

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING

-

29 SEPTEMBER 2022

PUBLIC QUESTION

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

Questioner: Dr Frances Clegg (Roxborough Residents' Association Committee)

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

Question 1:

"Churchfields is an ancient and valued beauty spot, managed by Harrow Council.

I am a longstanding resident of Harrow, and together with the Roxborough Residents' Association, would like to ask the Council to reconsider their policy for cutting the grass in Churchfields, in view of the changeability of summer weather, and possible extreme heat in future years. This year's drought created a potential fire hazard, making many residents in the adjoining properties extremely anxious for much of the summer. Information about serious fires breaking out in London, together with knowledge that some members of the public occasionally take portable barbeques to the area, all served to increase the anxiety.

From July 23rd onwards, myself and several others put to the Council a proactive request to bring forward the date when the tinder-dry grass should be cut. But despite many attempts, this failed.

We realise that the management of the area needs to take into consideration the established wild-flower meadow as well as general ecological principles, and that balancing these needs with issues of public safety is a difficult one, particularly when finances are stretched.

The management of the churchyard at the top edge of Churchfields, as well as the control of the heavily vegetated verge running up the Roxborough Park side, are also in need of a sensitive management policy.

In short, will the Council review their policy of the management of Churchfields, with particular reference to the potential fire risk of long grass and considerable marginal undergrowth?"