

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS
6 MAY 2009

Question 1 from Councillor Rodin to Councillor Lavender, Deputy Leader of the Council/ Sustainable Communities & Employment & Place Shaping

“Can Councillor Lavender give the council an update on the latest position in relation to the North London Waste Authority's intention to acquire a site for a new waste facility within Enfield?”

Reply from Councillor Lavender:

“The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) has an all party waste planning group which assesses the needs of the area administered by the NLWA and the identification of capacity and sites. It is known as the North London Waste Planning Members Group (NLWPMG). I am not a member of the NLWPMG. Councillor Neville is a member of that body and a similar question was asked of him at a recent council meeting. The answer to that question is minuted; I do not need to repeat it here. I also attach a copy of Councillor Neville's response to the member for Enfield North following his answer to the supplementary question posed by Councillor Bond.

At the most recent Local Development Framework sub-committee, at which Councillor Goddard was in attendance, we were informed that the North London Waste Plan would be published in September 2009 since no final decisions had currently been made by the NLWPMG.

I understand that Councillor Rodin has made similar requests of the chairman of the NLWA and can only assume given the persistence of the Labour Group in requesting the information within this chamber that the Chairman of the NLWA has also and quite properly declined to disclose the identity of any sites under consideration pending their publication.”

Question 2 from Councillor Rodin to Councillor Lavender, Deputy Leader of the Council/ Sustainable Communities & Employment & Place Shaping

“At the last council meeting, you replied to an urgent question about Broomfield House. Your answer included the following "... in fact £6 million has been awarded for restoration of Broomfield House and stables by Boris for the year 2010/2011 - 3 cheers for Boris! ..." Can Councillor Lavender please let the Council know the following:

- (a) from what fund has this money been allocated?
- (b) what are the stated purposes of this fund?
- (c) by whom is the money provided for this fund?
- (d) what is the total amount available from this fund for Greater London for the year 2010/2011?
- (e) what is the amount in (d) above supposed to deliver for the whole of London?”

Reply from Councillor Lavender:

- “(a) The council has received an indicative funding allocation of £5.9m from the Mayor of London’s targeted funding stream.
- (b) The purpose of the targeted funding stream is to provide funding for specific programmes of work in key areas of housing need. These areas include improving the condition and use of existing homes and in particular, bringing long-term empty properties back into use. Priority projects in this category are schemes which would bring a building listed with English Heritage back into use. Hence the request by this administration and the support of Boris Johnson for the restoration of Broomfield House is entirely proper.
- (c) The money is administered by Boris Johnson under the 2007 GLA Act. Given the inexorable path from local government to local administration under the present Labour government and central government’s hypothecation of local government expenditure Councillor Rodin wants me to acknowledge that any expenditure of local government is from the largesse of central government and the benevolence of the Labour Party, well I won’t give him that satisfaction. Monies from central government come partly from the taxpayer and in the main (since this government has destroyed the tax-paying capacity of the British economy) from those who initially subscribed for gilts, it does not come out of Labour MP’s back-pockets.
- (d) The total funding available from the targeted funding stream for improving the use and condition of existing homes in 2010/2011 is £77m. Given the number of London boroughs and the sum awarded to Enfield for this project, you can see that our lobbying of the Mayor has paid dividends in that we have received a significant share of this money.
- (e) The GLA has not yet confirmed the overall funding programme for 2010/2011 and it is still subject to further review by the Mayor and ministerial sign off. The Mayor’s Housing Strategy confirms the Mayor’s target to bring over 3,400 empty homes back in to use by 2011.

Three cheers for Boris!”

Question 3 from Councillor Rodin to Councillor Lavender, Deputy Leader of the Council/ Sustainable Communities & Employment & Place Shaping

In a Conservative Party leaflet, distributed at Palmers Green Triangle on Saturday, 18 April it was stated that Enfield Council has allocated £2 million for the restoration of Broomfield House. When was this decision taken, by whom, and can Councillor Lavender let the council know the relevant council report number?

Reply from Councillor Lavender:

“Councillor Rodin thinks he may have found our agent in Enfield Southgate has been exaggerating.

Me thinks he might be right.

As part of the penultimate year’s budget, authorisation for expenditure on the House and grounds in Broomfield Park was contained within the capital programme and medium term financial strategy to the tune of only £1m not £2m.

(Incidentally Councillor Charamalambous stood up in this council chamber and expressly stated that he refused to support the budget. I am grateful to Councillor Rodin for giving me the opportunity to highlight the lack of support given by the Labour Party to the improvement of the House and grounds.)

However one needs to trawl back a bit further as well. An additional sum was allocated pursuant to Cabinet decision 29 of the Cabinet meeting held on January 16th 2003. It was intended that such allocation be supported by the sale of the stables (of course the sale will not be necessary nor possible and the shortfall will need to be made up in the capital programme as a result if further sums are needed).

Incidentally this was a confidential Part II item but the minutes indicate that Councillor Goddard was in attendance from the Labour Party.

