

## **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS: 28 March 2012**

### **1.1 Questions to Cabinet Members**

#### **Question 1 from Councillor Brett to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can Councillor Bond let the Council know what the Government's latest statement on promoting cycling and making cycling safer has to say about 20mph zones and limits?

#### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

"The Minister for Cycling (Norman Baker) and the Minister for Road safety (Mike Penning) have recently written a joint letter to all local authorities about what the Government and local authorities can do to both encourage cycling and make it safer. This statement is in no small part due to The Times newspaper's "Cities fit for cycling campaign", which has gathered significant momentum in recent weeks.

Whilst there is a lot more to be done in Enfield, I was pleased to note that the ministers suggest that authorities "consider greater use of 20mph zones and limits where this will help manage speeds and the safety of all road users". This is clearly something that we have been actively pursuing since May 2010 and it is good to see the Government supports our approach.

In addition to our programme of 20 mph zones we are also committed to a range of other initiatives to encourage more cycling and to making it as safe as possible; including investing heavily in extending our network of Greenways and providing free cycle training for children and adults across the borough."

#### **Question 2 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

"The Daily Express on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012 ran an article on an event that took place in Cannes. The article stated:

"An army of British politicians, town hall fat cats and quangocrats spent four days wining and dining alongside tycoons and prostitutes at the world's biggest property fair in French Riviera Cannes. Other authorities from the capital enjoying the views were Hounslow, Redbridge, Wandsworth, Croydon and Enfield."

Would Councillor Goddard inform the council which Enfield councillors attended?"

#### **Reply from Councillor Goddard**

"I can confirm that I attended Marche International des Professionels

d'Immobilier (MIPIM) as a member of a delegation from North London Business that attended this event as well as representing the newly formed London Anglia Growth Partnership that is bringing together the corridor from Islington to Stansted. The sub regional delegation was also supported by the Director of Regeneration, from Enfield and Redbridge. The delegation was led by the Chief Executive of North London Business. The MIPIM event is a major opportunity for investors and regeneration experts with over 19,400 participants from 83 countries in Cannes. The 2012 attendance rose by 4.2% compared to 2011.

I can confirm that funding for the event was organised by North London Business and sponsorship was sought from regional businesses with an interest in North London. This event did not cost the authority anything and the costs were entirely covered by the sponsorship.

With global property markets still under pressure, the 23rd edition of MIPIM was in a studious and working mood and attendees' talking points were concentrated on quality, low risk investment opportunities and sustainable urban development.

One of the problems of the British Press is that their negative and inaccurate reporting does nothing to boost growth and development, nor give confidence to investors/developers that the UK and London wants their engagement. If any of those that we met believed, as a result of these questions, that Enfield was not serious nor wished to do business then the negative nature of these questions will set back the work of the last 3 years from when the LDF was created and the subsequent work and investment profile that the Authority has built up will be lost.”

### **Question 3 from Councillor Robinson to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing**

“Government investment in housing has been massively cut. Would you confirm that you support an increase in investment to provide needed housing, but also to stimulate employment in construction?”

### **Reply from Councillor Oyken**

“Government investment has been reduced from £8.4bn during 2008-2011, to £4.5bn from 2011-15.

However despite this reduction in investment, Enfield's commitment to sustaining investment in housing in the borough is set out in the draft Housing Strategy 2011- 2026, currently out for consultation. The Council's vision for the next 15 years is 'to increase the supply of well managed, good quality and affordable homes; promote housing choices and build strong neighbourhoods'.

In addition both the Local Development Framework and Core Strategy set out the plans for housing growth in the borough and the requirements for larger

size homes and adapted homes to meet identified housing need.

There are definite job opportunities on housing development and regeneration schemes in a range of disciplines for local people and businesses. We are committed to support applications from those Registered Housing Providers for planning, which include employment and skills training and the creation of apprenticeships as part of all development schemes.

The Council will also continue to negotiate with developers through the planning application process for employment and training packages to be provided as part of the construction and management on all our projects, including the opportunity for developers to use local companies to source materials and to use the Council's Jobsnet service to recruit employees.

