

CABINET – THURSDAY 29 APRIL 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: Mark Mulvenna

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Equalities

Question: “In Harrow roughly 1.60% of households currently have an allotment, however the waiting list for allotments in Harrow indicates that there could be up to another 3% (2,533) of households who would like to take up an allotment. Land is at a premium in Harrow, so it is acknowledged that it is difficult for the Council to obtain land to use for further allotments under the Small Holdings and Allotments act 1908.

However, given the size of the waiting list can the Council reassure the residents of Harrow of the following:

- That it has no current plans to dispose of any allotment land on statutory allotment sites and has not had any discussions involving the disposal or change of use of any land on statutory sites and is aware of it's obligations under Section 8 of the Allotments act 1925 that if it does have any plans to dispose of, or change the use of statutory allotment land and does it agree that there should be early consultation with allotment holders and allotment associations about any possible changes. Also that it will work to protect non statutory sites and it has not had any discussions involving the disposal of any land on non-statutory sites and will look at allotment sites that could possibly be extended such as Woodlands in North Harrow.”

2.

Questioner: Mike Williams

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

Question: ““Please will the Cabinet make a clear and unequivocal statement at tonight’s meeting committing to keep the existing covenant in place on 265 The Ridgeway and that irrespective of any planning approvals any future development on this site must comply with the covenant the council put in place when it sold the site”.

3.

Questioner: Ian Price

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Equalities

Question: “At the TARSAP meeting on April 22nd, it was stated that the removal cost of the LTNs and Strategic Cycle schemes would be some £75k. Where will the Council make savings in its budget to fund this unplanned cost?”

4.

Questioner: Sandra Calderbank

Asked of: Councillor Keith Ferry, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business, Property & Leisure.

Question: “On 18 March Cabinet received a paper including the future of Belmont Assembly Hall and the adjacent Kingshill Drive car park. Will Cabinet now direct officers to do further work to consider comprehensively the case for retention of the current historic building and services and the adjacent car park given that:

- the paper was inaccurate and lacking in significant and relevant information;
- no prior consultation had taken place with current tenants, Belmont Community Association or local residents or users of the Hall;
- a strong groundswell of public opinion against the demolition of the Hall has developed quickly including an online petition with over 2,200 signatures? “

5.

Questioner: Emma Calderbank

Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships, Devolution, Customer Services & Regeneration.

Question: “Given that Belmont Hall provides a full range of valued and extensively used services to our diverse community at no cost to the Council, how would Cabinet justify depriving our community of these facilities during a pandemic and when it has never been more important to develop even greater community support? “

6.

Questioner: Miep Golabi

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

Question: “I asked a question on the 17th of December why Councillor Pamela Fitzgerald did not pass on my suggestions how to improve the congestion on Pinner View as she claimed that residents had complained about this. I also emailed Varsha Parker with suggestions to help encourage cycling, bottle necks and speeding motorists when she requested this during a short meeting she had with us. After you have removed the barriers will you finally start to look at these and start a proper dialogue with us residents so you can improve our roads?”

7.

Questioner: Karusha Thomas

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Equalities

Question: “As a resident, I have lost trust in the council due to the influence of cycling stakeholders who have had numerous opportunities to consult with the council on road matters while others have been left out. While I recognise the importance of the need for safe cycling infrastructure, it should not be rushed at the expense of others in the community who use the roads as well and cycling stakeholders should not be given more weight than others in the community

How will you ensure that trust in the council is restored and people have an equal opportunity to be on council panels in the same way that those from cycling groups have been allowed to be?"

8.

Questioner: Heshma Shah

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

Question: "Dear Councillor Henson, it appears that there is now a consultation happening in regards to North Harrow where I only live 8 minute walk away and use it daily. It appears once again that the council have made the same mistakes they did for Itns last year where the leaflet has only been sent out two a few select roads.

North Harrow is not just used by these few select roads but by many residents living within a one to two mile radius

The only reason I know about this consultation is because someone posted it on Facebook. However many of the residents on my road or who I've have spoken to have not even heard that there's anything happening in North Harrow.

Also when you go onto the portal, the images are so difficult to understand and make out and the key is basically impossible to read. And I'm not the only person who has said this either.

Furthermore when we did ring up, we were only given the consultation form and not the details of the images etc.

If you are going to invest residents money then it is so important that you make changes where they are lasting and beneficial to the majority. For example ideas such as painting the roads and lampposts might seem like a fun idea but quite a few people have said it's really ugly idea and after a while will just need painting over which would be a waste of tax payers money . Same with the Copenhagen crossing that will make it more dangerous for pedestrians to navigate. Whereas adding more green men will help at this major junction and is a good idea.

What strikes me is that I've never been asked about ideas for North Harrow before and nor has anyone else I know and now suddenly there are all these ideas floating around, many of which I've never even heard of anyone requesting.

It would be better not to rush this and Instead of jumping in feet first once again and investing thousands in something that might not work, suspend the consultation and create an ideas portal for everyone to give their ideas on what they want from North Harrow and the most popular ideas are collated and then consulted on.

And when you do consult that leaflets are sent out to all residents and businesses within a two-mile radius

As there might be some really good ideas out there but you will never know.

If we want to make North Harrow great once again and this needs careful consideration and not to be rushed and as much public input as possible.

I'm assuming there must be some type of committee or working group that has come up with these ideas for North Harrow.

Who sits on this committee or working group and how do I and other residents join it?"

9.

Questioner: Geoff Eldridge

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

Question: "Harrow have expressed a commitment to transparency in providing information and yet throughout the consultation process on Low traffic neighbourhoods Harrow have avoided providing any details relating to the actual conversations they had with the emergency services even after requests under the freedom of information process

As there appears to be a difference of opinion in relation to the emergency services perception of what was communicated at these meeting and how harrow interpreted their responses can we please have a commitment from Harrow council that in future all such meetings will be recorded in writing and published online and could this process be extended to cover any conversations with the emergency services during any planning process "

10.

Questioner: Samantha Pali

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

Question: “Given the overwhelming rejection of all the LTN (low traffic neighbourhood) schemes by residents both in and outside of the LTN zone, who voted in the consultation recently, can you give assurance to residents no further schemes will be imposed on us without first applying democracy? After all Harrow is meant to be a democracy borough not a mini-China.”

11.

Questioner: Karen Jolliff

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Equalities

Question: “Cllr Jerry Miles was asking Cllr Varsha Parmar if we could have another advisor representing motorists at the TARSAP panel. I asked this question 2 months ago. What is happening please?”

12.

Questioner: Mary Turner

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

Question: “The meetings online have been an insight for residents into the way the council makes decisions. When Harrow council gets back to conducting meetings at the council offices will the council commit to continue to relay the meetings online?”

13.

Questioner: Atish Anand

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

Question: “Do you think Cllr Pamela Fitzpatrick is biased towards pro LTN'ER S as she asked for another consultation?”