

CABINET – 21 JUNE 2018

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: Rajnikant Thakrar

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment

Question: “The residents of Weighton Road are concerned with the vehicles parked almost all the time on Double Yellow lines on entering Weighton Road from the High Road, Harrow Weald, which is obstructing vehicles turning in to Weighton Road and vehicles coming out to go to High Road.

I have explained in my email of 18 May 2018 quoting the Highway Code concerning vehicles parked or waiting on Double Yellow lines.

My question is: Would the Council put ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ sign and also install a camera to deter the drivers to wait or park their vehicles on Double Yellow Lines?

Offenders can be caught on camera and Council would have more income. When ‘No Right Turn’ from Weighton Road came into effect, a man from the council used to sit in his tiny car with a surveillance camera to catch offenders turning right. This lasted only a couple of weeks. While the surveillance vehicle was parked on the double yellow lines, nobody dared to park their vehicles there.

As per the Highway Code Rule 238 it stipulates ‘NO WAITING PARKING AT ANY TIME’.”

2.

Questioner: Mrs. Christine Hawkes, Community Champion

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment

Question: “Would you please outline the current legal position for residents of Weighton Road, Harrow Weald, re damage to grass verges.

Back in February 27 households received a letter saying that damage had been noted to the grass verge outside their property and that they had three weeks to apply for a vehicle crossing extension. If they did not apply they faced the threat of possible prosecution by the Authority, thus increasing any associated costs to the case. This angered and upset a large number of residents who had not done the damage. Weighton Road is very narrow and a lot of the damage had been done by builders, delivery drivers, large lorries etc.

Also in this letter it stated that there was a new Council Protection Order which allows them to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 to anyone seen driving over a grass verge. How will this be monitored and how can residents prove that they haven't done the damage?"

3.

Questioner: Paul Gardner

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment

Question: "I wish to express concerns that have been raised regarding the trees in Harrow Weald Recreation Ground adjacent to Weighton Road.

Concerns were first raised in a meeting that residents had with an officer, Mr Bradshaw, in February 2017. General concerns are still ongoing. There are now other particular concerns. A complaint has been made about tree roots coming into the garden at 31 Weighton Road. The tree behind numbers 23 and 25 Weighton Road has grown bigger. Parts of the tree are now falling off. The tree behind 25 and 27 Weighton Road was partially cut down after concerns were raised that it was unsafe at the base. It has since grown again. Four sycamore trees have died and could be dangerous. The trees behind 21 Weighton Road, and continuing adjacent to Weighton Road, are very close to the garden fences and are in varying states of growth or decay. I believe that they present a hazard, both to property and to life and limb. There are dangers of parts of the trees coming loose, or of a whole tree being blown down in bad weather.

After the meeting with the officer residents were given various options as to what could be done. With one exception we voted to have the trees cut down. I believe that concerns about the trees now need to be urgently addressed. I would like to ask what steps Harrow Council plan to take to address the

concerns?”

4.

Questioner: Shania Malik

Asked of: Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Young People and Schools

Question: “Given the increased gang-related activity and acts of violence within Harrow, would you not agree that police and services, that are central to tackling youth crime, should be made more accessible to the young people of Harrow?”

5.

Questioner: Mr K Patel

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment

Question: “Weighton Road pavements are being totally replaced but they have got rid of the two laybys which were very useful as our road is very narrow. The workmen said to ring the number on the back of the leaflet that everyone received but this is on answerphone all the time and no one rings you back. Work has carried on and the laybys have been replaced with grass verges which is the last thing we need after all the trouble we've had with residents being threatened with prosecution due to damage to grass verges.

The other problem is that as the kerb is a lot higher than before the kerb stones at the edge of the vehicle crossings that slope down are also higher and residents are finding that they are bumping over these when turning in and out of their drives. We have asked for someone to come and look at this but no one has.

Why have the two laybys been removed and replaced with grass as the two laybys were useful on our narrow road?”

6.

Questioner: Pranvera Merkaj, Harrow Youth Parliament

Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships, Devolution and Customer Services

Question: “Do you feel an effective way to tackle the growing problem of youth crime is to consult with the youth in Harrow and representatives of young people such as the members of Harrow Youth Parliament?”

7.

Questioner: Dara Foody

Asked of: Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Young People and Schools

Question: “Given the recent incidents of violent crime among young people in a number of wards in Harrow, isn't it time to conduct a review of our youth services with the view to making them more effective in tackling the root causes of such crime?”

8.

Questioner: Caroline Feehilly

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment

Question: “Having looked at on the website at **Harrow's tree strategy and policy, referring to point 11. Summary & Action Plan**, can you give an update in real terms of how this action plan is progressing and if it is on target? In particular referring to points 1.1 and 1.6 copied below:

1.1 Manage the tree stock using a proactive cyclical maintenance programme to ensure that trees are in a safe and healthy condition, 90% of the council maintained trees are safe and healthy, target time March 2018 to end of the 4 years cycle.

1.6 Number of trees inspected every four years to be 100% by March 2019.”

9.

Questioner: Mathura Sarma

Asked of: Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Young People and Schools

Question: “Staff and youth workers are vital to the efficiency and effectiveness of youth services around Harrow. What are your current plans for the future of the running of youth services within Harrow after changes were implemented within the structure of these services?”

10.

Questioner: J Welby

Asked of: Councillor Adam Swersky, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources

Question: “How much has the Council received from Section 106 and how was any money given to the Mayor’s Office and what infrastructure was funds given to. Why not to Camrose Park where the path is dangerous and uneven?”

11.

Questioner: Kamal Shah

Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships, Devolution and Customer Services

Question: “Can you please confirm that you will ask senior officers to arrange a meeting with the park users of Headstone Manor Recreation Ground and other stakeholders, so that a process is in place for all these groups to be properly consulted prior to any more events being booked in the park?”

12.

Questioner: Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships, Devolution and Customer Services

Question: "Following the crash of a fully-laden petrol tanker on Roxeth Hill in the snow before Christmas 2017, what measures has the Council and his administration put into place to ensure that the weight restriction on vehicles transiting over the Hill is better signed and properly enforced; and given the crash destroyed a heritage street light, at the entrance to Christchurch and opposite Roxeth Primary School, can he confirm the dates of the accident, when the temporary light was installed and when it was made operational and when the replacement heritage light was ordered and when it will be installed and made operational and to explain the reasons for the delays in both putting in a temporary light and in getting the heritage light replaced, despite the obvious safety needs of children and their parents on Roxeth Hill?"

13.

Questioner: Mrs E M Kinnear

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment

Question: "I understand from various residents that collection of Brown Bin waste (for which they pay) is extremely erratic, and when they telephone to report a missed collection it (still) takes ages to get through to - presumably Access Harrow. And often - still nothing happens.

So - they lose out on their time and money.

Further, if they then call again afterwards - to report the bin has still not been collected - this call then seems to be registered as a separate complaint and not tied into the initial call. They are given another reference number. Can this really be the case: if so - what are you doing to improve the service for Residents?"