Currently Registered Providers provide employment and training opportunities on their construction sites. The Construction Training Initiative is an example of a successful partnership scheme with Notting Hill HT which provides practical training and work experience for eligible local college students. We currently have 11 Enfield residents on the programme; a further 3 have recently gone on to full time employment as part of the scheme.

The Council's Estate Renewal Programme will provide apprentice opportunities for employment in a number of roles including construction, customer care and business IT."

**Question 4 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

"The Daily Express on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012 ran an article on an event that took place in Cannes. The article stated:

"The councils felt they had to send senior officials to compete with other towns and cities from around the world, all of which vie for investors' money."

Would Councillor Goddard please inform the Council which Enfield officers attended the event"?

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

"The Director of Regeneration, Leisure and Culture"

**Question 5 from Councillor Sitkin to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

"Could the Leader of the Council explain what the Council Tax increase decisions in Conservative Surry, Conservative Chelmsford and Conservative Peterborough were for 2012/2013?"

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

“The Council Tax increases for these three Conservative controlled councils are:

- Chelmsford 2.46%
- Peterborough 2.95%
- Surrey 2.99%”

**Question 6 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

“The Daily Express on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012 ran an article on an event that took place in Cannes. The article further stated:

“The entry ticket to the famous Palais des Festivals conference centre alone was £1,400 a head, while flights cost several hundred pounds.”

Would Councillor Goddard provide us with the total costs incurred either by Enfield Council or third parties in relation to flights, and entrance fees to functions to which Enfield councillors participated?”

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

“The event is the largest in Europe and possibly the world. The London marquee housed all of the London promotion and competed with every other major city region in the UK and Europe.

The single price for total entry was as stated. The train fares for the two delegates were covered by the sponsorship obtained by North London Business.

There were no other costs relating to events or travel. The hotel was booked and paid for by North London Business and their sponsorship partner 3Fox International. It is clearly the policy of the Government to see a private sector led recovery and for the private sector to join the public sector in supporting regeneration (the LEPs are an example). I assume therefore that private sector support to develop growth is welcome. This is what has been achieved.”

**Question 7 from Councillor Ibrahim to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

“Could the Leader of the Council explain how the Government view that Council Tax should be kept low for residents is consistent with the 10% cut in Council Tax benefits subsidy which adds up to 40% of their Council Tax for residents in receipt of the subsidy to their personal expenditure?”

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

“The Local Government Finance Bill includes a proposal to implement a local Council Tax Benefit system to replace the current national Council Tax Benefit system. The changes are effective from 1st April 2013 and will coincide with

a 10% funding reduction for Enfield. I have significant concerns about the proposals which include:

- The transfer of considerable financial risk to Enfield;
- The potential impact on some of our most vulnerable residents; and
- The impact on working age claimants and work incentives.

I have written to Bob Neill MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, and highlighted these concerns and requested that he review the current timetable for implementation and allow maximum flexibility for councils to manage local schemes. At the moment the Council has little option but to reduce the support available to claimants or make up the shortfall in funding by cutting other services, or both.”

### **Question 8 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

“The Daily Express on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012 ran an article on an event that took place in Cannes. The article further stated:

“Luxury catering vans lined the harbour to serve guests on yachts, while restaurants charged £80 for Black Angus prime rib and bars hiked the cost of a small bottle of beer to £10.”

What expenses including accommodation have been claimed by Enfield officers and councillors, in relation to this event?”

### **Reply from Councillor Goddard**

“The event is the largest in Europe and possibly the world. The London marquee housed all of the London promotion and competed with every other major city region in the UK and Europe.

The single price for total entry was as stated. The train fares for the two delegates were covered by the sponsorship obtained by North London Business.

There were no other costs relating to events or travel. The single entry ticket pays for all activities attended by delegates. The hotel was booked and paid for by North London Business and their sponsorship partner 3Fox International. It is clearly the policy of the Government to see a private sector led recovery and for the private sector to join the public sector in supporting regeneration (LEP are an example). No expenses have been claimed or will be claimed for this event.”

### **Question 9 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

“The Daily Express on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012 ran an article on an event that took place in Cannes. The article further stated:

All the councils said their trips were for the long term benefit of the taxpayer. Would Councillor Goddard inform the council who paid for the trip and what were the benefits to the taxpayer?"