That sum allocated was for £940,000. So only £1,940,000 in total has in principle been allocated not £2m.

I will admonish Councillor Lamprecht for exaggerating to the tune of £60,000 and tell him not to do it in future.

As I stated in the answer to the question, we need to understand what £6m will buy. Once our conservation team has worked up costing and proposals more accurately then a final figure will be arrived upon and a final decision made. Councillor Rodin can rest assured that both he and the Labour Party will be given every opportunity to oppose this initiative in time for the next local elections.

Question 4 from Councillor Lemonides to Councillor Rye, Leader of the Council

“Do you agree that to run any organisation, including a council, that all members need to understand the risks to that organisation? If so, what arrangements are being made to share the Corporate Risk Register with all members by way of a council meeting agenda item?”

Reply from Councillor Rye:

"The council has recently revised its risk management strategy setting out roles and responsibilities for both members and officers.

One of the key objectives in the strategy is to ensure that members, Council Management Board, and external regulators can obtain the necessary assurance that the council is mitigating the risks in terms of achieving its objectives and complying with good corporate governance practice.

The strategy clearly states that the Audit Committee will review the Corporate Risk Register every six months. Similarly, it states that the Corporate Risk Register should be considered by the Cabinet on a six-monthly basis. All members receive the Cabinet agenda so will be kept informed in that way. However, I am happy for a report to come to Council annually "

Question 5 from Councillor G Savva to Councillor Kaye, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture, Olympics 2012 and Voluntary Sector

"Will Councillor Kaye inform the council of the start date of the mobile library visiting the site of Weir Hall Library, as he promised in the press in December 2008?"

Reply from Councillor Kaye:

My original comment to the press referred to a mobile library service in the area "from time to time". I subsequently decided to ensure that the local community was offered a more frequent service on a weekly basis, nearby. The location at Haselbury Junior School was identified as the neighbourhood is more densely populated than the Millfield site and is less than a 15-minute walk away. Moreover, some parents had expressed the view that the relocation of Weir Hall library to Fore Street would have an impact on local schools, so consequently we decided to locate the mobile library on a school site which is also open to members of the public, on Monday afternoons. On average, so far, over 80 people including school children, have been visiting the mobile library on this site, each week.

Construction work at the Millfield Theatre is about to get underway and it would currently prove difficult for the vehicle to enter and leave that particular site safely over the next few months. A site visit with the mobile library will be undertaken and a risk assessment carried out to decide if re-locating the mobile library is possible, in the future.

Between September and February, the old mobile vehicle was off the road as it did not meet with new emission standards. We now have a new mobile vehicle and the regular timetabled stops have resumed. During the time that the mobile library was off the road, school sites were serviced by our smaller delivery vehicle and anyone wishing for a service who could not get to a library service point was offered our Homebound Service direct to their home.

Question 6 from Councillor G Savva to Councillor Kaye, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture, Olympics 2012 and Voluntary Sector

"Will Councillor Kaye inform the Council of the cost for security at Fore Street Library?"

Reply from Councillor Kaye:

“The security arrangements at Fore Street are exactly the same as those at other libraries, including the former Weir Hall Library. This comprises a set of security gates and electronic tags in the items available for loan. New gates were purchased for Fore Street as the old ones are not compatible with self-service technology. New gates were also purchased for Enfield Island Village Library. These cost around £7k and we will be installing new gates in all libraries as we roll out our self-service option. Security tags are part of a borough wide purchase and cost around 11p each.”

Question 1 refers

Joan Ryan MP
House of Commons
London
SW1P 0AA

T Neville OBE JP
020 351 1352

14 April 2009

Dear Joan

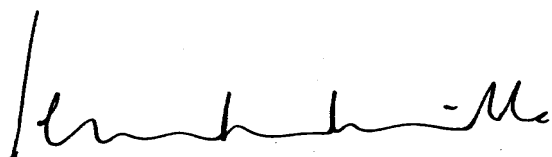
Thank you for your letter of 20 March about the NLWA and Councillor Bond's questions at the 28 January Council Meeting.

You may rest assured that I do not take lightly the location of new waste facilities, indeed that is why I have given many hours of my time to chairing the North London Waste Planning Members Group to ensure as far as practicable, that we achieve an equitable distribution of waste facilities across the seven boroughs.

The short point here is that site specific information at this stage needs to remain confidential until the formal consultation process has identified sites, if any, which may become the location for waste facilities. To give out such information before then risks causing unnecessary alarm and could influence site values inappropriately, thereby potentially increasing eventual acquisition costs for any sites wherever located which may be required.

My referral to you in reply to the supplementary question asked by Councillor Bond was certainly not facetious it was based on my assumption, from statements attributed to you in the past, that you are aware of proposals. You have repeatedly claimed to know that NLWA and Enfield were "secretly" planning to increase the number of waste facilities in the borough, despite my repeated assurance that this was not so. If in fact you are not in possession of information, then of course you will be able to inform Councillor Bond accordingly and perhaps desist from making such claims.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terence Neville', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Terence Neville OBE JP
Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene