

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING

-

23 FEBRUARY 2023

### 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:** Ms Flora Clemett

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

#### Question 1:

“Harrow prides itself on being a climate friendly borough, so I’d like to think we put climate considerations at the heart of governance. However, this awareness needs to include every aspect of council activities, including the provision of food. Other London boroughs, for example Lewisham & Enfield, have committed to serve only plant-based food at their meetings and events, or not to serve meat. Outside of London, Oxfordshire, Cambridge City, Faversham and Hythe councils have made similar commitments and I’d like Harrow to do the same. This is the logical, and necessary next step after having declared a climate emergency. It will help normalise plant-based eating, which according to an Oxford University study is the single most effective thing an individual can do to reduce their environmental impact.

We are currently in a cost of living crisis. Meat and dairy products are almost always the most expensive part of a meal - whole food plant-based meals are considerably cheaper. By doing the right thing for the planet, and promoting eating for good health, the council can also save money by serving more plant-based foods. The multiple crises we are currently facing make it even more important to feed grain directly to humans, not to farmed animals. We can and must move away from meat and dairy, towards climate-friendly eating, and I believe councils can lead the way with this.

There have been substantial evidence-based recommendations calling for a move away from meat and dairy. The National Food Strategy, led by Henry Dimbleby last year, recommended a reduction in meat and dairy of 30% within ten years. A new report by the Boston Consulting Group, one of the world’s biggest consultancy firms, states that investment in plant-based alternatives to meat is by far the biggest green investment that can be made.

I would like to see our council be part of the solution, not continue to spend money on meat and dairy, which we know to be part of the problem. As

stated on the climate change page of the Harrow council website: 'One of the biggest changes we can all make is to eat a more climate friendly diet, particularly by reducing our dairy and meat consumption and eating fruit and vegetables that are in season.' **Given the climate emergency and Harrow Council's stated aim to reduce their emissions, will the council consider committing to serving fully plant-based food at any future catered meetings and events as other councils have done?** This will be a positive and forward-thinking step, bringing its food policy in line with other climate-aware policies. Thank you. "

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**Questioner: Mr Steven Michaels**

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

**Question 2:**

“When will the work on Orchard Grove be carried out?”

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**Questioner: Mr Mohamed Altaf**

**Asked of: Councillor Marilyn Ashton (Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration)**

Question 3:

“How many dwellings, including office conversions, have been completed in the opportunity area since 2012?”

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**Questioner:**           **Dr Yunus Luqmani**

**Asked of:**           **Councillor Marilyn Ashton (Portfolio Holder for  
Planning and Regeneration)**

Question 4:

“My understanding is that the Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan says that developments on Station Rd should be medium density and 3 to 6 storeys. Will the proposal for the massive development on the current Tesco site on Station Rd/ Hindes Rd intersection be assessed using this criteria and if not, then what would be the guiding principle considering the large number of local residents who have expressed their opposition to the proposals put forward by Tesco/Notting Hill Genesis?”