

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

25 November 2021

### PUBLIC QUESTION

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by members of the public of a Member of the Executive or the Chair of any Committee.

**Questioner:** Dean Sullivan

**Asked of:** Councillor Peymana Assad (Portfolio Holder for Community Cohesion, Crime & Enforcement)

#### **Question 1:**

"I note that Harrow Councils Civil Enforcement Wardens are using Mopeds with L (Learner) plates. These Provisional road users have not completed the most basic of DVSA tests to demonstrate they have the ability to ride safely on the Boroughs roads. The use of Provisionally licenced road users for commercial purposes shows a lack of concern for the employee and other road users. The council have a legal responsibility towards the Training, Health & Safety and Welfare of their employees and it seems that in this case their safety & welfare is potentially being compromised by use of inexperienced riders for its commercial activities. Whereas the use of Provisional riders is common practice for certain businesses, the Council should be a leading light and demonstrating best practice by eliminating the use of Provisional licence holders and ensuring that all road users employed by the Council and its contractors employ only those suitably qualified to drive on the boroughs road without L plates.

Will the portfolio holder agree to adopt best practice and to take forward immediate steps to eliminate the use of vulnerable, untrained road users within its business and to ensure the Council and its contractors use only those employees who have passed the relevant DVSA test for the class of Motor Vehicle they are operating?"

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**Questioner: Suryakant Jadva**

**Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Regeneration, Partnerships and Devolution)**

**Question 2:**

"Why is fly tipping increasing in Harrow?"

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**Questioner: Harice Jesani**

**Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change)**

#### **Question 3:**

"When will the alleyway between Paulhan Road and Westfield Lane be cleared up by the Council?"

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**Questioner:** David Phelops

**Asked of:** Councillor Simon Brown (Portfolio Holder for Adults and Social Care)

#### Question 4:

"My Name is David Phelops, coordinator of More Than Just A Choir, part of the Harrow Rethink Support Group, a registered Group of the charity Rethink Mental Illness, working with adults, in Harrow, affected by mental illness and social isolation.

In 2016, Councillor David Perry, the then Labour Leader of Harrow council announced, after the Bridge mental health day centre was due to be closed and demolished, that The Bridge would become a "beacon of mental health" after a "...dignified and inspirational campaign..." by Bridge stakeholders.

In 2020, after The Bridge was closed due to the Covid situation, these stakeholders were told that, for health and safety reasons, The Bridge would be closed and reopened when it was safe to do so. In the meantime, London's Community Kitchen, a Community Interest Company, has been operating out of The Bridge, distributing recycled food. They have been using more and more of the building, which was purpose-built to provide mental health services.

Stakeholders are still waiting for The Bridge to be reopened to them. However, with only 1/5th of the floor space now allocated to mental health services, compared to the whole building pre-covid, many of the groups and services meeting at The Bridge and holding together a community of adults affected by mental illness and social isolation have been, effectively, evicted, without a transition period of consultation and co-production.

Is it the case that Harrow Council have taken a decision to prioritise food waste redistribution over Mental Health Services with regards to the Premises known as The Bridge - because it certainly feels that way?"

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**Questioner:**           **Lisa Hanna**

**Asked of:**           **Councillor Simon Brown (Portfolio Holder for Adults and Social Care)**

#### **Question 5:**

“My name is Lisa Hanna and I am a member of The Bridge Mental-Health Day Centre. I found my property and artwork damaged and missing from The Bridge during a planned visit with Julie Proudley, the then Bridge service manager, in May 2021. My fellow Bridge members also experienced loss of their property, personal abuse and discrimination. As the council’s own investigation, conducted by Chris Miller, into these experiences is ongoing, why have the activities of London’s Community Kitchen, who were sole occupiers at the time that these incidents took place, been allowed to continue and expand regardless of the investigation process?”

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**Questioner:**           **Samantha Pali**

**Asked of:**           **Councillor Graham Henson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Regeneration, Partnerships and Devolution)**

#### **Question 6:**

“In light of the MPs where it was discovered some were not working from their constituency to support their residents, but based elsewhere or overseas in their term of office, can you please advise and publish a list of ALL Harrow Councillor’s who since appointed to office at the last council election up to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022, i.e. their term of office, have been absent from living in the borough or intend to be, i.e. OUTSIDE the borough or overseas, for 22 days or more (ie. over 3 weeks consecutive) by each year indicating how many days they were absent for from the Borough. Please only include current councillors.”