

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS: 9 November 2011

Question 1 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Orhan the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

Please would the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People inform the council which 9 primary schools have not met their floor targets and what strategies her department are going to deploy to improve the situation?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"Is Councillor Laban referring to schools below the floor targets in 2010 or 2011? Of course she will be aware that the criteria and targets used for 2010 and 2011 have been altered by DfE.

If she can clarify I will be happy to write to her with details."

Question 2 from Councillor Robinson to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Could the Leader report on his meeting with Bob Neill MP?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

"Councillors Stafford and Lavender, the Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Customer Services and Resources accompanied me to meet the Minister. I think we were able to reinforce our case but we were left with no promises or assurances. I have invited the Minister to come to Enfield as I believe we have a good case to put. I thank Councillor Lavender for his support on this matter and I think we can all agree that a damping of £15 million this year and £8 million for each of the next 6 years is grossly unfair."

Question 3 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Orhan the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

Please would the Cabinet Member for Children's Services & Young People explain why Southgate Town Hall, is not suitable as a Free School when she was quite prepared to educate children in the former Argos Store in Edmonton?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"Our 10 year strategy for the provision of additional primary school places seeks to provide additional places principally through the development of partner schools hosted by

existing primary schools. This flexible strategy aims to provide school places close to children's homes. In most cases partner schools are being developed on existing school sites. In the case of Edmonton Green we were unable to identify options for an on-site partner school and therefore needed to seek an off-site option in the area: this was the context in which I authorised work to secure the former Argos Store. The sites are less constrained in the Palmers Green area and on-site partner schools are likely to be the preferred way forward. None of the 2 proposed Free Schools identified in question 21 are planned for the Palmers Green area.”

Question 4 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Can the Cabinet Member list the awards the Environment Department has been awarded in the past 12 months?

Reply from Councillor Bond

“Waste Street Scene & Parks

Waste Services has been shortlisted for Chartered Institute of Waste Management Health and Safety Award and is a finalist.

At the London in Bloom Awards 2011 ceremony held at City Hall our parks received the following Awards.

Parks Large category 2011

Oakwood Park	Gold
Grovelands Park	Gold
Pymmes Park	Silver Gilt
Jubilee Park	Silver Gilt
Enfield Town Park	Silver Gilt

Country Park

Forty Hall	Silver Gilt
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Enfield in Bloom 2011

Pymmes Park	Gold
Broomfield	Silver Gilt
Durants Park	Silver Gilt

Country Park

Forty Hall	Silver Gilt
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At the London in Bloom Awards 2010 ceremony held at City Hall our parks received the following Awards.

Oakwood Park	Gold
Grovelands Park	Gold

Forty Hall	Gold
Pymmes Park	Gold
Jubilee Park	Silver Gilt
Enfield Town Park	Silver Gilt

Mayor of London Safer Parks Awards 2011

Bury Lodge Gardens Gold
Bush Hill Park Silver

Planning & Environmental Protection

Sword of Honour - Enfield is the only local authority ever to receive this award. The British Safety Council Sword of Honour represents the pinnacle of achievement in the world of health and safety management. Firstly, an organisation must have achieved five stars in their five star health and safety management audit. They then have the opportunity to go on to prove they are among the 'best of the best' to an independent adjudicator.

London Planning Awards 2010/2011 – Best Built Project awarded to LBE and Shephard Epstein Hunter Architects – sponsored by CBRE CB Richards Ellis – for the Enfield Library.

Cutting Carbon Emissions – Public Sector Carbon Management Programme – given in recognition and appreciation of our organisation's work in reducing emissions, cutting costs and the mitigation of climate change during 2010.

Highways

Four of the Council's Car Parks have received the British Parking Association Park Mark award. They are: Crown Road, Minchenden Road, Lodge Drive and Palace Gardens. The Park Mark® Safer Parking Scheme is an initiative of the Associations of Chief Police Officers (ACPO/S) and is aimed at reducing both crime and the fear of crime in parking facilities.

Community Safety

We became the first borough in London to be given White Ribbon status, which recognises our commitment to tackling domestic violence in Enfield. This was highlighted to Kit Malthouse and five other London boroughs have now received this status.

Our Safe as Houses burglary reduction project has won the London regional Problem Solving awards. It was also recognised as best practice at the prestigious international Goldstein problem solving awards and has just been nominated for a certificate of merit at the national Tilley problems solving awards.

Our Gangs Action Group, which works to identify and tackle gangs in

Enfield has been recognised as best practice by the Met Police and Home Office. This was also recognised as best practice at the international Goldstein problem solving awards held in Florida recently.

Department

The Council Annual Staff Awards were held on Friday 23 September at Millfield Theatre and the following winners were from Environment.

- Marc Gifford and John Daffada in the individual awards.
- Community Safety Team in the team awards
- Street Scene in the Respect for Enfield awards

I would like to thank Councillor Levy for giving me this opportunity to thank all Members of staff who have contributed to all these awards gained by Environment in the last 12 months given that we are under the cosh by Central government.”

Question 5 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Orhan the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

“On 14th July this year the Enfield Independent quoted a spokesman for the Council saying “the need for school places is required for Edmonton, parts of Enfield Town and the north east of the borough, not Palmers Green”. In the light of this public statement, would Councillor Orhan please explain why her department has approached Walker School (in the south east of the borough where there are allegedly no shortage of school places) to explore the possibility of an expansion when this was previously ruled out by the department?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan

“I can confirm that the increased demand for primary school places has been felt most acutely in Edmonton, parts of Enfield Town and the North East of the Borough. Increased demand has not however been restricted to these areas of the Borough. I am planning to make proposals to the December meeting of Cabinet setting out proposals for the establishment of additional reception classes in September 2012 in order that there are sufficient school places for local children throughout the Borough.”

Question 6 from Councillor Uzoanya to Councillor Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Public Health

What is this Council doing to combat knife crime?

Reply from Councillor Hamilton

The Council’s Community Safety Team, the Youth Offending and Youth

Support Services and many other council officers contribute to the ongoing work to deter people from carrying knives.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Board current Partnership Plan has "Tackling Serious Youth Violence " as its number one priority and this is often linked with offences of carrying knives. (SYV is reduced by 10.1% in Enfield as compared with 10.6% increase)

Recent feedback to the Crime and Safety Scrutiny Panel demonstrated that:

- The Cross Border Gangs Action Group is an area of best practice carrying extensive work with individual identified offenders.
- We were one of the first areas nationally to use Gangs Injunctions and the offender (Dylan Martin) will be sentenced to at least 14 months if found guilty of breaching the injunction.
- Enfield currently has the second lowest rate of personal robbery in the Metropolitan Police area (as per 23rd Oct 2011) and rates for knife crime in Enfield are reduced by 5.6% as compared with a 15.2% increase across London. This of course does not reflect the impact of the tragic loss of 3 lives on the streets of Enfield (Negus Mclean, Leroy James and Steven Grisales).

