
7	Chinbrook Meadows	Self-managed
8	Clarendon Rise	Self-managed
9	Dacre Park	Direct-managed
10	Deloraine Street	Direct-managed
11	Edward Street	Direct-managed
12	Exford Road	Self-managed
13	Firhill Road North	Direct-managed
14	Firhill Road South	Self-managed
15	Hazelbank Road	Self-managed
16	Hurstbourne Road	Self-managed
17	Jim Hurren	Self-managed
18	Kendale Road	Self-managed
19	Knapmill Way	Self-managed
20	Lee & District Land Club	Self-managed

21	Leslie Silk	Direct-managed
22	Longton Nursery	Self-managed
23	Meadow Close	Self-managed
24	Oldstead Road	Direct-managed
25	Priestfield Road	Self-managed
26	Romborough Gardens	Self-managed
27	Royal Naval Pl. Stage I	Self-managed
28	Royal Naval Pl. Stage II	Self-managed
29	St Mildreds Road	Self-managed
30	Sedgehill Road	Self-managed
31	Slaithwaite Road	Self-managed
32	Stanley Street	Self-managed
33	Sydenham Park	Direct-managed
34	Taylor's Lane	Self-managed
35	Trewsbury Road	Self-managed
36	Weavers Estate	Direct-managed
37	Windlass Place	Direct-managed

All applications are held on a centralised database managed by LBL.

There are **2562 applicants** on the combined waiting list for the **37 sites**.

Applicants are permitted to apply for up to 3 allotment sites and each site has its own waiting list on the database.

Officers would be happy to assist with any future allotment enquiries and can be contacted directly via [allotments@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@lewisham.gov.uk)



**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Hall**  
**of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning**

**Question**

Have there been any changes to the Lewisham Gateway scheme in the last year, if so please provide details?

**Reply**

Four non-material amendment applications (section 96a) have been approved for the following amendments to Lewisham Gateway over the last 12 months. These were to:

- amend the Surface Water Source Control Measures
- to amend the wording of Condition 57 of DC/18/105218 to amend the trigger
- amendments to the design of the balcony and roof terrace balustrade proposed for Blocks C, D1 and D2
- amend Block E comprising a revision to ground floor entrance doors, an increase in parapet height and reduction in basement
- amend Blocks C, D1 and D2 comprising amendments to the external door arrangement and fenestration to Block C, an extension to the building core of Block D1 at roof level and associated changes to layout of communal amenity space and internal layout and amendments to external door arrangement, fenestration and detailed elevational treatment to Block D2
-

**QUESTION No. 14**

**Priority 6**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 October 2020**

**Question by Councillor Hall**

**of the Deputy Mayor**

**Question**

Where is the John Houston sculpture of Archbishop Desmond Tutu that was unveiled on 30 June 1998?

**Reply**

The fibre glass bust of Archbishop Desmond Tutu by John Houlston was removed from the Civic Suite Foyer a number of years ago because it had been damaged. The sculpture is currently being stored safely in Laurence House.

The Civic Suite is currently closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the statue will be returned to public display in the building when it reopens.