

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

8 NOVEMBER 2012

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by members of the public or a Member of the Executive or the Chairman of any Committee.

Questioner: Rosalyn Neale

Asked of: Councillor Mitzi Green (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families)

Question 1:

“Concerning the Vaughan School Expansion. I refer to the report by Catherine Doran to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24th October in which she mentions a key risk is affordability. She details the cost for Vaughan School as £8.9million but we have an email from Adrian Parker dated 10th September quoting an all inclusive budget of £8.5 million. Can you please advise how costs have increased by nearly 5% in a month? This question was asked at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting but we were told the £8.5 million wasn't mentioned previously and so the question wasn't answered. We have this email with us and it has been forwarded to several councillors including the chair and vice chair of that meeting Councillor Miles and Councillor Osborn. May we please now have an answer?”

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Questioner: **Graeme Neale**

Asked of: **Councillor Mitzi Green (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families)**

Question 2:

“If the Planning Application for the Vaughan School expansion is approved, the number of pupils arriving for school each morning will rise by 50% taking the current number of 420 to 630. There will also be an equivalent increase in the number of guardians and staff arriving at the school each morning.

I am therefore very concerned that there will be a serious road accident due to this massive increase in volumes.

The only strategy that seems to be in place for dealing with this increase is the travel plan put forward by the school at the September residents meeting which states that their strategy is to encourage pupils to walk to school and use bikes / scooters.

However, the schools own newsletters have highlighted serious safety concerns that currently exist using bikes and scooters. It has been brought to the attention of parents in 7 of the school newsletters since February 2011.

If the expansion goes ahead, what is miraculously going to change to make this issue that is unmanageable today, suddenly manageable?”

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Questioner: Dipak Raja

Asked of: Councillor Mitzi Green (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families)

Question 3:

“My question relates to the Vaughan School Expansion. Residents were advised that a noise attenuation study was undertaken at the request of the planning department. Regarding this study, can you please advise what was surveyed and how the noise impact on the residents during and after construction was assessed and furthermore, what were the conclusions of the study? This question has already been asked in an e-mail but residents are still awaiting an answer.”

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Questioner: Anant Shah

Asked of: Councillor Mitzi Green (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families)

Question 4:

“There is a stream that runs across the school playing field called "Smarts Brook" In the Boroughs Strategic Flood Risk assessment Volume 1. planning and policy report this Brook is given the status of FLOOD ZONE 3 which classifies it as a High probability Zone with a high risk of flooding. Any development in this area will be subject to high Flood Risk. The potential development on this land will increase flood risk elsewhere through the removal of permeable surfaces such as grass and the addition of hard surfaces. As the proposed development removes the entire grass field and adds hard surfaces then I presume a flood risk assessment was carried out at the outset. Could you please confirm that a FLOOD RISK assessment has been carried out and what the recommendations were?”

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Questioner: Elzbieta Kaptur

Asked of: Councillor Mitzi Green (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families)

Question 5:

“My question relates to the Vaughan School expansion. As there are utilities on the allotments adjacent to the school and the allotments share the same title number as the school then why the proposed new build on the playing field can't simply be built on the allotments? Please be clear, we are not asking for a total re-build of the whole school we are just asking for proper consideration to be given to building the new part of the school on the allotments rather than the schools playing field. Plans to re-furbish other parts of the existing school building could still go ahead. This would protect the schools only playing field and provide the opportunity for future growth on the allotments.”

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Questioner: Jack Welby

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and Communications)

Question 6:

“Can the Leader of Harrow Council agree with Councillor Navin Shah who has changed his mind that a 10 storey block and 4 storey block are a beneficial impact to Gayton Road, Harrow?”

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Questioner: Prakash Thakkrar

Asked of: Councillor Mitzi Green (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families)

Question 7:

“An Estate Agents Firm... have a sign for sale for a 1.5 Acre plot situated on The Gardens adjacent to the underground railway tracks very near the school's (Vaughan School) entrance.

My questions are:

Have you considered buying this plot of 1.5 acres?”

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Questioner: Jeremy Zeid

Asked of: Councillor Mitzi Green (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families)

Question 8:

“What measures, procedures and official accountability by officers, are in place to ensure that children in care who entered the system with no criminal records, keep that status until such time they are released from the system, and conversely how many children with no previous records have offended and gained criminal records whilst in care?”

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Questioner: Stephen Lewis

**Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar
(Portfolio Holder for Property and
Major Contracts)**

Question 9:

“What is your view on the outcome of the saga regarding the development of the Whitchurch Pavillion and playing fields”

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Questioner: Chris Baxter

**Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar
(Portfolio Holder for Property and
Major Contracts)**

Question 10:

"When tendering for council services, do you believe that, alongside out-sourcing options, an in-house option should always be considered as part of every procurement exercise?"

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Questioner: **Veronica Jenkins**

Asked of: **Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder Business Transformation and Communications)**

Question 11:

“Would the Leader please confirm which Portfolio Holder received the Petition submitted at the last Cabinet meeting, from residents of Durley Avenue, Pinner.”