

## **CABINET – 21 NOVEMBER 2013**

### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 5)**

Under Rule 16 of the Executive Procedure Rules, members of the public may question the Executive and Portfolio Holders at meetings. There is a time limit of 15 minutes for the asking and answering of public questions.

1.

**Questioner:** Mr Christopher Bracewell

**Asked of:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

**Question:** I am one of the head coaches for Harrow amateur boxing club. I would like to know when the development on Whitchurch Playing Fields is to commence?

2.

**Questioner:** Mr Thomas Moran

**Asked of:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

**Question:** Now that the application for Whitchurch Fields to be registered as a town or village green has been recommended for refusal, could you please give some guidance as to when The Whitchurch Consortium can proceed with their plans to develop a new sport and leisure facility that is needed for all sports enthusiasts, young and old alike, in the borough?

3.

**Questioner:** Ramesh Nadarajah

**Asked of:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

**Question:** As a resident of Harrow and member of the consortium, I have been involved with the tender process for Whitchurch Playing Fields since 2009. The tender was put out by the Conservative Cabinet at that time looking for suitable partners to manage the site. We were short listed by the same Cabinet and selected by

the recent Labour Cabinet.

Please can Councillor Barry Macloed-Cullinane please explain why, after spending a great deal of money time and effort, as well as following the Council's instruction to the letter, he is now promising to register the site as a village green?

4.

**Questioner:** Ratnasingham Sivakumar

**Asked of:** Councillor Susan Hall, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Environment

**Question:** The Whitchurch Playing Fields tender was put out 5 years ago by the Conservative Cabinet, promising to provide sports /environmentally soothing modern facilities for the community. We as a Cricket Club have played in this field for several years. Now that you are back in power are you going to finish what you started?

5.

**Questioner:** Kevin Quincey

**Asked of:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

**Question:** I have a question for the Council based on troubling information that has come to light.

A Harrow resident named Melanie Lewis has posted online that she has received a promise from the Deputy Leader that Whitchurch Fields WILL be registered as a Town/Village green, despite the application to do so already having been defeated in court. Earlier she has also proudly stated online that "If nothing else, we've slowed the development right down. We just have to hope that the Consortium get fed up of waiting!"

I have heard estimates that the Council has spent in the neighbourhood of over £200,000 thus far on professional legal expenses and court costs associated with this green space lark that I think most agree has been a complete waste of time and energy for everyone involved, and an irresponsible use of those Council funds.

How does the Deputy Leader propose the Council will continue to fund such activities which appear to be potentially illegal and in direct opposition to the court ruling, especially considering the impact on the consortium for delays has surely reached multiple millions of pounds now, a sum for which the Council and other actors like Melanie Lewis could potentially be held liable for and have to repay?

6.

**Questioner:** Subra Skantha

**Asked of:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

**Question:** We have a club where 70 adults and 45 children play cricket. Our aim is to make the community children play games when they are free rather than spending times on the roads.

Our club is well establish in Middlesex area and most of the players are from Wembley, Harrow, etc.

We need grounds facilities to cater the needs of our players and need help from Harrow Council to find a suitable place.

Will you have this in mind when you take the decision about abandoned Whitchurch Playing Fields?

7.

**Questioner:** T Inpan

**Asked of:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

**Question:** I live very close to the grounds: I understand you have been talking with some of the immediate residents regarding the Whitchurch Playing Fields, have you made any effort to speak with the local sports teams or schools that use the site and ask them what they want done?

8.

**Questioner:** Mr Welby

**Asked of:** Councillor Susan Hall, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Environment

**Question:** Can the Portfolio Holder for Controlled Parking Zone explain why the Council wants to make residents and businesses in 20 Roads (Queensbury, Edgware, Kenton and other Wards) suffer by having to have permits costing approximately £68 when traffic measures are needed in only 3 Roads in the consultation area?

This is a hammer to crack a small nut in Queensbury Ward and other Wards.

9.

**Questioner:** Mrs Jane Galbraith

**Asked of:** Councillor Janet Mote, Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools or Councillor Susan Hall, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Environment

**Question:** In view of the predicted continuing increase in the need for school places and in view of the number of sites owned by the Council that have potential to be used to build new schools or expand existing schools, what plans does the Council have for identifying and preserving all the Council owned sites that could be suitable for new schools or for the expansion of existing schools? For example, the Gayton Road site, Debenham's car park and the Civic Centre could be earmarked for educational rather than residential development.