We have recently successfully applied for additional funding and our Communities Against Guns Gangs and Knives programme includes:

- Enhancing local mentoring schemes
- Providing additional support for gang members who wish to exit gangs.
- Providing information about "Safer Choices" for young women who may be involved with gangs or gang members.
- Provision of metal detectors for use in schools, on housing estates and in parks.
- Funding for additional Youth Outreach work, which is now tasked via SAFE (fortnightly partnership tasking).
- Provision of positive activities for both young people and adult prolific offenders

We are also in the process of developing a "Gangs Call In" based on the successful Glasgow model, where the consequences of criminal activity committed by gangs is made clear. The community will play a critical role in this as the process is finalised and the "Call In" delivered. We anticipate that this will be ready in early 2012.

We are working with partners to design out the opportunity for all types of crime on estates such as at Lytchett Way, where physical improvements to the area will be supplemented by the installation of CCTV.

We have commissioned Victim Support to help us develop a programme which helps young people exit gangs and provides support for young victims of crime.

The Youth Offending Service are leading on the delivery of a Knife Crime Prevention Programme and additional work to make offenders understand the impact of crime on their victims, many of whom are also young people. Young Offenders are taught first aid and there is group training on weapons awareness and the fact that there is no safe place on the body to use a knife. Youth Inclusion Support Panel clients are taken on prison visits to deter offending.

We are seeking to increase the level of CCTV in crime hotspots and also trying to maximise the opportunities to link up other CCTV systems with the facility at Claverings.

We have already linked St Modwens Shopping Centre and are in the process of linking Enfield Town and the transport Hub at Edmonton Green with the Council's CCTV Centre.

Trading Standards Officers carry out intelligence led test purchases of knives being sold to people under the age of 16 (as the law requires) and we are also working with legitimate traders to ensure the safe sales and storage of knives.

We support the Junior Citizens programme targeting all local schools and work with the schools teams to promote preventative work to deter robberies of school children and other serious offences.

We have purchased body worn cameras for police teams working on estates and have also purchased body cams for the environment enforcement officers.

This list only represents some of the specific activity to counter knife crime, but there are many other examples of commissioning positive activity and youth diversion projects which will equally have a massive impact on street crimes including those perpetrated with a knife.

At the recent SAFE Tasking meeting (28/10/11) it was reported that in Upper Edmonton, which was one of only two areas where Youth Crime has shown an increase this year (the other is Highlands +2 offences), it found that this was due to increased proactive patrols by police. Within the "violence" category of Youth Crime, actual incidents of violence have been reduced, but incidents where the police have stopped and searched people and knives have been recovered has increased.

Question 7 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Orhan the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

Will Councillor Orhan provide the council with an up to date written report on feeding circles for primary school provision in the south east of the borough?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"I am unsure of which schools Councillor Lamprecht is interested in – if he were to clarify this, I would be most willing to let him have the up to date details".

Question 8 from Councillor Cole to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

What plans did the Council have for the future of Southgate Town Hall and the Library on that site prior to May 2010?

Reply from Councillor Goddard

"The intention for the site is for an improved library, the provision of much needed community facilities on the library site, the opportunity for a health facility should that be confirmed by local GPs and the provision of much needed housing on the Town Hall site with the retention of the external appearance. This is in line with the intentions of the previous administration.

The principal of establishing an alternative use for the town hall, and cross-funding the refurbishment of the library via the sale of the town hall, was first established under the previous administration in the North Circular Area Action Plan: Preferred Options Report 2008 (paragraphs 2.3.17 and 2.3.27). In addition the Core Strategy (2010) Core Policy 44 sets out the need to deliver improved library facilities in Palmers Green."

Question 9 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Orhan the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

"Why does the Cabinet Member for Children's Services & Young People oppose setting up a Free School at Southgate Town Hall when her department has to bus children from nearby Bowes Primary School all the way over to a makeshift facility in Nightingale Road, Edmonton?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"I am not aware of any current proposals for a free school in Palmers Green. I can however confirm that the education provision at Bowes at

Edmonton in Nightingale Road is of high quality. Our innovative use of the former Delta City Learning Centre is providing good accommodation for 90 children”

Question 10 from Councillor Robinson to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

What are the trends in unemployment in the borough?

Reply from Councillor Goddard

“The latest information from Job Centre Plus (JCP) shows 10,358 JSA claimants in August 2011; 5.4% of the working age population (191,200). Overall trends in unemployment include -

- An increase of 162 (1.6%) on claimant figures for July 2011
- An increase of 1,271 (14.0%) on claimant figures for August 2010
- An increase of 165 people among the age band '18-24 years' to 2,760 (27% of all JSA claimants)

We are very concerned about the high youth unemployment and the overall rise.

Enfield Council's ability to respond this increasing challenge is now very limited. However, we have established a Job Brokerage Board and an Apprenticeship Board, which brings together local stakeholders, businesses and training bodies to address demand and supply gaps and support those seeking work.”

Question 11 from Councillor Maynard to Councillor Orhan the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

“The Council has proposed that Worcesters School becomes a partner school, accepting an additional class each year from 2012 to 2014. Can Councillor Orhan give a cast-iron guarantee that any such expansion will be temporary and come to an end in 2014?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan

“I can confirm that we are discussing proposals for a partner school which would admit an additional reception class each year from 2012 to 2014. We have no current plans to publish a statutory notice for the permanent expansion of the school.”

Question 12 from Councillor Ibrahim to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment.

“What, if any, plans exist for fortnightly bin collections?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“There are no plans to introduce a fortnightly waste collection service for any of the waste streams.

There never were any such proposals even though Tory leaflets announced this was going to happen under this administration.

Having reviewed Eric Pickles statement and guidance from the DCLG, under the Weekly Collection Support Scheme, which is due to begin in April 2012, the Council will be able to bid for funding, individually or in a consortium with other Councils for funding, providing it guarantees weekly collections for five years or more, and at the same time demonstrate improvements in recycling and procurement.

There will be no obligation on the Council to bid for the funding and return to weekly collections. The proposals have been introduced to reduce the financial incentives of fortnightly collections and encourage Councils to launch incentives to increase recycling in its areas. Eric Pickles and the DCLG have reiterated that the purpose the new funding is to enable councils to look at other alternatives which will still achieve savings in public procurement and increased recycling rates, and at the same time satisfy the public’s wishes that household waste collections services should be weekly, particularly for the collection of food waste. Therefore each council will need to undertake an exercise to determine whether they wish to apply for funding, by taking into account the views and wishes of those in its area and whether it is cost effective to return to weekly collections.

