

## CABINET – 19 JANUARY 2017

### 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:** Bill Phillips, Chair of Harrow Association of Disabled People

**Asked of:** Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Older People

**Question:** “Every day there are queues of people seeking appointments to see the HAD Welfare Benefits Service that is currently directly funded by Harrow Council. The current funding is approximately £27K pa, and the service is provided by two widely acknowledged Welfare Benefits experts who have had to move to part time working due to previous Council cuts to their budgets. During this period Central Government have made the process of applying for disability Welfare Benefits (PIP and DLA) far more complex and they are assessed with perversity. The application forms themselves run to around 40 pages. Despite this, the team see around 1,000 disabled people each year and help them gain over £1,000,000 in benefits. Is the Cabinet member aware that the queues have become longer since the Council cut the Welfare Benefits service last year and who does he believe will see and help vulnerable disabled people once you have completely cut the direct funding for this service?”

2.

**Questioner:** Paul Boakes

**Asked of:** Councillor Sachin Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution

**Question:** “Would you agree with me that the wellbeing of council staff - such as helping them in reducing stress, and increasing motivation and productivity - is of the utmost importance to you?”

3.

**Questioner:** Jack Welby

**Asked of:** Councillor Graham Henson, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety

**Question:** “How is it that there was no proper consultation in respect of Bye Laws at Chandos Recreation Ground as there was proper consultation on the following grounds:

1. Only one notice was displayed on the car park gate which was open and was not visible to local residents
2. Only 1 notice displayed at the car park gate when they were 2 others which did have any notices displayed
3. The Camrose Avenue notice gave a final date of 16 January 2017 when the notice was displayed on the 13th of January 2017. The consultation is not valid in Law as no proper consultation took place
4. In the notice it mentioned the alcohol Law expires in March and is due for renewal. This has been lumped in on the proposed Bye Laws for Chandos Recreation Ground which is unlawful and as it is for 3 years it should not be part of the Bye Laws
5. The Park gates should be locked at night due to the recent visit of travellers and the security of my home due to the number of vehicle and suspected drug dealing in the car park.”