

1.1 Questions to Cabinet Members

Question 1 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Around 23rd January the Cabinet Member approved a traffic management scheme in Carterhatch Lane involving the construction of a pedestrian crossing. The scheme removed several footway parking spaces, the installation of a 24 hour bus stop clearway notwithstanding that the road is served by one bus route only which does not operate beyond midnight, and the construction of a new pedestrian refuge with corresponding build outs. The report on which you made the decision indicated that the consultation leaflet was distributed on 9th December with a closing date of 3rd January and that no responses for or against had been received.

In those circumstances are you content that people were properly consulted about a scheme which, as indicated, removes a number of on street parking places in a road which is heavily parked and given a similar consultation mishap over some of the 20mph proposals around Christmas, will you give an undertaking to the Council that in future no consultations will be issued during the month of December when I think we can all agree that people have their minds on other matters?

Reply from Councillor Bond

I am entirely content that people have been properly consulted. The Council usually gives residents 3 weeks in which to respond to consultations on traffic schemes. Carterhatch Lane residents were given 4 weeks to respond to compensate for consulting over Christmas. The same was done on the 20 mph zone consultations and, given the large number of responses, I do not accept there was any mishap.

Question 2 from Councillor Bearyman to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Care

Would you update the Council on the current reforms of the NHS and whether the Secretary of State should be 'taken out and shot' as is the reported position of some in the Conservative party.

Reply from Councillor McGowan

Listed below are some of the amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill as reported from the Lords Report Stage:

- The Secretary of State's duty to promote the comprehensive health service;
- Creation of Health Education England a Special Health Authority to be established in June 2012. Local. The function;

- Duty for NHS Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Group, (CCG's) to promote education and training;
- A duty on the Secretary of State to promote research;
- Monitor to use its licensing powers to support integration and cooperation where it is in the interest of patients;
- Competition Commission 7-yearly reviews to ensure that the reviews be concerned with the effectiveness - not the development- of competition in the NHS;
- Monitors role in overseeing commissioning regulations;
- Reduce number of matters Monitor would have to have regard to;
- Strengthen the Government's commitment to reducing inequalities and improving the quality of services in the bill;
- Duties on the NHS commissioning board and Clinical Commissioning Groups to promote patient involvement;
- Membership of Healthwatch England;
- Transparency of Healthwatch England's Budget;
- Healthwatch England and Local Healthwatch relationship;
- Clinical Commissioning Group conflict of interests;

These are just some of the hundreds of amendments to the Bill since its introduction in the house in May 2010. From that day opposition to the Bill has gathered momentum the more the general public, and health professionals understood what the Bill proposes; which is no less than the commercialisation of the NHS. This at a time of cuts in the drive to squeeze £20bn of savings from the budget.

To save the Bill in summer 2011 the 'listening exercise' was launched to placate Liberal Democrat MP's to get the Bill through Parliament. However government concessions in the House of Commons have not prevented the Bill being savaged by the Lords. In a recent article, Baroness Shirley Williams has demanded the commercial component of the Bill be removed.

Opposition to the Bill now includes large majorities of health professionals as confirmed in a recent poll conducted by the Royal College of General Practitioners, which found three quarters of health professionals surveyed want the coalition government to withdraw the Health and Social Care Bill altogether. The BMA has repeatedly expressed its opposition to the Bill even though its members, will be given 80% of the NHS budget to commission

services. These are the very people who will be relied on to make the changes the Bill proposes work.

Yet Secretary of State Lansley and the Prime Minister are both determined to push through reforms, which many are convinced would not result in more cost-effective delivery of care; and many more believe the reforms would increase the involvement of the private sector. The professionals, for all the amendments to date, still fear private companies will cherry pick services.

According to the website Conservative Home opposition to the Bill has spread to the Cabinet. Three Conservative ministers were said to have criticised the Lansley Bill. They fear all the ills of the NHS will be blamed on the Bill. The Conservative Party could pay a high price at the next election. A Cabinet minister was quoted as saying 'He should be taken out and shot'. This view was apparently endorsed by Simon Hughes Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats calling for Andrew Lansley to be removed after the Bill had passed the parliamentary stages. Unfortunately these sentiments have more to do with remaining in government than concern for the NHS. Rather than removing Andrew Lansley, Cabinet members should accept that the general public and NHS professionals are against the commercialisation of the NHS and join Labour in calling for the Health and Social Care Bill to be withdrawn in its entirety.