Specific details for the Scheme and the bidding process have not yet been released by the DCLG, however the website does state that details will be set out in due course. Once these have been released we will be in a better position to advise of the specific impact on Enfield. In the meantime it may be prudent to get the views of our neighbouring authorities, especially with regards to setting up a consortium for a shared service and bidding for funding.”

Question 13 from Councillor Maynard to Councillor Orhan the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

“The Council has proposed that Worcesters School becomes a partner school, accepting an additional class each year from 2010 to 2014. An increase in pupils at Worcesters School will have a significant impact on traffic in the area. A traffic study was completed in the spring of 2010. Can Councillor Orhan confirm that a new up to date study will be carried out before any further decisions are taken?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"I can confirm we are discussing proposals for a partner school at Worcesters Primary School which would admit an additional reception class each year from 2012 to 2014. I can also confirm that an up to date traffic impact assessment is being commissioned in consultation with local residents."

Question 14 from Councillor Stafford to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure

Can the Cabinet Member report on the library strategy?

Reply from Councillor Charalambous

"The public consultation on the future of the Library Service in Enfield closed on 2nd October 2011 and the Council received 1,583 responses to its online/hard copy questionnaire. The responses are still being analysed. I wish to put on record that we value the invaluable service to the community provided by libraries and would like to see libraries better equipped and providing a 21st century service for all and it is therefore my intention to propose that unlike many other London boroughs that we retain all our libraries and that there be no library closures."

Question 15 from Councillor Maynard to Councillor Orhan the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

"The Government has recently taken the decision to increase the pupil premium to £488, such that every child eligible for free school meals will receive an extra £58. Can Councillor Orhan inform us how many children in Enfield will benefit from this policy?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"13,126 children attending schools and academies in Enfield are eligible for free school meals (January 2011) and attract pupil premium payments."

Question 16 from Councillor Brett to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on Woodcroft Open Space?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

"Cabinet on 12 October 2011 approved a report to save Woodcroft, a unique urban nature reserve, and provide up to £100,000 of investment

into the site. Part of the site will be sold and some of the proceeds will be invested at the property for improvement works for the benefit of the entire community.

A management board will also be set up containing representatives of Woodcroft Wildspace and the Council to manage the site.

We are delighted that we've been able to protect the future of this popular and unique urban nature reserve for years to come. We've listened to the community, worked collaboratively with Woodcroft Wildspace Ltd and responded to the wishes of all in a way which enables us to provide a first rate wild space for the whole community while raising money to minimise the impact of government spending cuts and rising inflation on our Council Tax payers.

Proposals will minimise disruption to the wild space features already built, in particular the orchard and apiary, and encourage people from across the borough to make use of this fantastic facility.

Schools will also be invited to use the site as an educational facility, helping future generations to learn about nature conservation, biology and wildlife."

Question 17 from Councillor Maynard to Councillor Orhan the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

"What preparatory work is the Council undertaking to ensure that it is ready to implement the new school admissions code?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"Colleagues at the DfE have recently indicated that it is their intention to publish the final Code during the first half of November. The final version was originally expected at the beginning of September. There has been no information, though, as to whether the final Code will differ from the consultation document. Colleagues are of the opinion, though, that there may be some changes to the final document.

As soon as the final version of the Code is published, officers will be working to identify if any changes need to be made to our current arrangement".

Question 18 from Councillor Stafford to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

What steps has the Council taken to reduce its carbon footprint in the last 6 months?

Reply from Councillor Bond

“Over the last 6 months the Council has recently formed a new Sustainability Service to drive further reductions in the Council's and Borough's energy bill and carbon footprint, with particular focus on leveraging in additional funding to complement the £300k of 'Invest to Save' Salix funding already being drawn down. To this end:

- We are proactively measuring, monitoring and managing the corporate portfolio using smart meters to actively drive further emission reductions. 148 of 179 smart meters have now been installed. As part of the final roll out, 10-15 of the more difficult installations took place during the last 6 months.
- The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) is the first time we've truly measured the Council's carbon footprint, which will be nationally benchmarked through the CRC League Table. This baseline is due to be published imminently. Our performance will be rated against other participants and in particular the 32 other London Boroughs. It will be reviewed annually every July and published in the subsequent October. October 2012's league table will cover our performance in this current financial year. “

Question 19 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Orhan the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

“The Labour party's new education spokesman, Stephen Twigg is an enthusiast for Free schools. Does Enfield's Cabinet Member share his passion or does she disagree with him?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan

“Yes I do share Mr Stephen Twiggs enthusiasim and passion for education and have found his comments that Michael Gove's approach is an outdated obsession with structures interesting, I do however, welcome his comments that 'Labour will put the classroom at the heart of our approach'.”

Question 20 from Councillor Keazor to Councillor Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Public Health

“Will the Cabinet Member update on the position of the Residents Priority Fund?”

Reply from Councillor Hamilton

“As at the end of September 2011, the Enfield Residents Priority Fund Cabinet Sub-Committee had held three meetings, approving 50 projects with a total value of £555,839. 25 proposals with a value of just under £300,000 have been put forward to the October Cabinet Sub-Committee and proposals have already been received for the November meeting. Applications have been received or are being finalised for every ward in the Borough and a number of wards have fully committed their 2011/12 allocation.

All allocations are subject to a rigorous quality assurance process by Corporate Policy and Performance and Legal teams to ensure that they fully meet the eligibility criteria. Seven of the applications being considered at the October meeting were referred from the September meeting for clarification and further evidence of consultation etc.

A wide range of projects have been approved ranging from equipment for a playgroup, through neighbourhood environment days, skills training for employment and DJ sessions for young people to the provision of playground equipment, benches etc. Several projects have already started and more will begin in the next couple of months. We are confident that the full £2.1m 2011/12 allocation will be spent and that the projects will make a valuable contribution to improving the well-being of residents.”

Question 21 from Councillor Zetter to Councillor Orhan the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

Does the cabinet member welcome the announcement that there will be a third free school in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

“I have received the letter from the Department for Education informing me that the proposals to establish EN3 Primary School and the Kingfisher Hall Primary Academy had been fully assessed and are now proceeding to the next stage of the Free Schools process. The next stage is for the DfE to write to the Council to seek views on the proposals: I have not yet been informed of any details on the proposals.”

Question 22 from Councillor Charalambous to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on Broomfield House?

