COUNCIL MEETING - 5 JULY 2012

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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 Chairman of any Committee.

Questioner: Fateema Nighat

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell (Portfolio

Holder for Environment and

Community Safety)

Question 1:

"With regards to on-going issues in the borough of Harrow & Edgware, can the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety use his good offices to encourage police to do their job and protect residents around Chandos Recreational Ground who are living in fear because children & Adults have been threatened, beaten up, a bicycle has been taken at knife point, a gun being has been pulled, without charges being brought against perpetrators?"

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Questioner: Matthew Lloyd

Asked of: Councillor David Perry (Portfolio

Holder for Community and Cultural

Services)

Question 2:

As a young person, I watch in horror as the community I know comes under attack. The Harrow Conservative Party seems to be only concerned for the short term wealth in society and not for the long term community cohesion. Does the portfolio holder agree with me that we need a council that will stand tall and protect our community services such as our libraries, schools and health care and not gamble them on the short term, opportunistic values that the opposition holds?

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Questioner: Sophie Lloyd

Asked of: Councillor Bob Currie (Portfolio

Holder for Housing)

To be responded to by: Councillor Brian Gate (Portfolio

Holder for Children, Schools and

Families)

Question 3:

Does the portfolio holder believe that Harrow needs more facilities for young people?

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Questioner: Edward Hughes

Asked of: Councillor Margaret Davine (Portfolio

Holder for Adult Social Care, Health

and Wellbeing)

Question 4:

Will the councillor assure me, they will show strong leadership and endeavor to protect the services for the elderly and vulnerable in Harrow?

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Questioner: Chris Lloyd

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Portfolio

Holder for Finance)

Question 5:

Does the councillor agree with me that it is essential, with rising mortgage rates, rising prices and a rise in VAT, that every other option is explored before raising council tax?

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Questioner: David Byrne

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of

the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and

Communications)

To be responded to by: Councillor Bob Currie

Question 6:

Does the Councillor agree with me that the direct result of recent Tory policies is an increase on the number of homeless people around Harrow Town centre?

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Questioner: J Pais

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of

the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and

Communications)

To be responded to by: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar

Question 7:

The pavilion (Whitchurch Playing Fields and Pavilion) will generate consistent and incessant noise from activities, religious chanting and party music from early morning till late at night, every day without respite only a few meters from the back of our houses. This surely will destroy our sanity, well-being and mental health. Have you even considered what this will do to the immediate neighbours? What binding guarantees will the Council give us that this will not happen?

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Questioner: Stephen Lewis

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Deputy

Leader and Portfolio Holder for

Property and Major Contracts)

Question 8:

In the paper that went to the November 2011 Cabinet, the council's officers identified a significant weakness in the Whitchurch Consortium's "Potential over reliance on hiring out pavilion for social functions such as private parties / wedding receptions" (p. 303) and "for a development of the playing fields to be sustainable in the future there will have to be a greater reliance on income generation from the pavilion. The hiring of sports fields does not alone raise substantial income – Parks advise that it currently raises approximately £15,000 from admittedly a currently limited usage base however this sum is unlikely to be doubled even with the possible installation of G3 artificial pitch."(p. 304) Do you agree with your own officers' assessment that "it is therefore anticipated that more than 75% of the income will need to be generated from activities within the Pavilion including bar profits hiring out of the hall, meeting rooms and function rooms for private parties and weddings" (p. 304) rather than from community sports use and what steps are you taking to ensure the balance of use of the Pavilion and playing fields is shifted away from weddings and other events and back to community sports?

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Questioner: Melanie Lewis

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Deputy

Leader and Portfolio Holder for

Property and Major Contracts)

Question 9:

Can you provide an update of how and when the Council has consulted with the Environment Agency with regard the proposals for tendering, leasing and redeveloping the Whitchurch Playing Fields and Pavilion site?