Question 3 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment

Would he inform the Council what officer and other support is to be provided for Enfield in Bloom, now that the present officer support has left the council's employment through redundancy?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The Enfield In Bloom (EiB) competition and service will be retained. While one officer has left the Authority the second officer has been retained. As a part of the restructure of the Waste, Streetscene and Parks Division the Community and Outreach team is to be increased from 3 to 4 officers thus providing enhanced levels of support for Friends Groups and also the responsibility of EiB.

In addition we are currently exploring further options to provide EiB and are in conversation with both Groundwork UK and Capel Manor to explore any partnership arrangements that will enhance the capacity and capability and reputation of EiB.

The EiB volunteers have a work programme going forward and are looking to re-focus in some ways their efforts to be more structured on volunteering and fund raising (for example) so they can become more self sufficient.

This model is consistent with the one being adopted up and down the country and recently reported in Horticultural weekly where all councils surveyed

stated that direct funding for an In Bloom competition or function has been or was to be withdrawn and the groups were to become more self financing and independent

Question 4 from Councillor Robinson to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Could you update the Council on the status of prayers prior to Council meetings?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The judgement of Mr Justice Ouseley in the recent case of National Secular Society (Clive Bone) v Bideford Town Council concluded that “the saying of prayers as part of the formal meeting of a Council is not lawful under s111 of the Local Government Act 1972 and there is no statutory power permitting this practice to continue”. In the judge’s view, having prayers as part of the formal business of the Council agenda could not, on any objective basis, be seen as being conducive to or facilitating the business of the Council.

The judgement was not about whether Councils could have prayers at Council meetings or not. It related to the fact that they were included as formal meeting business to which all members are summoned. The Judge added that the saying of prayers before a formal meeting is lawful provided councillors are not formally summoned to attend.

However, on the 18th February 2012 (after the above court decision) the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government brought the General Power of Competence set out the Localism Act 2011 into effect. This gives local authorities the legal capacity to do anything an individual could do unless specifically prohibited by law. This should give Councils that want to continue holding formal prayers the confidence and legal standing to do so. Therefore, the saying of prayers at our meetings will continue to remain at the discretion of the Mayor.

Question 5 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People confirm how many schools she has visited in her capacity as Cabinet member in the last six months, along with a list setting out the dates, school name, duration of visit and reason for visiting?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

I would like to reiterate my commitment to listening/hearing and taking into account views from parents, staff, governors and students. This is done by visiting as many schools, children’s centres and school councils as possible but also by speaking with staff, students, parents and school governors at

various meetings and Borough wide events.

I have very regular meetings with the Director and officers in the Department, and am kept fully updated. I am aware that Councillor Chamberlain has recently returned to the Council and may wish to make a name for himself, but I think it is important that Councillor Chamberlain knows of the enormous amount of work that takes places around children, young people and their families, both within the Department, in schools, children's centres, youth centres, other establishments and also in the Community, often run by young people and the voluntary community groups.

Question 6 from Councillor Ekechi to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can Councillor Orhan update the Council on the final numbers of tickets issued to Enfield Students from the GET SET campaign and will she be taking the opportunity in Council, to congratulate the remarkable achievement of our schools in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

I want to thank Councillor Ekechi for the question, for it allows me the opportunity to re-iterate my congratulations to our schools and colleges: it was wonderful to see that Enfield was one of the first London Boroughs to cross the finishing line in the GET SET campaign and one of the few to get ALL of their educational establishments onto the programme.

I am delighted to inform you that 97 schools and colleges in Enfield have secured 4472 tickets. Of these, 35 secondary schools and colleges, which include Independent and hospital schools, tutorial centres, horticultural and FE colleges, will receive 3572 tickets, and 62 primary schools will receive 900. The tickets will differ per school, but across London and across the borough they will be split roughly proportionally between: 1) Olympic Football; 2) the other 25 Olympic Sports; and 3) the Paralympics.

Question 7 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can the Cabinet Member confirm how many events she has attended in her capacity as Cabinet member in the last six months, along with a list setting out the dates, event name, duration of visit and reason for visiting?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

I would like to reiterate my commitment to listening/hearing and taking into account views from parents, staff, governors and students. This is done by visiting as many schools, children's centres and school councils as possible but also by speaking with staff, students, parents and school governors at various meetings and Borough wide events.