Reply from Councillor Charalambous

“You will recall that the GLA promised £5.97m to restore Broomfield House and the stables yard and convert them to 18 homes for older

people complete with a café and community space on the ground floor of Broomfield House. The GLA granted us half a million pounds to commence the project. The present situation is that the Council has kept its part of the bargain and has completed detailed designs up to RIBA Stage D which would allow us to make a listed building consent and planning application. We have also carried out extensive public consultation which has shown strong public support for the proposals. However, as I have previously reported, we have had to stop work as the promised funding by the GLA has not come forward. We met the GLA and the Mayor of London's housing advisor on the 13 September and they confirmed that the Government had cut the budget to the GLA that it had identified for support of the Broomfield House project. The suggestion from the GLA and others that we reallocate the North London Sub Region s31 housing grant cannot be done as this money is fully committed against existing schemes. We have recently written to the Mayor's housing advisor confirming this, but also seeking support for a new bid against the Government's forthcoming Empty Homes grant allocation to the GLA. This will be investigated further as the criteria are published.

We have also been approached by the Heritage Lottery Fund and will meet them on the 7 November to gauge what level of support it can offer to bridge the heritage costs of the scheme. We are working on both housing and heritage fronts as there may be potential for a composite funding arrangement to work; housing grant from the GLA and heritage grant from the HLF. The third element of this composite approach is the contribution that a development partner would make. Consequently, we have decided to proceed with the competitive tendering of the scheme to find a suitable development partner - in this instance an RSL seems most likely - which will tell us how much money they will contribute, and therefore how much money we need in the form of housing and heritage grants.

We have met with local community groups and I'm pleased to say that they support our continued efforts to find a solution, despite the recent setbacks with the funding. We also continue to have strong support from English Heritage for the scheme and we have decided it would be timely to apply for planning permission and listed building consent, which, should they be obtained, will add certainty to the scheme and build confidence.

Further information has been placed on the Broomfield House website including the latest work of the Design Team. I will report further as the project progresses and a clearer picture emerges."

Question 23 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

"Would she inform the Council why she was unable to stay for the whole

morning at the Annual Governors Conference on Saturday 15th October to take questions at the panel session as many governors expected of her?

Since being appointed Cabinet member for Children and Young People, could she inform the council which Primary, Secondary, Special Schools and Colleges in Enfield has she visited and met with

- a. Students
- b. Staff
- c. Governors
- d. Parents”

Reply from Councillor Orhan

“I stayed for almost the entire length of the Annual Governors Conference; unfortunately I was unable to stay for the last half hour or so due to pressing surgery commitments. As Councillor Kaye knows, unlike the minority side, the labour party is committed to their surgeries. I make myself as available as possible to governors, many of whom take the opportunity to email me or phone me to discuss issues they have.”

Question 24 from Councillor Brett to Councillor Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Public Health

The following Safer Neighbourhoods Teams will now have to share a Sergeant:

Cockfosters **And** Southgate; Southgate Green **And** Bowes; Palmers Green **And** Winchmore Hill; Chase **And** Highlands; Grange **And** Bush Hill Park

Does the Cabinet Member think this will increase residents' feelings of security and lower crime?"

Reply from Councillor Hamilton

“The Council has lobbied against cuts in the Metropolitan Police and in particular against cuts in Enfield, where it is generally felt that we are under resourced currently.

We feel that if the Resource Allocation Formula were to be re-run today, we would benefit from additional officers.

Obviously there would be winners and losers in this process and it would appear that there will be little appetite to re-run the RAF on the run up to the London Mayoral Election.

Enfield Council has a strong working partnership with the local police and we continue to support additional officers (24 x PCSOs) who patrol our housing estates and park areas, however we are concerned about the potential abstraction of officers next year during the Olympic Games.

We are regularly checking the arrangements for the Borough during the Olympic period, as part of the wider business continuity arrangements for the area to ensure that the safety of our residents is not compromised.

We will however continue to lobby for additional officers on behalf of local residents through all available channels, including the London Crime Reduction Board and London Councils.

Due to the public support for police following the disorder in the summer, the Mayor of London appears to be making more promises about ensuring robust policing in the capital. We will do everything we can to make certain that we are not net losers of police officers in favour of more wealthy, less needy boroughs."

Question 25 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

"How much was spent on Youth Services by Enfield Council in April 2002 and how did this compare with all other local authorities and how much was spent on youth services 2010 and how did this compare with all other local authorities?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"In 2002/03 Enfield spent £3,565 per 1000 population on Youth Work. The average for Outer London Boroughs was £6,182 per 1000 population. Enfield was in the lower quartile of the 20 Boroughs. The latest figures available for 2010/11 across all OLB's is the 2010/11 Estimates. This shows that Enfield now spends £12,703 per 1000 pop. The OLB average is £13,432 per 1000 pop and Enfield is now in the top half of OLB's.

Please note the above figures exclude expenditure on Connexions and Careers which were transferred to LA responsibility in 2008 & 2009."

Question 26 from Councillor Simbodyal to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

"Can the Cabinet Member tell this Council what took place across schools in Enfield on 14th October 2011 which culminated in an Enfield schools wide election? Can the Cabinet Member tell this Council how many hits the Facebook site received; how many young people took part; and how many votes were cast?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan

- “Enfield Youth Parliament elections took place between 3rd and 13th October 2011.
- The elections were an enormous success with 28 candidates standing for election in the four constituency areas
- Over 9,000 young people turned out to vote (63% turn out). Highlands school recorded an incredible 96.5% turnout.
- Each candidate produced a manifesto, a You-Tube video and did their own canvassing and promotion in schools and the local area. The EnfieldYParliament Channel has recorded over 6,800 downloads of the young people’s manifesto videos. In addition to this young people have been regularly visiting the Enfield Youth Parliament Facebook page.
- Ballot boxes were available at 17 locations including:
 - Cheviots Centre,
 - Two Connexions Centres,
 - College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London.
 - Chace Community, St.Ignatius, Southgate, Highlands, Lea Valley High School, Broomfield, Winchmore, Edmonton County (upper and lower), Enfield County (upper and lower) and Oasis Hadley Academy.
- The election period concluded with an Elections Results Night which took place on Friday 14th October at the Dugdale Centre in Enfield Town.
- 16 Youth Parliament Members have been elected; in addition 4 seats are available for nominated or elected posts from the Joint Service for Disabled Children, Youth Offending Service, Children in Care Council and the Youth Engagement Panel.”

Question 27 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

It seems somewhat odd that at a time when charges are being raised, financial support is being cut and services are being either frozen or reduced, that the council has introduced, through the residents priority fund, a time and resource consuming process to dream up ways of giving money away, quite frequently to interests which have never asked for it in the first place.

