

## **CABINET – 19 FEBRUARY 2015**

### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 4)**

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:** Edward Fuller

**Asked of:** Councillor Keith Ferry, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business, Planning and Regeneration

**Question:** “The West Drive Conservation Area Appraisal document before you tonight states in paragraph 1.3 that a CA is defined as “an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance” and also that LA’s should “pay due regard to the views of the residents and public in the formulation of guidance and proposals”. If the proposed consultation reveals overwhelming support for the retention of West Drive, West Drive Gardens and Bellfield Avenue in the West Drive Conservation Area, will you pay due regard to the views of the residents and support the retention?”

2.

**Questioner:** Gerry Davine

**Asked of:** Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety

**Question:** “Given that Harrow’s cemeteries were not mentioned in the Take Part consultation on Environment savings options, residents must assume that they will continue to be locked. If so, why cannot the locking arrangements be extended to include certain key parks such as Harrow Recreation Ground?”

3.

**Questioner:** Mrs Jane Galbraith (Harrow Recreation Ground Steering Group)

**Asked of:** Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety  
and  
Councillor Sachin Shah, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Major Contracts.

**Question:** “Park users and local residents are worried by the proposal to stop locking park gates at night and particularly by the threat of the cars being able to drive in and out at night.

This is a false economy as it is likely to lead to increased anti-social and criminal behaviour such as vandalism, noise, prostitution, drug and alcohol use, drug dealing, and burglary. The Bowls Club and St Mary’s Sports Club as well as residents whose gardens back onto the park will be at risk of having larger items stolen due to the ease of taking them away. In 2013 the Council wisely decided to continue to lock park gates. The petition presented on 12th September 2013 with 1180 signatures should still be respected.

If, in spite of this, the Council does decide to cease locking park gates including the Harrow Recreation Ground car park gate at night will you guarantee to undertake a thorough review after six months taking into account costs to residents and the police, as well as to the Council?”

4.

**Questioner:** James Keeler

**Asked of:** Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

**Question:** “Can I thank Cllr Anderson for her article in the latest edition of HADs Access magazine.

However, can she set out the Cabinet’s vision for the voluntary sector in Harrow and in particular the vision for all disabled people, services and organisations?”

5.

**Questioner:** Nigel Long (Director, Harrow Association of Disabled People (HAD))

**Asked of:** Councillor Sachin Shah, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Major Contracts

**Question:** “Can Cllr Shah please set out the Cabinet’s strategy for the long term funding of the voluntary sector in Harrow and in particular for all disabled people, services and organisations and does he share my view that it has been really frustrating for the voluntary sector to not know the proposed funding for each individual organisation?”

6.

**Questioner:** Jacqueline Hooper

**Asked of:** Councillor David Perry, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Corporate Leadership

**Question:** “You are disproportionately cutting services for vulnerable people in the voluntary sector, yet you are awarding yourselves a 2.2% increase in your member allowances, can you explain how you think this is fair?”

7.

**Questioner:** Raksha Pandya (Mind in Harrow)

**Asked of:** Councillor David Perry, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Corporate Leadership

**Question:** “If you are satisfied with your Take Part consultations, why have you proposed to increase your budget for litigation to £2,6 million this year?”