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

What are the initiatives in place to assist businesses in the borough?

Reply from Councillor Goddard

With 50% of the jobs in the borough being occupied by our residents, we fully recognise the important contribution that business activities make to the levels of prosperity in our community.

We are continuing to provide strong support to businesses across a range of levels with the aims of:

- securing the retention of existing businesses by addressing their barriers to growth;
- attracting new businesses to the borough particularly in those sectors which offer the most potential for growth and provide jobs for local people;
- assisting new start-up and micro businesses ;
- revitalising our town centres to attract more retail and leisure activities;
- fostering new social enterprises.

We continue to fund the operation of the Enfield Business Centre, 201 Hertford Road, as a one stop shop for businesses. We set this up in 1995 and it continues to accommodate the major business support organisations in the borough - The North London Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Enfield, Enfield Business and Retailers Association, Enfield Education Business Partnership and Community Business Enfield. We are raising the profile of local business through the production of the Opportunity Enfield Magazine and the associated outline news bulletin that is widely circulated and has the names of the key businesses in the Borough.

We have increased the grant funding to the Chamber of Commerce to promote private sector-led initiatives that will secure closer engagement with our businesses and a better understanding of their needs - for instance through the Strategic Business Forum , sector forums and the Ambassadors

Group. I have been personally visiting major businesses in the Borough monthly to discuss their needs. In addition to facilitating direct liaison with businesses on our industrial estates on regeneration projects, the Chamber will promote wider accessibility to major decision-makers. We are once again sponsoring the Enfield Innovators competition, which the Chamber is running, to promote innovative business in the borough.

Our local economy has diversified greatly over the past 20 years, reducing the dependency on manufacturing and strengthening the business base. A number of growing sectors have been identified - for instance, logistics, food and drink manufacturing, waste recycling/reprocessing, construction, health and social care, retail - and we will give particular focus to promoting their further growth in partnership with the Chamber and other key local organisations.

Despite the budget pressures, we have maintained the same level of funding to EBRA to provide town centre management activities across the borough and support our retailers.

We fully recognise the particular difficulties that our retailers have been facing during the downturn and for that reason we introduced a pilot scheme in Edmonton to provide hardship relief for business rates.

We were one of only 2 boroughs in London which actually increased expenditure on the Christmas lights last year in recognition of the importance of supporting our High Streets through these difficult times.

Our recent successful bids for the Mayor's Outer London Fund have secured nearly £3m of additional monies to revitalise the High Street parades along A1010 corridor. Angel Edmonton, Edmonton Green, Ponders End, Enfield Highway and Enfield Wash are all benefitting.

The OLF Round 2 monies will facilitate the delivery of the Ponders End town centre redevelopment scheme on the High Street. The High Street Regeneration project will include approximately 1,230 sqm new retail space on the High Street in addition to new housing that will revitalise the town centre. The existing Ponders End Business Forum will be formalised to create the Ponders End Town Team, which will provide strategic and operational direction, and refine, champion and deliver the vision for Ponders End High Street.

The OLF Round 2 funding will also support a North East Enfield business promotion website to create a "virtual High Street", promoting offers, community groups, businesses, shops and volunteering opportunities.

The OLF Round 2 will also provide high impact remodelling of Enfield Business Centre, to provide hot-desking and managed workspace, and support the creation of a social enterprise to run the Centre.

We continue to contribute to the funding of North London Business to promote

inward investment to the borough, now particularly in the context of the London Anglia Growth Corridor. Our recent Employment Land Review has confirmed that demand for land and floorspace remains very high and we intend to retain a range of accommodation to suit all needs. We are fortunate in having a number of prime sites available to meet the upsurge in demand that will arise when economic conditions improve, and we are preparing a set of development management policies that will ensure that we can attract the best businesses to the borough.

We have provided further match funding to Enterprise Enfield to underpin the delivery of a range of business support activities, including the provision of guidance to start-up businesses, boosting export activities and promoting low carbon initiatives. We have sponsored their Retailer of the Year award as further demonstration of our support to town centre activities.

The new revised Corporate Procurement strategy recognises the potential value to the local economy afforded by the major public sector contracts and the importance of enabling local businesses to compete to win them. In recognition of this opportunity, we are committing to provide major matched funding support to draw down European monies in order to help local businesses become fitter to compete. This will be achieved by raising their operational capacity to meet recognised industry standards, particularly with regard to low carbon matters. The fundamental aim is to build stronger local supply chains for the benefit of local businesses.