Given the inevitable budget pressures which the council faces, will the administration consider including in the budget consultation the

suggestion that the resident's priority fund be cancelled?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

"I thank Councillor Lavender for his concern about the funding cuts from Central Government. But despite these cuts, I can reassure Councillor Lavender that we look at all options in the budget round and this Council is both prudent and imaginative in its approach to protecting the frontline services that so many of our residents rely on and funding their priorities.

The Enfield Residents Priority Fund is just such an innovative scheme designed to give residents the opportunity to work with their Ward Councillors in developing projects that promote social, economic and environmental wellbeing and tackle deprivation in their neighbourhoods. For this very reason the priority fund has been allocated across wards using the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

A measure of this initiative's success is the fact that proposals have now been drawn up by residents in every ward to bid for funds from this scheme. Indeed a number of wards across the Borough have already allocated all their funds for 2011/12.

Playground equipment, an outdoor gym, the development of urban wasteland as a picnic area and activities for children and young people are just a few of the 50 schemes which have been approved.

Enfield Council, like so many others is facing significant financial pressures as a result of reductions in Government expenditure, the impact of inflation and other pressures. Despite this, the Council believes that devolving some decision making to residents and empowering them to improve their own quality of life will have tremendous benefits for both residents and the Borough for years to come."

Question 28 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

"Can the Cabinet Member tell this Council the manifesto pledges her department has delivered?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"Detached Youth Workers

We have increased the establishment of Detached Youth Work, such that we now have a full time Detached Youth Worker and are currently recruiting to six additional part-time Detached Youth Workers in order to provide a more flexible response to the needs of young people in the Borough.

Youth Achievement Foundation

There are currently discussions taking part between the Children's Scrutiny Panel and officers on identifying the best way to approach this.

Allotments for Schools

A number of discussions have taken place between schools, our department and Environment. As a result of this, Education has made funds available to schools to enable growing projects as a one off allocation. 25 schools have joined a London-wide scheme Capital Growth which allocates grants for growing spaces with their target being 2012 new growing spaces by 2012.

Uniform Grants

Uniform grants are now issued for children applying for reception places and transferring between primary and secondary school. The families have to be in receipt of one of the following: Income Support, Income Support Jobseekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance (IR) or assistance as an Asylum Seeker. Families also qualify if they receive Child Tax Credit only and have an income of less than £16,190, or receive the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit. Families have to live in the London Borough of Enfield and the child must be attending a state maintained school.

For the 2011/2012 academic year the grant is £22 for a reception pupil and £85 for a year 7 pupil.

Free School Meals Pilot

- The development of a one-school pilot was a commitment in the labour manifesto for the Council elections in 2010
- There is a pilot scheme at Eastfield Primary Schools which will operate for two years offering free lunches to all children at the school.
- Eastfield was selected on the basis of data analysis taking into account information about deprivation, information about obesity levels and information about the level of take up of paid meals
- The results of the pilot will be analysed at the end of the period including the impact on obesity, eating habits and behaviour as well as the costs."

Question 29 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Will Councillor Stafford confirm the amount, if any, of salary costs which have been capitalised since May 2010.

Reply from Councillor Stafford

“In the 2010/11 accounts £3.77m of General Fund salary costs were capitalised. This sum relates mainly to property, highways, parks, asset management and architectural services.

A further £1.98m was charged to the Housing Revenue Account in 10/11.

In total £5.75m of salary costs were capitalised.”

Question 30 from Councillor Cole to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

“Can the Cabinet Member tell this Council just some of the activities and ways her department has been working hard at to raise the excellence of children and young people in Enfield?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan

“Everything that my department does is focussed on raising standards and narrowing achievement gaps for Enfield Children and young people.

I am justly proud of the extent, range and evidenced impact of these activities in spite of the huge numbers of cuts imposed in the last year

An example of just a few activities would be,

Providing and quality assuring a wide range of training and development activities for all school staff, governors and the wider children’s workforce. Much of which is nationally recognised and has received awards. This would also include support and development for parents and our most needy families.

Continued and ongoing financial advice for our schools and centres so that they can demonstrate value for money and prioritise resources for the most in needs

Rapid and effective response to schools that are judged to be causing concern. This would include

- developing and brokering structural arrangements between outstanding schools and those facing difficulties
- excellent and widely respected advice and support from schools HR
- a focus on improving outcomes for local vulnerable children

Offering support and advice for all children and young people and their families, from those who are underperforming and most needy to those who are the most able, so that they continue to achieve to their potential.”

Question 31 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

“Will Councillor Stafford confirm the amount to the nearest £ that has been given to businesses by way of business rate relief following the much advertised initiative that he introduced last year.”

Reply from Councillor Stafford

“The Pilot Business Rates Hardship Relief scheme for businesses in Edmonton Green Ward was approved at Cabinet in March 2011 and implemented following call-in to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in April 2011. 122 small businesses in Edmonton Green Ward were sent details of the scheme and how to apply and to date 10 applications have been received for Rate Relief totalling £45,919.25. The applications are being assessed and verified and any further information requested if required. Awards are expected to be made over the coming month and the scheme will be evaluated after one year's operation.”

Question 32 from Councillor Lemonides to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Care

“Can the Cabinet Member explain what effects the NHS Enfield's proposed funding cuts of £750,000 to the voluntary sector will have on the services they deliver to the elderly in Enfield.”

Reply from Councillor McGowan

“I am grateful to Councillor Lemonides for raising this question and I note the emphasis on services for older people. However the proposed funding cuts span a range of service areas including older people, mental health and services for people with learning difficulties, and young carers.

Having said that, I am deeply disappointed that such unilateral action should have been taken by NHS Enfield, particularly in light of the approach which the Council had taken with its health partner to review the effectiveness and affordability of services provided by the voluntary and community sector in Enfield.

As Cabinet Members, both myself and Councillor Hamilton have met with Sarah Thompson, the NHS Enfield Borough Director, to express our concern about these proposed cuts in funding. The financial context within which this action is being taken is well understood and subsequent to the notice of the proposed funding cuts, was reported to Health Scrutiny Panel on 6th October 2011. However, the point has been made that targeting the voluntary and community sector in this way, appears to miss the bigger picture where there is overspend on the acute sector because of

lack of primary care provision in Enfield.

Correspondence between the Borough Director of NHS Enfield and the voluntary organisations which are funded by NHS Enfield, has made clear that the services which they are funding will be separately reviewed within the period of notice of termination of funding. Members will know that six months notice has been given to these organisations within the voluntary and community sector in Enfield. Officers are currently assessing the impact which the cuts in funding which have been proposed by NHS Enfield will have, particularly for organisations that are jointly funded, if and when these cuts take place.

The detailed impact will therefore only be known once meetings have been held by NHS Enfield with each of the organisations affected. Clearly the significant element of the review of services will be whether services provided are actually eligible for health funding. The risk for the Council is that withdrawal of health funding may impact on a potential future demand for social care services.

