

CABINET – THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2021

AGENDA PART I

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: Miep Golabi

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment

Question: “After asking questions to the Mayor of London about the way the LTN’s were implemented I was told by Claire Hamilton (head of transport) that Harrow Council would listen to our views as part of the decision making process and that they were committed to creating LTN schemes that work for the residents. Why then have you over the past 4 months treated us residents as a nuisance and not taken the time to investigate the issues we have raised but rather given us theoretical and ideological statements. We live within the LTN’s and want better and safer roads for all residents.

How can we trust that you will implement what will come out of the consultation with the residents even if it is not what you want?”

2.

Questioner: Karusha Thomas

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

Question: “Why is the Borough of Harrow pushing for the draconian step of closed roads and ANPR cameras when speed cameras can be used for safety so that the roads remain open for all people in this country?”

3.

Questioner: Margo Dimlic

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

Question: “Last summer the council promised that the petition against the eviction of Headstone horticultural society would be looked in to. It has been to the society's shock that the same person they had been communicating with prior - from the same corporate estates team that was planning the eviction and redevelopment - was the only one to get in contact. The community and society feel as though the matter has just been put to the bottom of the pile without consideration. Why has no unbiased 3rd party appointed to assess and resolve the highly opposed eviction of HHS?”

4.

Questioner: Luke Wilson

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

Question: “Can you confirm that portfolio holder should communicate with residents when requested to discuss solutions for council lead schemes?”

5.

Questioner: Heshma Shah

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

Question: “One report from Transport for All (TFA) said “in some of the areas where LTNs have been introduced, participants have told us that streets are very unfriendly”

One of the most popular reasons given by the council to justify LTNs, is that they are there to encourage active travel. Given

that in Harrow there are many streets that are particularly unfriendly for the general population with pots holes, lack of dropped kerbs, street clutter, what steps did the council take to prepare for LTN road blocks to specifically help disabled and less mobile residents ?”

6.

Questioner: Kinnar Patel

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

Question: “On the 17th December 2020 at the Harrow Council Cabinet meeting I asked a question in relation to the residents’ concerns about LTN-03 on Francis Road could delay response time for emergency services. And it was mentioned by honorary councillor that ‘the closure of Francis Road has been located at an area where there’s already a width restriction so that means the larger wider vehicles that the emergency services use wouldn’t be able to gain access through that point anyway so from that perspective actually putting the LTN in there hasn’t changed the situation with regards to access’.

On Monday 1st February 2021, the Harrow fire brigade actually met with a resident of Harrow and confirmed that a fire engine and an ambulance, which are wider emergency vehicles, COULD actually pass through this width restriction on Francis Road.

The fire brigade suggested that it would be better to allow them to have emergency access through this LTN barrier in order to reach residents quickly and easily, as at present the only way to reach Francis Road would be to use Northwick Park Road. If Northwick Park Road had to be closed off for some reason such as a traffic accident or gas works etc. then there would be no way for emergency vehicles to reach ALL the residents of Greenhill quickly and easily and this could result in delay response.

After the fact that the fire brigade themselves suggested that they want this barrier opened – Will you actually remove the planters now so that ALL emergency vehicles can get through this barrier as soon as possible because at present you are risking our lives over a planter which is, as you must acknowledge, very unjust and unfair?”