We also recognise the continuing need to improve the skills of the local workforce to meet the needs of businesses. We have set up the Apprenticeship Board where we work closely with businesses, the National Apprenticeships Service and the FE College to promote opportunities for firms to take on and train staff to meet their needs

The Job Brokerage Board has been set up to help to streamline the recruitment of local people into the vacancies in our local businesses. This will help to enhance the offer that is being delivered by our JOBSnet service in its various outreach locations including Edmonton Green, Ponders End and Ladderswood, New Southgate.

The Council has also –

- made grants of £28,000 to 18 small and medium retailers affected by riot damage;.
- has arranged rate relief for businesses that were behind police cordons and could not trade - £87,000;
- has commissioned EBRA to work with businesses to promote and maintain the weloveenfield.com website and campaign.
- has worked closely with SONY following the arson at their distribution centre to support their full return to the Borough.

Looking forward, our regeneration agenda is comprehensive and an exciting one for further business development

The Decentralised Energy Network will provide a vital competitive edge to our businesses through the supply of low cost heat and power. This will help to secure existing firms and attract new ones to the borough.

The investment in our railway connectivity along the Lee Valley will increase accessibility to our employment corridor.

The construction of the Meridian Water development will provide exciting new opportunities for business development.

A major feasibility study is being taken forward to gauge the potential to promote industrial-scale market gardening business to serve the markets of London and the South-east.

Question 9 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment.

What measures will the Cabinet member for Environment be implementing to combat the displacement of cars created by his introduction of Sunday parking charges in Enfield Town?

Reply from Councillor Bond

To help maintain traffic flow and reduce congestion in the town centre through Enfield Town we will shortly be amending the waiting and loading restrictions on the following main roads to cover Sundays between 10am and 5pm:

- Cecil Road
- Church Street/The Town
- London Road (part)
- Silver Street (part)
- Southbury Road (part)

Whilst residents living close to the town centre did not give a clear indication that they wanted the operational hours of the Controlled Parking Zone to be extended to include Sundays when we consulted on amendments to the Enfield Town CPZ, this is something that I would be happy to review if residents of individual roads can show that the majority of residents within that road would be in favour of such an amendment.

Question 10 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can Councillor Orhan update the Council with just a few of the activities and events planned by her department and taking place in schools and in the community in celebration of the Olympic games taking place in the summer?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

The Physical Education Team led by Jan Hickman in the School Improvement Service is aiming to inspire EVERY young person. We will be delivering a comprehensive and exciting programme of activities across Enfield and I am delighted to say that we are working with all Headteachers to do this.

The Torch Relay will be one of the biggest school sporting events ever staged in the Borough. All schools are taking part from 18 May to 13 July.

I will be asking officers to send Councillors the list of the 2012 school sporting events for Enfield Young People so that you too can see the tremendous work and activities taking place across Enfield. I look forward to seeing as many Councillors as possible attend any of the events listed.

I am sure you will all join me in wishing our children and young people success in the events and a full and fun packed year.

Question 11 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

What measures will the Cabinet Member for Environment will be implementing to combat the displacement of cars created by his expansion of CPZs?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The Council is only proposing to expand CPZs into streets where they are supported by the majority of residents. Following the introduction of either a new CPZ or changes to existing areas after a settling in period, a review is undertaken of the zone and surrounding streets to see what effect the new controls have had. This will include comments from residents from outside of the area. Should the results identify that there has been displacement of cars, consideration will be given to further expansion of the zone or other measures to deal with displaced vehicles.

Question 12 from Councillor Robinson to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can Councillor Orhan brief this Council on the changes to careers provision following the New Education Act and what additional duty this will place on schools?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

Councillor Robinson you may know that following last year's announcements by the Coalition Government there is no longer a National Connexion Service.

Local Authorities will no longer have any responsibilities to provide universal careers education to young people except those young people with SEN.

As of September 2012 the responsibility to provide careers services has now

been passed to Schools, however, this has to be met from existing school budgets as no additional funding will be made available to schools.

Question 13 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment.

What is the expected income budgeted from CPZ charges in 2012/13 for each zone?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The expected income generation for charges for permits and scratch cards area by area is:-

	Income
Arnos Grove	£10,708
Bush Hill Park	£11,508
Gordon Hill	£3,122
Grange Park	£4,673
Oakwood	£12,085
Winchmore Hill	£32,967
Enfield College	£10,789
Enfield Town	£128,570
North Middlesex	£34,871
Palmers Green	£17,743
Southgate all day	£27,156
Southgate 1 hr	£2,863
Total Income	£297,055

Question 14 from Councillor Stafford to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Could the Leader please advise on the result of the Woodcroft consultation and comment upon whether this has delivered a positive outcome which benefits the whole community of Enfield no matter where they live.

Reply from Councillor Taylor

For many years the future of Woodcroft has been uncertain but that has now changed as a strategy has been adopted that will secure the long term future of 4.9 acres for nature conservation purposes. The strategy will deliver many benefits for Enfield people including wider public access, continued nature conservation, greater use for education purposes as well as raising a much needed capital sum to help deliver Council services and to give some funding to the community group who will manage the nature conservation area.

In developing the strategy, a wide range of proposals, some highly controversial, were considered. Ideas ranged between no change from the current use to developing the entire area for residential purposes.

Consultation has been very important and took place with many individuals and organisations over many months. In particular there was a great deal of work with Bob Ladell and Gary Garber of Woodcroft Wildspace who kept members of Woodcroft Wildspace informed. As a result of listening to people's concerns, the Council prepared a leaflet "Woodcroft: The Future" which was delivered to nearby properties including every property that backed onto Woodcroft. No responses against the strategy have been received.

This is an excellent example of working together to achieve a really good outcome. It is an excellent result which benefits the whole community of Enfield and I would like to express my appreciation to everyone involved in the project especially the people who made extremely helpful comments during the consultation.

Question 15 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment.

What is the cost of maintaining and enforcing the CPZs also broken down by zone?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The costs of maintaining and enforcing the Controlled Parking Zones across the Borough are as follows; as resources to support each of the zones are not zone specific it is not possible to break them down zone by zone accurately therefore the costs below are broken down under hours of operation:-

	Enforcement
Costs	
One Hour CPZ Monday to Friday	
Arnos Grove	
Bush Hill Park	
Gordon Hill	
Grange Park	
Oakwood	
Winchmore Hill	
Total Cost	33,600
All Day CPZ Monday to Friday	
Enfield College	
Total Cost	16,800
All Day CPZ Monday to Saturday	
Enfield Town	
Palmers Green	
Total Cost	111,000
All Day CPZ Monday to Saturday	
Southgate	

One Hour CPZ Monday to Saturday	
Southgate 1 hr	
Total Cost	80,600
All day CPZ Monday to Sunday	
North Middlesex	
Total Cost	23,500
Total Costs	265,500

In addition to the enforcement costs the cost of permit administration per annum is £65,000 making a total cost of CPZ enforcement of £330,000

Question 16 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment.

How much revenue does the Cabinet Member expect to generate from the CPZ scheme in 2012/13?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The total income from CPZ scheme in 2012/13 is £297,055.

Question 17 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment.

Since the New Year, can the Cabinet Member confirm the amount and number of nights gritting that has taken place in Bush Hill Park Ward, along with a list of where gritting has taken place?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Highway Services treat 250km of highway throughout the Borough as Priority 1. This amounts to over 45% of the total road network and is amongst the highest coverage in the Capital. The network comprises Principal roads, strategic routes, the entire bus network and especially hazardous locations throughout the Borough.

Enfield procures a bespoke weather forecast from the Met Office, which is derived using data collected from two Enfield weather stations situated on the network. The Met Office forecast informs Winter Maintenance officers as to when the network road surface temperatures will fall below zero which can result in slippery carriageway conditions. When the forecast predicts sub zero road surface temperatures (RST) or snow, the gritters will be dispatched to salt the network. In the case of negative temperatures alone, a single low spread may be all that is necessary, however in the case of snow, repeated treatments at heavy spread rates will be necessary.

So far this year there have been 37 treatments on the network, however as explained above certain conditions may require more than one treatment per

day.

The roads treated as part of the winter gritting network within Bush Hill Park are:-

Lincoln Road
Village Road
First Avenue
Part of Private road
Trinity Avenue
St Marks Road
London Road
Park Avenue
Village Road
Ridge Avenue
Queen Anne's Grove
Queen Anne's Gardens
Queen Anne's Place
East Crescent
Crawley Road
Bury Street West
Church Street
Halstead Road
Firs Park Avenue
Hyde Park Avenue
Firs Lane
The Fairway
Fords Grove

Question 18 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment.