We will continue to encourage NHS Enfield to protect funding for these essential services and not to take any unilateral decisions without full dialogue with the council and other local stakeholders.

Some of these health funded services are also funded by the Council and careful account will need to be taken of the viability of the Council's investment in these jointly funded services at the stage that any funding is withdrawn by NHS Enfield.

It needs to be clear that it is NHS Enfield's decision about withdrawal of funding acting under an expectation from NHS North Central London to cut expenditure."

Question 33 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Is the Finance Department monitoring any reduction in the yield from service charges arising from the increase in various charges introduced as part of last year's budget? Are there any instances where, as a result of the increase in any charge, the overall yield has reduced?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

"Income monitoring forms part of the monthly budget monitoring process. Income projections are made by service managers by taking into account actual income to date, seasonal trends, market/industry conditions and for some income streams, the consumers' behaviours and their confidence on economic recovery. These are reviewed and challenged where

appropriate by Finance on a regular basis. Any significant variances on income budgets are included in the budget monitoring reports to CMB and Cabinet.

Fees and charges are set on a cost recovery basis. The increase in the 11/12 charges is required to reflect the uplift in the costs of materials and providing the services through external contractors.

The table below sets out fee increases and yields in comparison to 2010:"

	2011/12 % fee increase	2011 No. of requests / applications / tickets	2010 No. of requests / tickets	% change	2011 Income	2010 Income	% change
Skip licenses	2.17%	2,367	2,316	2%	£91,655	£88,534	4%
Bulky Waste	Removal of 1st free collection	1,737	130 (chargeable requests only)		£44,041	£4,100	974%
P&D parking	approx 50%	351,652	429,005	-18%	£659,785	£573,318	15%
Burials (Apr-Jun only)	average 45%	79	92	-14%	£287,614	£225,982	27%

Question 34 from Councillor East to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Would Councillor Bond please confirm what plans have been agreed for the introduction of a Wildlife Officer, which was one of the commitments that the majority group made prior to the May 2010 elections?

Reply from Councillor Bond

"There was no direct commitment in the Manifesto for such a post.

Though I am glad to see Councillor East is improving his reading material.

However, the introduction of a Bio-Diversity Officer will allow for the commitment of the wildlife officer to be met. It will be the role of this officer to ensure that the Bio Diversity Action Plan is completed. An integral part of this plan is to ensure that the preservation and integration of wildlife and wildlife habitat is maintained and enhanced across the Borough. This will be via a range of mechanisms including the Planning regime as well as any developments to services."

Question 35 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Bond, Cabinet

Member for Environment

What plans does the Council have to apply to Transport for London (TfL) for funding a programme of work to shorten the excessively long bus stop clearways at those bus stops where bendy buses will not be used after the end of this calendar year?

Reply from Councillor Bond

“The Council is already using a portion of its current TfL funding allocation to investigate improvements to many bus stops across the borough. As part of this ongoing work the Council will consider amending the few bus stops that were extended to accommodate the bendy buses. This would of course be subject to consultation with premises adjacent to the bus stops, and with London Buses.

Maybe Councillor Lamprect should ask the Mayor of London for extra funding for this work to happen as I am informed they are in the same political party.”

Question 36 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Does Councillor Taylor agree that it is his duty and that of his fellow Cabinet members to actually answer the council questions placed before them? One clear example of this failure at the last council regarding information requested in questions, was Councillor Taylor’s answer to question 13, which failed to provide the cost and on-going costs asked for in this short, simple to understand question. Furthermore will Councillor Taylor provide that answer now?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“Following the riots there were costs in respect of additional security at 5 buildings totalling £33,086. There has been a review of CCTV which has been contained within existing resources.

In addition, there have been repair costs to Council premises through damaged brickwork and broken windows totalling £1,500 and repairs to highways and street lighting in Little Park Ridings and Solar Way totalling £8,699.

These costs will be included in a claim to the Government in respect of the £10m Recovery Fund available to affected local authorities.”

Question 37 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

I note that Councillor Bond has enjoyed considerable publicity regarding his ban on spitting proposal; however his oratory does not appear to be being backed up with much effort, given that the online petition he is running has only 130 signatures as of 16 October 2011. Spitting is a disgusting activity, so I would ask the cabinet member to set out what actions he intends to take now to get the two and half thousand signatures still needed

I might also add, as he has not done so, he could start this process by circulating the petition to all Councillors and council staff whom he might consider asking for support if he is seeking to take this forward.

Reply from Councillor Bond

"I congratulate Councillor Chamberlain on his viewing habits and his reading material and I'm glad that he's following me as he used to when he was in Southbury ward.

The spitting campaign was started by residents in Enfield and is resident lead, therefore, not knowing where he got his figures from but they were certainly out of date as of 16th October 2011.

Signatures are being collected not just on the Enfield Website but also by shop keepers, church groups, residents groups, schools and libraries from all areas of the borough representing the diversity we enjoy in Enfield.

I apologise to Councillor Chamberlain that he has not received a copy of the petition but I was advised over a week ago that all Members of the Council would receive copies of the petition in their post, I have, therefore, today 27th October 2011, instructed officers to circulate the petition and to make sure this petition has cross party support which has always been my aim."

Question 38 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing

Most tenants are decent law abiding citizens who have their quality of life damaged by an amoral minority, so it is important that action is taken against that minority. At last Council Councillor Oyken's answer to question 41 gave assurances that firm action will be taken against tenants involved in the violent disturbances. Will the Cabinet Member now confirm if any action has actually been taken against tenants linked to the disturbances, and if so what was the type of action taken?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

“A National Independent Riots, Communities and Victims Panel has been set up to examine and understand why the riots took place in August 2011. The investigation will involve a series of public meetings to obtain the views of residents across London who were directly affected by the riots. Together with Enfield Council Commission, a public meeting has been organised for 2nd November to give people in Enfield a chance to contribute to the national investigation.

Enfield Council is working with the Police and partners agencies to identify people involved in the August Disturbances in Enfield with a view to taking criminal proceedings for offences committed. Investigations are continuing and to date no tenants of Enfield Council have been arrested or detained following the riots.

Enfield’s ALMO has a strong focus on preventing anti social behaviour (SSB). It has a clear and well communicated ASB policy which has been developed with tenants and is delivered through partnership working with the Police and ASB Teams. This Policy meets the requirements of the RESPECT – ASB Charter for Housing. Strong tenancy management is in place and remedies including service of formal Notices, extension of Introductory Tenancies, injunctions and demotion of tenancies have been successful in bringing about changes in behaviour. Possession action is taken only as a very last resort. Enfield’s ALMO approach to dealing with ASB is to support tenancies and not evict except in the case of the most persistent perpetrators who are not responsive to the support offered. Enfield’s ALMO will always consider the proportionality of a perpetrator’s behaviour and the impact of their ASB on the wider community.