What plans does his department have for resurfacing roads in Chase Ward that come under any of the 20mph zone schemes?

Reply from Councillor Bond

As has been the practice of the previous administration, the programme of planned carriageway maintenance is agreed each year following a formal assessment of the network.

Where 20mph zones are being introduced, and a carriageway is identified as requiring maintenance, any resurfacing works are coordinated with the 20mph zone implementation.

Within the 2011/12 programme, within Chase Ward, Garnaught Road is being resurfaced and the installation of speed cushions as part of the introduction of a 20mph zone will follow the resurfacing.

A programme of schemes is still being developed by officers for 2012/13 for

my approval.

Question 19 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

What steps has his department taken to consult residents and community groups regarding the section of the Greenway Route proposed for Hilly Fields Park?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Friends of Hilly Fields Park, the local Ward Councillors and Enfield Cycling Campaign have all been sent details of the proposed Greenway and asked for their views. The Council has also put up consultation notices in the park and details on the Council website. There was also a consultation meeting held in October 2010, attended by over 50 local residents, and there has been an ongoing dialogue with Friends of Hilly Fields and Enfield Cycling Campaign.

Question 20 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

What is Councillor Bond's assessment of the results of the consultation previously undertaken regarding the Greenway section proposed for Hilly Fields, in particular the public meeting held at St. Luke's Church on the issue?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The majority of those who attended the meeting at St Luke's Church were opposed to the introduction of a Greenway in Hilly Fields Park. This was hardly surprising given the letter in the local press the week before stating that the Council planned to build a 5 metre wide concrete road through the park for cyclists only.

Of those who spoke at the meeting, many were opposed to the Greenway on the grounds that it would be dangerous for pedestrians to share a path with cyclists. This is a commonly expressed fear but not one supported by experience on other shared paths. Shared paths have also been in place for many years in Lea Valley Regional Park, and the only accident recorded in the last 10 years resulted in the cyclist being injured. Several shared paths have been introduced in Royal Parks despite similar objections from pedestrians. Pedestrians fears went down once cyclists started using the paths and pedestrians realised the danger was not great. Although cycling is not yet officially allowed in Enfield parks it does take place. In the last year 1 complaint was received by the Council about cycling in parks, and this did not involve any injury or collision. To put that in context in the same period 57 complaints were received about dogs.

Question 21 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

How much performance related pay was paid in total to staff at Enfield Council for the financial years 2010/2011?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

The Council's performance related pay (PRP) provision originally adopted in 2006 mirrors the recommended model for senior managers pay made to the Government by Will Hutton in his report on Fair Pay in the Public Sector. In order to receive a performance related payment, staff have to achieve objectives set by the Corporate Management Board. These payments received are not bonus payments but constitute part of the salary range for each officer. Unlike other staff, where all pay progression is consolidated, payment in the upper part of the performance related pay scales are not consolidated. This requires managers to achieve the objectives set annually in order to maintain their salary levels.

Staff on PRP grades are required to work the hours necessary for the better performance of their duties. To achieve their objectives often requires staff to work long hours without any additional payments or compensatory time off.

The Council currently has 453 staff engaged under PRP terms and conditions. In the financial year 2010/11, PRP payments totalled £292k. This is 1.3% of the total middle and senior manager paybill which in 2010/11 was reduced by £420k after allowing for PRP payments. The implementation of the PRP scheme is subject to regular audit by the Council's auditors.

Question 22 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing

Please could the Cabinet Member for Housing explain why his administration is departing from the previous Conservative Council's commitment to refurbish and upgrade Kettering Hall in Eastern Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Oykener

Renovation works have been identified for Kettering Hall and estimates prepared. However, the opportunity is being taken to review the hall site with the adjoining vacant Council owned HRA site (the Former Ordnance Road Public House) to assess the scope for enhancing local community investment plans. A feasibility study is in progress and the findings will be subject to member consideration and local consultation later this summer.

Question 23 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing

Please could the Cabinet member for Housing give an update on the vacant housing blocks in Parsonage Lane, St George's Road and Forty Hill?

Reply from Councillor Oykener

The update beneath applies to all six sheltered blocks (Jasper Close, Parsonage Lane, Forty Hill, St George's Road, Tudor Crescent and Lavender Hill)

Following the consultation events held in autumn 2011 the Council has sent consultation feedback cards to all properties within the vicinity of the six sheltered blocks to ask residents what type of housing they would like to see replace the sheltered blocks. We have had an excellent response from residents and this feedback will inform decisions taken.

Drivers Jonas has been commissioned to complete an options appraisal and are due to report back in March 2012. The options appraisal includes the completion of a building survey to ascertain the condition of the blocks as well as commercial property advice. The options appraisal will include a recommendation to demolish and rebuild blocks or refurbish and retain.

Following the decision taken at Cabinet in September 2011 to demolish Tudor Crescent and Jasper Close the procurement of a demolition contractor is underway. A shortlisting exercise has been completed and Invitation to Tender documents have been sent out to bidders. The procurement process will seek prices for all six sites in order to save time should the outcome of the options appraisal result in the demolition of more than the two sites.

Clarity is currently being sought to ascertain the planning requirements that must be satisfied prior to demolishing residential properties. Should the planning authority require further information this may impact on the demolition start date. A demolition contractor is due to be selected in early March.

Question 24 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

Please could the Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration give an update on the approaches he has received from outside companies in relation to the Meridian Water scheme?

Reply from Councillor Goddard

Meridian Water is one of the largest regeneration projects in North London, developing over 5000 homes and 3000 jobs, with the Council working in partnership with the land owners and other stakeholders such as TfL and Network Rail to deliver this new community. Unlike other schemes in London, Meridian Water benefits from having a small number of pro-active land owners who support the proposals for regeneration, and are looking to work with the Council and developers to deliver the vision for the area. Therefore the Council's primary role is to work with these land owners and the community to facilitate the development, acting to co-ordinate their different aspirations and priorities to achieve a successful and transformational regeneration of this area and beyond.

The Council is leading this process through the development of the Meridian Water Masterplan, and later in the handling of the resulting Planning Applications and proposals, using S106, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and bidding for funding to deliver schemes where necessary and appropriate. Land owners will also be taking forward their own discussions with potential development partners and companies as they see fit, with support from the Council to enable the development to take place effectively, sustainably and swiftly. We expect to be able to publish a draft Masterplan shortly for consultation, and will be inviting the views of all parties, including the community, outside companies, stakeholders, land owners and Councillors in shaping the proposals for the area which will allow everyone the opportunity to contribute to and be involved with the vision for the future of Meridian Water.

Question 25 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure

Please could the Cabinet Member explain why in such economic circumstances that we are in, it was deemed acceptable to hire an outside consultancy to create the recent libraries consultation questionnaire?

Reply from Councillor Charalambous

The review of the Library Service has been undertaken as part of the Council's transformation programme, Leaner.

As the Council is committed to listening to the views of local people before making any decisions about the future shape of the Library Service, the Leaner Board agreed a 3 month public consultation. It was also felt very strongly that this should be undertaken by an independent party and not by Council Officers or Elected Members to ensure an impartial and unbiased approach.

Question 26 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing

Could the Cabinet Member for Housing inform the Council why, after a £350,000 investment by the previous Conservative administration, Boleyn Hall in North East Enfield is not available for public hire and has not been used for over a year?

Reply from Councillor Oykener

The cost of refurbishment to Boleyn Hall was £260,000. Completion of the works was delayed as a result of the following difficulties:

- issues of poor performance of the original contractor
- the need to appoint a new contractor
- unfavourable weather conditions for external works
- challenges with resolving a drainage issue in the car park.

The project was finally completed in October 2011.

Since that time there have been a number of discussions about the management arrangements of community halls and, specifically, the future use of Boleyn Hall. These will be concluded in the next few weeks so that residents can benefit from the extensive improvements that have been put in place.

Question 27 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Has he continued with my practice of receiving the weekly maps indicating fly tipping hotspots in the borough? Can he indicate which are the current worst areas affected? Can he indicate since 1st April last year how many fly tips have been reported and how many have been cleared and at what cost and give the equivalent figure for the previous ten months?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Yes I do receive monthly maps on fly tipping and graffiti hotspots across the borough. The practice of using an intelligence led approach to tackling fly tipping is a continuing process, which I leave to my officers to manage on such a regular basis. I have quarterly performance reports presented to me, which include detailed analysis of fly tipping and other environmental data. Our current hotspots for fly tipping are in the Edmonton and Bowes wards, which may be attributed in part to high volume commercial traffic on the North Circular Road.

I am unable to provide comparative data for 10 months as requested as we are awaiting information from the North London Waste Authority. However the success of our approach to investigation and designing out fly tipping opportunities through the allegating scheme is having a positive impact on the volume of fly tipped material, which shows a 105 tonne reduction in the corresponding six month period between April and October 2011 compared to that in 2010.

The data we collect now is far more accurate than it was in the past due to the fact that pre 2010 only reactive spots were recorded and now reactive and proactive spots are recorded on the same data sheets giving us a more robust database. Unfortunately I do not have data on fly tipping from Enfield Homes.

We have not reduced the level of resource allocated to fly tip removals, but the lower tonnage means a reduction in disposal costs of £10,000.

Question 28 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

In the 2010 Labour local manifesto a £100 Council Tax rebate for pensioner households was promised. Could the Cabinet member for Finance & Property please provide me with the breakdown per ward of how many residents were

awarded this rebate and the total amounts per ward, per annum. Could the Cabinet Member also inform us whether or not these rebates were subject to any qualification criteria and what these criteria were.

Reply from Councillor Stafford

Councillor Lamprecht does not appear to understand what was in the Labour manifesto. The Labour Group remain committed to protecting low income pensioner households from the burden of large Council Tax increases and has frozen Council Tax for the second year running despite the need to save £69m by 2014/15. Through Council Tax Benefit the Council is currently reducing Council Tax for just under 11,000 pensioners on a low income by £11.4m. However, despite widespread criticism from the public and private sector over plans to reform Council Tax Benefit, and IT experts warning of a potential 'disaster' involving payments to six million people, the Government is set to forge ahead with proposals to shift the responsibility for the administration and delivery of Council Tax Benefit to councils from April 2013 with a 10% cut in funding. In Enfield this will be a reduction in funding of over £3.5m from Council Tax Benefit funding. In addition, the Local Government Finance Bill, which will introduce Council Tax Benefit reforms, is unlikely to be approved by the summer.

Given the level of uncertainty and the lack of detail surrounding the scheme the Council has taken the view that even though the Government has promised to protect pensioners it is prudent to wait for the regulations which will support the new law to be in place before deciding how best to protect low income pensioners' households. These regulations are unlikely to be in place until October 2012.

However we are still committed to assisting low income pensioner households, and will review the position when the new regulations become clearer. Councillor Lamprecht will be aware that we have always indicated there is a 4 year manifesto. Because we have achieved so much despite Government cuts he may be confused.

Question 29 from Councillor D. Pearce to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

What evidence does the administration have to support the allegation made by Councillor Sitkin in the Enfield Independent (8 February 2012, page 6) that "runoff from Broad Walk's private saunas and swimming pools" are "polluting Grovelands Lake"?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

There appears to have been discharges of fluids into Grovelands Park. We are working closely with the Environment Agency to pursue those that are still discharging fluids into the Park.

Presumably Councillor Pearce fully supports this enforcement.

1.2 Questions to Overview & Scrutiny and Scrutiny Panel Chairman

Question 30 from Councillor Sitkin to Councillor Rye, Chairman of Crime and Safety and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel

Does Councillor Rye now accept, as grudgingly admitted by the Mayor, that police numbers in London have fallen by 1700 in the last two years?

Reply from Councillor Rye

I am sorry that Councillor Sitkin did not listen to my speech to Council when this topic was the subject of a Labour Party Motion as it would have saved him wasting the Council's time and resources in asking this question.

For the record I said, "Under the Coalition Government's Comprehensive Spending Review the Metropolitan Police lost significant funding and the then Commissioner decided to suspend recruiting officers. The Mayor of London Mr. Boris Johnson, immediately worked hard to provide an additional £42 million for the Metropolitan Police Service from other sources, so that the Met became the first police force in the country to begin recruiting again. This addressed the need to replace those officers who each year retire or leave the Metropolitan Police Service for other reasons. The number of police officers will be more than 32,150 in May 2012, which is well over a 1,000 more officers than he inherited from the previous Mayor, Mr. Ken Livingstone. In addition the number of Special Constables has increased from 2510 in May 2008 to close to 5,000 by December 2011.