The Government is currently consulting on a new mandatory power of possession for anti social behaviour. If introduced, Enfield’s ALMO will consider using the new power within the context of a wider tool kit focusing on preventing ASB. The power would be built into the ASB Policy of Enfield’s ALMO and used as a very last resort.

Enfield Homes and Council have agreed that possession action will commence against any Secure or introductory tenant found guilty of any offence arising from the recent disturbances. Discussions have been held with Legal Services to ensure any possession actions are progressed speedily. There have been no reports to date from any agency that any of our tenants were arrested or detained.”

Question 39 from Councillor Headley to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

“What steps is the council taking to ensure equal access to business lets in the borough?”

Reply from Councillor Stafford

“This Council owns a portfolio of properties which are held for investment purposes. These include retail, industrial and agricultural properties. With the exception of the Managed Workspace units, which are let on an "easy in/ easy out basis", only a very small percentage (less than 1% a year) become available to re-let. In order to enable equal access to these:-

1. They are advertised on the Council's Website, our contractors' websites (in the case of the retail and agricultural properties) and the North London Business Website.
2. Telephone enquiries to the Council's Customer Services helpline are passed to our Property Team, who provide information on the availability, user requirements and rents relating to these properties.
3. Our contractors maintain a register of applications relating to our retail and agricultural premises. Enquirers are contacted if a suitable Council property becomes available.
4. "To Let" boards are fixed to vacant retail units which are available to let and similar signs are displayed in windows of available units, such as those at Claverings Industrial Estate.
5. Site visits are arranged to suit the applicants.
6. Advertisements are placed in appropriate journals, where relevant.
7. The new tenants are chosen having regard to their proposed use of the property and their financial viability to take on the lease.”

Question 40 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

“What monitoring process does the council have in place to ensure that unauthorised sub-lets of council owned business properties are not taking place?”

Reply from Councillor Stafford

“As explained in my previous answer to Councillor Headley, this Council owns a portfolio of properties which are held for investment purposes. The management of these properties includes:-

1. Regular site visits and communications with our tenants. These, together with our officers' or contractors' knowledge of the area,

enables changes in, for example, the business name or use of the property to be identified in many cases, which may have resulted from an unauthorised subletting.

2. Monthly monitoring of invoices and payments may identify a change in the occupier's name, which may indicate an unauthorised subletting.
3. Site visits relating to Rent Reviews, Lease Renewals and requests for consents for alterations and assignment also enable the Council to check who is occupying the property.

If officers become aware that unauthorised subletting has taken place, the appropriate action is taken against the original tenant and subtenant by officers in Legal Services, Property and Finance.”

Question 41 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

We note with concern Councillor Taylor’s answer to council question No. 2 at last full Council which contained the implicit threat to curtail a Councillor’s right to publicly ask questions and have them published in the Council papers. Given that questions answered in public or private cannot in reality require significantly different effort, yet some public questions are regarded by him as an abuse, can he set out what type of questions he considers to be an abuse and for what reason? Is he, for example, seeking to disbar any reference to published information, especially where it might be seeking to determine if any changes to announced plans have happened? Or will he recant this inherently anti-democratic position and admit that he got it wrong

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“Is ‘we’ a royal ‘we’ or is this a Group position of the Conservatives?”

As you will know, all questions are drafted as a reply by officers for Members to consider. This has to be concluded in a relatively short period of time by officers, and this collating of information requests disturbs normal work, and obviously costs the Council taxpayer. While Members enquiries are dealt with within 10 working days, the Council meeting timescale creates a much tighter deadline. No one should seek to prevent legitimate enquiry and scrutiny, but I would ask the Councillor to reflect on whether all questions posed over the past 16 months have always met this objective.”

Question 42 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing

Please would the Cabinet Member update me on the future of the vacant blocks on Parsonage Lane, St Georges Road, Forty Hill and Lavender Hill?

Reply from Councillor Oykener

“Small Housing Sites Update

On 14 September a report was taken to Cabinet regarding the following small housing sites:

Sheltered Blocks

- 1) 9-85 Parsonage Lane
- 2) 22-68 Forty Hill
- 3) 119-135 Lavender Hill
- 4) 50-60 St George’s Road
- 5) 41-63 Tudor Crescent
- 6) 1-18 Jasper Close

Hostels

- 7) Cornerways
- 8) Oakthorpe Court
- 9) 196-198 Green Lanes
- 10) 23 Church Street

The recommendations were for sites 5-6 to be demolished, for the four hostel sites (7-10) to be disposed off and for an options appraisal to be undertaken on sites 1-6. Prior to starting the options appraisal the Council is consulting local residents on what they would like to happen. To date two consultation meetings have been held and over the two meetings approximately 150 residents have attended.

The Council is aiming to appoint a demolition contractor by early 2012. The demolition contractor will price not just sites 5-6 but the demolition of sites 1-6 meaning that if the outcome of the options appraisal is for one or more of sites 1-4 to be demolished then the demolition contractor can take on the demolition of these sites as well as 5-6.

The options appraisal is also due to be completed by early 2012. The two main objectives are to deliver new housing, particularly family sized affordable housing, and to deliver a capital receipt that can be reinvested into delivering new housing. A report will be taken back to Cabinet in April 2012 recommending a preferred option for each site.”

Question 43 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Please would the Cabinet Member inform me what action he has taken to get the Primary Care Trust to remove the fly tip waste in the derelict building next door to Moorfield Health Centre, Moorfield Road in his ward?

Reply from Councillor Bond

"I am very pleased to see that Councillor Laban take such a keen interest in the environment around where she lives and I look forward to her taking these new found interests into the ward she represents.

In relation to the fly tipping on the land associated with Moorefield family centre the Environment Department has been having some difficulty serving a notice on the correct partner as there have been changes within the NHS recently.

Previous formal enforcement action was taken through serving of formal notices requiring clearance of litter and to prevent further litter accumulations under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Subsequent to service of the Notice, land was cleared and no further action was taken by the Council. However, further reports have been actioned informally by the Enforcement team.

Further to concerns about the location and its visual impact on the area Envirocrime have contacted the PCT and the new Estate Manager has now been made aware of the issue and he has advised that he has instructed contractors to carry out works as soon as possible.

However, the Council will serve a boarding up notice on 27 October 2011 providing a minimum of 48 hours to make safe and secure the land under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

The location will be revisited on Tuesday 1 November and a final assessment will be made when we will contact the PCT and compliance of that notice will be met that week either through works by the landowner or through works in default by ourselves."

Question 44 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

Do you agree that proposals from the Environment Department to remove free parking on Sundays will kill off the shopping facilities at Enfield Town when they are at their most vulnerable because of the disturbances and current economic situation?

Reply from Councillor Goddard

“We are fully aware of the impact of the disturbances on the town centre businesses, and, as you know, we have put in place a range of measures to support our businesses through this difficult time. This will keep the matter under constant review through a group that has been established to support the retail sector.

In addition, we have recently commissioned EBRA to mount a major marketing campaign with the express purpose of attracting additional customers to our town centres.

Having considered the matter carefully we believe that the introduction of Sunday Parking Charges in Enfield Town will not adversely affect the shopping facilities.

We have discussed with shops innovative ideas around how they can mitigate the small increase in charges for Sunday as well and this dialogue continues on how to improve the shopping experience in Enfield Town.

Since we have agreed, after consultation with shopkeepers and local Churches to introduce these charges, other nearby Boroughs have increased their car parking charges well above Enfield.”

Question 45 from Councillor Laban to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Adult Services & Care

Please could the Cabinet member give me an update on what is happening with regards to the former Elizabeth House and Pitfield Way site?

Reply from Councillor McGowan

“Elizabeth House site has been demolished. Once the electricity cable is disconnected and work is safe to continue then below ground slabs will be removed with the target date for completion being 14th of November 2011.

The Council is currently going through a procurement exercise to commission and procure a care home service that offers nursing, residential, respite and continuing care services to older people who can no longer live at home. The service will specialise in providing dementia and challenging behaviour care. We have been regularly engaging with residents, family and stakeholders throughout the planning stage and will continue to do so through to project delivery. We are on target to complete the procurement process by December 2011 with a view to seeking approval from Cabinet to award the contract in January 2012.

The 0.46 acre Pitfield Way site is cleared and vacant. It is protected by a hoarding to Hertford Rd and Haris fencing to the other sides. It is currently being marketed for sale by Jones Lang LaSalle. Offers are being invited on an unconditional and subject to planning basis. It is a condition of the sale that any development of the site does not have a negative effect on the reprovision of Elizabeth House.”

Question 46 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment

In your reply to Question 17 at the last council, you indicated that the consultation costs of reviewing the Enfield Town CPZ has been funded from “Section 106 contributions assigned to the reviews of CPZs”. Would you let the council know which Section 106 agreements have been used for this purpose?

Reply from Councillor Bond

“Contributions from the following s106 agreements have been used to fund the review of the Enfield Town CPZ:

- Redevelopment of the former petrol filling station at 97-101 Southbury Road;
- Redevelopment of the former car park in Florence Avenue; and
- Redevelopment of 18 Ladysmith Road.

Although Councillor Neville has not asked, the amounts available from each of the agreements are £39.4k, £19.7k and £3.0k respectively.”

Question 47 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment

Would he tell the council what steps he has taken to implement the Local Authority Business Recycling and Waste Collection Commitment, and how it will impact on business in the borough?

Reply from Councillor Bond

“The council supports this new scheme in principle. Officers have just been made aware of the commitment and are working through it in detail to ensure that the Council can commit fully to the 12 principles before recommending it for full adoption. This will be sent for approval along with the household waste commitment at the same time.”

Question 48 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member

for Housing

Is it not time to consider transferring the enforcement of Housing Legislation in respect of houses in multiple occupation or housing otherwise in disrepair to the Environment Department, so that there can be an effective enforcement regime against rogue landlords?

Reply from Councillor Bond and Councillor Oyken

“The Housing Enforcement Team has an excellent track record of dealing with rogue landlords. The team have recruited skilled Environmental Health Officers and Surveyors to take robust enforcement action against landlords who fail to meet their duties and responsibilities with regards to disrepair and HMOs. Last year the team dealt with nearly 1000 enquiries regarding housing related disrepair and HMOs. Most cases of disrepair are resolved through negotiation with the landlord. However, where appropriate the team have taken robust enforcement action such as the serving legal notices, undertaking works in default, incurring charges and/or prosecution.

However, robust enforcement action is only one aspect of ensuring a high quality and vibrant private sector and tackling rogue landlords. Housing disrepair very rarely happens in isolation. Situating the Housing Enforcement Team within Community Housing Services offers a number of significant advantages both strategically and operationally. The enforcement team liaise very closely with their colleagues in housing on a daily basis in order to tackle contributory factors in a coordinated and comprehensive way. They need to work closely with their colleagues in Housing Advice and Options to tackle relationship breakdowns between landlords and tenants, notices seeking possession, rent arrears, housing benefit problems, homelessness, prevention of homelessness and rehousing etc. They need to liaise closely with the Tenancy Relations Officer where complaints of disrepair and the service of notices lead to harassment and threats of illegal eviction.

Most landlords in Enfield aspire to be responsible and professional. In order to facilitate high quality homes and tenancy management and tackle rogue landlords we need to have both a carrot and stick approach. Community Housing Services run an Accredited Landlord Scheme that aims to reach out to all local landlords, even inexperienced and new buy to let landlords, in order to get them to sign up to the minimal standards of property management that the scheme requires. In return for this, landlords receive an accreditation mark and we provide advice and assistance on matters such as Housing Benefit.

Community Housing Services also do business with most local landlords on a daily basis. We lease accommodation and procure Homefinder

Scheme properties through offering deposits and deposit bonds. Where landlords fail to provide the standards of properties that we expect, we can put further pressure on them by making the decision not to do any further business with them until standards improve. Community Housing Services can offer grants to Homeowners in order to bring their properties up to a decent standard and can offer incentive for owners of empty homes to bring them up to standard and then rent them out to those in housing need.

Private Sector Housing has recently developed a new Charging Policy to charge landlords for notices served and for organising works in default. We have recently met with Environmental Services in order to achieve closer joint working through the “Operation ECO” project that aims to target small areas of Enfield that have reputation for poor street scene. Recently we have successfully bid for a housing related grant in order to tackle the problem of other boroughs placing their homeless families in Enfield in poor quality and unsustainable private rented accommodation – we aim to visit these households in order to ensure that these properties reach a minimal standard and the tenancy is sustainable. With the introduction of LHA caps and reduced Housing Benefit payments, this trend is likely to get worse and a coordinated and comprehensive private sector housing approach to these problems will become more important.

The above approach to dealing with rogue landlords has proved effective in Enfield. The most recent data suggests that Enfield council has a lower % of private sector non Decent Homes and a lower percentage of private homes with Cat 1 hazards than the national average, despite having top quartile levels of deprivation in England.”