### **Reply from Councillor Goddard**

"The event is for the benefit of residents and businesses. Previous answers explain the method of expenditure and that Council tax payers were not contributing.

The benefit to residents and business is that substantial investment in the Borough is needed for Meridian Water which was initiated by the Conservative Administration and totalling £1.3 billion of development work to many other schemes in the Borough that are being brought forward to overcome years of decline. We met over 40 representatives who were briefed or wanted to suggest solutions to the road and rail infrastructure, investment vehicles for decentralised energy, market gardening and other economic development initiatives including area based schemes across the Borough. These are essential if the Borough is to solve its housing, jobs and growth objectives. Investment needs to be gained. That is why the Deputy Mayor of London opened the London stand. Has Councillor Lamprecht asked the Mayor/Deputy Mayor of London for the costs associated with their presence at the launching of London in 2012 Marquee which sought to ensure that other major cities in the UK and Europe do not take all the investment or is he suggesting that the Conservative Mayor should not attend and that there be no London presence nor from the constituent London Councils."

### **Question 10 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

"The Daily Express on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012 ran an article on an event that took place in Cannes. The article further stated:

"Two housing associations, the Crown Estate, Middlesex University, state owned Lloyds Bank, Royal Mail and even the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme also sent delegates."

Given the fact that the former Middlesex University site at Cat Hill was the subject of a planning determination at the very time of this visit, and the future of the former Middlesex University site at both Ponders End and Trent Park have yet to be determined, would Councillor Goddard please inform the Council of any discussions that took place between Middlesex University and Councillor Goddard and Council officers in the south of France and any hospitality they received?"

### **Reply from Councillor Goddard**

"I have no idea how many UK delegates went to the event given that there were several hundred from the UK. None of those mentioned came across

our paths. It is also misleading to keep referring to Middlesex University at Cat Hill and Ponders End as both sites are now nothing to do with the University.”

**Question 11 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

“In relation to the visit to Cannes, would Councillor Goddard please provide us with a full itinerary of the events attended by delegates from Enfield and a brief explanation of perceived benefits for each event attended?”

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

“The pattern of activity other than the formal reception and opening of the London arena by the Deputy Mayor was for a series of meetings, informal seminars (over 20 in the London area alone) throughout the 3 days to discuss regeneration/investment opportunities, policy matters with policy makers, experts and commercial businesses. These are commercially sensitive. Some already have resulted in follow up arrangements in Enfield.

Between Neil Rousell and myself we had approximately 40 arranged discussions and numerous other informal discussions. This is more than we could ever achieve individually and as a Deputy Leader from another council in London said “6 months or more of trying to set these up was achieved in 3 days.” Perhaps the world of business/ investment brokerage is alien to the Conservative Party.

It is the intention of the administration to continue to seek opportunities to develop inward investment.

The questioner may be unaware that in future capital inflow to the UK will be a significant part of growth. The Council will take opportunities - UK or overseas – to better position Enfield to increase inward investment but will also seek to secure external sponsorship.”

**Question 12 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

“Would Councillor Goddard please provide the Council with a full list of delegates who attended the functions confirming in respect of each, whether they had any known property interests in the borough or any outstanding planning applications?”

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

“I have no idea of the names of all of the delegates who attended and as stated the event is not structured in that way. The event is not about planning applications and therefore the question does not apply.”

**Question 13 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member**

## **for Children and Young People**

“Several locations have been identified as possible sites for expanding schools/classrooms and then subsequently dismissed for various reasons. Which sites were identified and how much Council taxpayers money was wasted on investigating the feasibility of these projects which were later abandoned?”

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

“In order to deliver the agreed strategies to provide additional primary and secondary school places, officers have visited a number of sites to ascertain their potential suitability as school sites. These assessments are carried out as part of the regular work of these staff and do not incur additional costs.”

### **Question 14 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

“Would Councillor Bond please explain why the Council has not adopted FERAA's suggestion to include a bid to TfL for funding for (i) Council officers to re-assess the cost of the NGAR scheme design and to carry out new cost-benefit calculations and (ii) significant modifications of the Enfield Town road system, the relocation of Enfield Town Station and the construction of a new bus station?”

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

“Councillor Lavender raises two queries and I shall deal with each in turn:

#### **i) Northern Gateway Access Package**

Our second Local Implementation Plan (LIP) was approved by the Mayor of London in January 2012. The position on the Northern Gateway Access Package is very clearly stated in Chapter 3 of the LIP. In summary, this confirms that access to the M25 is vital for businesses already located in Brimsdown and the Upper Lee Valley, particularly those involved in logistics, and is also critical to support the development of Brimsdown as one of London's major business centres. The LIP also highlights the need to assess the scope for NGAP in conjunction with the Highways Agency, Transport for London and regional partners.

In keeping with the above position, the Council has already commissioned some initial traffic modelling work to provide an early indication whether the case has changed since the scheme was last considered in 2001. The high level results from this study should be available early next month.

If the results are positive, a much more detailed (and expensive) data collection and modelling exercise will need to be undertaken to build a robust technical case. Possible funding sources for this work, including LIP funds, will need to be considered.

## **ii) Enfield Town**

In addition to the normal LIP funding stream for Corridors, Neighbourhoods and Supporting Measures, boroughs can bid to the Mayor and TfL for Major Scheme funding, which amounts to some £28m in 2012/13 across the whole of London.

To date we have been successful in receiving funding from this budget for schemes at Lytchett Way, Towpath Road and Silver Street. Work is well underway on our next bid, which will be for a scheme focusing on improving the High Street in Ponders End and the links to both Ponders End and Southbury stations. This will complement other investment in Ponders End and help transform one of our main regeneration priorities.

TfL are very clear that boroughs should prioritise their bids and not make multiple funding applications. In my view, there is still some way to go to develop the masterplan for Enfield Town and it is premature at this stage to make a credible Major Scheme bid. However, it may well be possible to make a future bid once we are clear on the scale and type of development planned for Enfield Town.”

### **Question 15 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

“According to the Enfield Independent on 17th February 2012 it states:

"Councillor Chris Bond (Lab), Cabinet member for Environment, told the Enfield Independent in December that he agreed with churches and traders to implement the plan in the first week of January."

According to the Deputy Chair of Enfield Town and Forty Hill Churches, it is reported in the same article that all of the ministers in Enfield Town had made it clear that they were not consulted by the Council.

She said: “None of them were approached or consulted by Councillor Bond or anyone else on this subject, and there’s been absolutely nothing from the Council since we complained.”

“None of us voted for this and the churches have already seen the effects on their congregations, with a significantly lower number of people attending than usual.”

“There's a pretty strong groundswell of opinion against this.”

Would Councillor Bond confirm whose version of events is correct? If it is his, would he confirm the name of the person he spoke to or wrote to, roughly what he said and when he said it?”

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

"I did meet with representatives of the local churches, as suggested by Councillor Rye last year. We discussed the parking for proposals for charges on Sunday and I modified the original proposals as a result. I cannot comment on how that meeting was relayed back to the other congregations."

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

"Where will the remaining £610,000 from the sale of Woodcroft proceeds be spent?"

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

"The proceeds from the sale of Woodcroft less a contribution to disposal costs (under regulation, up to 4% of General Fund Capital Receipts may be used to fund directly related disposal costs) will be used to fund the Council's existing Capital Programme. This has been taken into account in the latest capital monitoring report due to be considered by Cabinet on 21st March. Providing completion of the sale is achieved and the full proceeds received by 30th March, as is expected, the capital receipt will be applied in the current financial year.

In recognition of the decision to invest £100,000 in the retained Woodcroft site, budget provision of this amount has been made in the 2012/13 capital programme subject to further details of the proposed expenditure becoming available."

**Question 17 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

"As the current statistics regarding empty shop units are (Enfield North) 27, (Enfield Southgate) 28, and (Edmonton) 8 it is apparent that there is a clear inequality in the borough. What strategies are being put into place to help the businesses in Enfield North and Enfield Southgate to remain and to attract new retailers to these areas?"

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

"The recent statistics collected by EBRA showed that there are 22 vacant shops in Enfield Town. This is a constantly moving position.

The Council takes a responsible approach believing that there is a role for local Government and not be left to market forces.

Most of the retail units in Enfield North and Southgate are privately owned. The occupancy rate of Enfield owned shops (HRS) is over 90% and demonstrates that sound rent policies are effective. In response to the Opposition business on Town Centres, I gave an assurance that there would be a report from Cabinet to Council setting out our strategy. This is being

developed in conjunction with EBRA and will come to Council after Easter.

Regeneration has a proactive approach to retail support and the Area Action Plans for the North East and Enfield Town (as well as Edmonton) will have this issue as a major theme. Security investment to enhance the wealth of the Borough is key to growth.

Supporting efforts rather than creating a negative climate for this must be the Council's objective.

We are working very closely in partnership with the Enfield Town retailers to prepare a Portas Pilot bid to Government for monies to help to re-invigorate our premier retail centre. The vision is to build on the existing partnership arrangements to create a Town Team approach in which all the various interest groups are represented. We want to pursue an imaginative approach that will result in greater footfall to the town centre, restoring the confidence of customers and visitors, as well as stimulating the interests of developers to deliver the Phase 3 of the redevelopment.

In addition to re-invigorating the historic market with new stalls and canopies and working with Enterprise Enfield to introducing new start-up businesses to the market that offer a wider range of goods, we want to utilise vacant shops for pop-up shops, exhibitions and galleries. We will promote more open-air performances and events, with more street entertainment and cultural activities to add to the attraction. We want to set up an Apprenticeship training programme in Retailing, aimed at for young people, with a view to securing additional sustainable jobs.

As you know, we provided an immediate response to businesses after the disturbances last August , not only offering direct financial assistance to those which suffered damage but also supporting the marketing campaigns promoted by EBRA and local businesses. We shall continue to build on our partnership approach, and do not want to raise false expectations about a successful Portas Pilot bid- only 12 town centres across the country will be successful. Even if our bid is not successful, we aim to continue to pursue our initiatives in close partnership with the community.

Southgate has 6 vacant shops including one under offer. In that respect it is similar to the position in other town centres which are also struggling in the context of the economic downturn.

We recognise the issues and are continuing to fund EBRA at the same level as last year to undertake town centre management activities across 10 town centres in the borough."

**Question 18 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property**

"Following the announcement of the sale of four hostels owned by the Council recently at 41 Latymer Road, Oakthorpe Court, 196/198 Green Lanes and 23

Church Street, could Councillor Stafford inform the Council how long it took to decant the blocks in question and how much rental income was lost during this process?"

### **Reply from Councillor Stafford**

"The decanting of these blocks commenced w/c 26 September 2011 and concluded w/c 12 March 2012. The decant took a total of 25 weeks.

Assuming a disposal date of 28/3/12, and assuming that a number of units would have been empty as part of normal void turnover, the loss of rental income is projected to be £69,936.

The residents of these hostels have all moved into better quality accommodation, which is more appropriate for their housing needs. For those who have moved into permanent accommodation, this will have been chosen by the resident using the Choice Based Lettings System.

The housing revenue account receipt for the sale of the hostels totals £5.8m, which will be reinvested into housing and regeneration improvements for local people."

### **Question 19 from Councillor Smith for Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing**

"The recent sale of four Council owned hostels is noted. This sell off is despite the stated policy of governments of both parties that advocate the use of temporary hostel accommodation for vulnerable tenants such as single mothers. Could Councillor Oyken inform the Council where the 63 tenants living in these blocks have been re-housed and does he think they will receive an adequate level of support in the future?"

### **Reply from Councillor Oyken**

"The occupiers of these self contained units of accommodation, described as 'hostel' accommodation, have all been moved to alternative accommodation, apart from one resident who sadly passed away before they could move.

Of the 62 households who needed to move, 16 have moved to permanent housing of their choice using the Choice Based Lettings Scheme and 46 have moved to alternative temporary accommodation, which has taken into account the housing needs of the individual households.

The Council is confident that the support provided to the households in their new premises by the Housing Service will remain the same as at their old address. The Housing Service is not aware that any of these households have any existing specialist support packages, but if need arises and is identified after these moves, support will be provided."

### **Question 20 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet**

### **Member for Finance and Property**

“Could Councillor Stafford confirm how much of the receipts to date from the recent sale of the Council’s hostels for vulnerable tenants will be retained by Enfield Council? Will he also confirm that this money will be ring fenced for reinvestment in the Council’s housing stock?”

### **Reply from Councillor Stafford**

“The proceeds from the disposal of the hostels (net of disposal costs) will be ring fenced to the HRA. The receipts have been taken into account in the HRA Business Plan taking effect from 1st April 2012.”

### **Question 21 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

“As you failed to answer this point in the direct and simple question at last Council (Question 5), can you now confirm how many schools you have visited in your capacity as Cabinet member in the six months before the last Council, along with a list setting out the dates, school name, duration of visit and reason for visiting?”

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

“I believe I have already answered your question. However can I just reiterate the enormous amount of work that takes place in Education and Children's Services which includes numerous activities and functions which go on across the authority. Whenever I am able to, I attend and participate in these events.

The present administration works as one team and some of the work in Education and Children's Services are cross-departmental; you will find that a number of my colleagues in the Cabinet also attend functions in schools. In addition, Labour Ward Councillors support activities in their schools.

I look forward to seeing the Minority side supporting and attending functions and events in schools in the borough”

### **Question 22 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

“As you failed to answer this point in direct and simple question last Council (Question 7), can you now confirm how many events you have attended in your capacity as Cabinet member in the six months before the last Council, along with a list setting out the dates, event name, duration of visit and reason for visiting?”

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

“I believe I have already answered your question. However can I just reiterate the enormous amount of work that takes place in Education and Children's

Services which includes numerous activities and functions which go on across the authority. Whenever I am able to, I attend and participate in these events.

The present administration works as one team and some of the work in Education and Children's Services are cross-departmental; you will find that a number of my colleagues in the Cabinet also attend functions in schools. In addition, Labour Ward Councillors support activities in their schools.

I look forward to seeing the Minority side supporting and attending functions and events in schools in the borough."

**Question 23 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

"Can the Cabinet member confirm if his eventual aim is to join up all the CPZs so that they cover the Borough? If not, then what is his view on how the Council should deal with the problem of traffic displaced outside those zones?"

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

"No it is not my aim to join up CPZ's across the Borough. CPZ's displace parked cars not traffic."

**Question 24 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

"Can the Cabinet member confirm what is the expected income from CPZ enforcement in 2012/13 for each zone?"

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

"I assume that this means value of permits issued for each zone. It is impossible for me to predict how many Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) would be issued for each zone as I would need to guess how many PCNs were issued this year and take a guess on how many motorists would contravene the regulations next year

Permit income

Arnos Grove	£10,310
Bush Hill Park	£11,692.50
Enfield College 2 x 2	£835
Enfield College	£2,740
Enfield Town	£126,475
Gordon Hill	£3,057.50
Grange Park	£4,905
North Middlesex	£33,540
Oakwood	£5,800
Palmers Green	£15,700

Southgate 1 hr	£2,727.50
Southgate all day	£25,060
Winchmore Hill	£32,850"

**Question 25 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

“As CPZ administration costs appear to represent a high (25%) overhead on enforcement costs, can the Cabinet member confirm the number of staff employed in this role and the tasks they are engaged in and the working hours per annum this cost represents?”

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

“The administration charges include overheads as well as salary costs (one full time equivalent). They include the stationery costs (permits, permit holders, envelopes, photocopier paper, and ink cartridges), postage, insurance, lighting, heating and rates for the office premises.”

**Question 26 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

“Can the Cabinet member confirm what are the expected numbers of scratch cards and permits expected to be issued for each zone for the Borough's CPZ in 2012/13?”

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

Arnos Grove permits	226
Arnos Grove scratch card books	151
Bush Hill Park permits	232
Bush Hill Park scratch card books	174
Enfield College 2 x 2 permits	7
Enfield College 2 x 2 scratch card books	38
Enfield College permits	26
Enfield College scratch card books	89
Enfield Town permits	906
Enfield Town scratch card books	2035
Gordon Hill permits	60
Gordon Hill scratch card books	100
Grange Park permits	101
Grange Park scratch card books	74
North Middlesex permits	399
North Middlesex scratch card books	677
Oakwood permits	113
Oakwood scratch card books	104
Palmers Green permits	108
Palmers Green scratch cards books	352
Southgate 1 hr permits	56
Southgate 1 hr scratch card books	72

Southgate all day permits	194
Southgate all day scratch card books	440
Winchmore Hill permits	623
Winchmore Hill scratch card books	864

N.B. Ten scratch cards per book”

**Question 27 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

“Can the Cabinet member confirm the breakdown of the elements of cost that make up each permit for 2012/13, plus the margin added for parking policy decisions such as those on carbon emissions?”

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

“Each permit price was not calculated by a breakdown of elements of cost.

Calculations were based on enforcement costs for the year 10/11 which were £232k, together with administration costs of £65k making a total of £297k.

Income from permits in the same period was £233k showing a shortfall of £65k.

Bandings were decided on vehicle emissions/engine size by comparing bandings of several neighbouring authorities who had already introduced the scheme, obtaining information from Directgov and using historical sample data obtained by our own Parking Service over several months.

Engine size up to 1500cc 32%  
Engine size between 1501 and 3000cc 66%  
Engine size over 3000cc 2%

This £65k shortfall was then apportioned across the bandings to make permit administration and enforcement self financing. No margin was added for parking policy decisions.”

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

“As Corporate Parent does Councillor Orhan agree with me that we should give the strongest consideration to creating a non-smoking policy for the carers of all Looked After Children not just the under 5's. These young people have experienced the most difficult start in their life, often including health disadvantage. Health concerns with smoking are now accepted and well documented.”

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

“Our current practice follows the guidance of the British Association of

Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) and it is consistent with the view of the Conservative/Liberal Democrat government that there should be no blanket bans on smoking when considering applications from prospective adopters or foster carers. I do feel however, that the Conservative/Liberal Democrat Government are rather complacent about this matter and about the matter of passive smoking. That is why in Enfield foster carers will be required to sign an undertaking agreeing that they will only smoke away from the house and never in their cars and Enfield's new Fostering Handbook will reflect this policy.

Staff are alert to this issue and monitor this during home visits to ensure vulnerable children are well protected from the effects of passive smoking.

Thankfully, applications from prospective carers that smoke have reduced considerably in recent years. However, consideration to introducing a policy change such as this should be agreed across the North London Consortium where, I understand, discussions are already taking place.”

**Question 29 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

“Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment consider taking legal action in order to enforce the planning blight on the former petrol station opposite the post office in Brimsdown Avenue?”

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

“18 Brimsdown Avenue (Former Petrol Station) has been under review since the occupation by Travellers a number of years ago. It has planning permission for retail sales of petrol, car storage, car breaking and car servicing. A planning permission to change use for residential development has expired.

The complaints received in October and November 2011 advised that the situation on site had deteriorated further. A meeting with the owners in January 2012 resulted in planning and enforcement action, which we as a Council are monitoring closely to ensure that the concerns raised are resolved satisfactorily.”

**Question 30 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration.**

“Please could the Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration explain whether his department has applied for monies from the European Regional Development Fund for regeneration projects?”

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

“We have indeed submitted an ERDF [Priority 2, Theme 2] bid for the “Go Green North London” project.

Enfield would be the lead borough in the delivery of a project which aims to support the growth of the Green & Low Carbon economy in the Upper Lee Valley and supply chains going into north London Boroughs of Islington and Hackney and contribute towards realizing the Mayors vision for London as a low carbon capital by 2025. The North London Chamber of Commerce would play a key role in project delivery.

The project objectives are to enable entrepreneurs taking part in the project to maximize their market position in relation to the drivers and opportunities associated with sustainable buying and product/service provision. The project aims to support over 200 businesses across Enfield, Haringey and Waltham Forest.

The bid is for £560,000 ERDF monies. The Council would provide £100,000 in matched funding along with staff time to support the delivery.

We expect to know the outcome of our bid late May, after the Mayoral elections.”

**Question 31 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration.**

“Please could the Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration produce a detailed account to the Council of the work done by him and the Director for Regeneration, Leisure & Culture at the MIPIM Property Conference in the South of France?”

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

“A report is being produced outlining the matters discussed and will be made available to all Councillors. This will enable all Councillors to be appraised of the major issues affecting growth, inward investment and regeneration and the ideas coming forward from the private sector and policy organisations. Follow through discussions are now taking place.”

**Question 32 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration.**

“Please could the Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration explain to the Council the absolute necessity of his and the Director for Regeneration, Leisure & Culture’s attendance at the MIPIM Property Conference in the South of France?”

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

“It is obviously clear that the questioners have little understanding of regeneration and growth as does the Coalition Government. Implicit in the question is that either the market solves the problem or the investors line up unasked. Neither is true. If the former was true why did the GLA and London

have a major stand? Why did every City region in England have major stands? Why were so many leading London Councils not only attending but have stands in the London marquee, why did they have special events promoting the Royal Docks or the West London Alliance (of Local Authorities) or Croydon with its major Town Centre Development?

The absence of North London and Enfield would perpetuate the belief that this Council was not serious about regeneration. It would not have had the opportunity to meet a large number of key policy makers, investors, developers etc. in such a concentrated way. Given a choice, investors go to those areas that are open for business. That is the theme Enfield are developing – Opportunity Enfield - It appears from all the questions that the questioners prefer Enfield to remain in the backwater, not attract investment and not understand the nature of the business. Perhaps that is why you are in opposition?”

**Question 33 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure.**

“Please could the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure explain the work carried out so far in terms of marketing the forthcoming reopening of Forty Hall to the residents of Enfield and potential visitors from outside of the borough?”

**Reply from Councillor Charalambous**

“As part of the bid submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund it was a prerequisite that the future operations of Forty Hall were developed. This included a Marketing Plan this has been refined over the 2 years of development. The Building was handed back to the Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> March from the builders, other contracts will now be working to prepare the building for a late June opening. In preparation for the opening we are now rolling out the marketing plan.

This includes:

- Brand Identity established during January - working with the interpretation consultants
- Seasonal brochure currently under production during March
- Hire Brochures being developed during March
- Educational Pack will be developed when the Education Officer joins the Team in April
- Information Leaflets and Guides being developed during March and April
- Feedback Cards being developed April – June
- Advertising Campaign starts in April with a JC Decaux and Bus and Tube Campaign starting in May and June
- Online development starting April alongside the main Council site
- Ambassadors being recruited April Onwards”

**Question 34 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet**

### **Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure.**

“Please could the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure explain the causes of the delay to the building works at Albany Leisure Centre?”

### **Reply from Councillor Charalambous**

“The delay at Albany Leisure Centre is as a result of the ground remediation works required to make the site fit for purpose and in accordance with the Development Agreement. The Council is considering its legal position in relation to the causes of the delay.”

### **Question 35 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

“Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment inform the chamber when public opening sessions will be provided at the Queen Elizabeth II stadium to enable more leisure users to utilise this facility?”

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

“There are regular meetings of a Project Board to discuss the management of this facility and also to take forward sport provision in the future with representatives from of Enfield Town Football Club , Rugby Club, Friends of Enfield Playing Fields and representative from the Athletics group. This matter was raised at the last meeting and was advised that although it had originally intended that the Football Club would oversee the public use of the track as they had intended to have the café open during the working week, this has not transpired and the club are not in a position to commit to this until they become familiar with their outgoing expenses.

The Council has promoted the use of the track within schools and as a result there has been an increase in school applications for the QEII stadium this year due to awareness of the refurbished track. Applications are assessed on a first come first served basis and the Parks operatives will facilitate this.

Work is being carried out regarding times of when athletes would most like the venue to be accessible and then we can try to work around those times and arrange access. The Council and the Project Board would seek to encourage maximum usage of the facility whilst ensuring we protect the investment. To this end we will be working with the club and schools to find a way forward. The discussion re the charging mechanism for the use of the track is still taking place to ensure a fair fee structure is introduced for all user groups”

### **Question 36 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment.**

“A resident has complained to me about the number of missed refuse collections her particular area has had. Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment inform the chamber of the number of missed collections that

have been reported so far this year?"

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

"The total number of REPORTS of missed refuse collections between Monday 4th April 2011 and Sunday 11th March 2012 (48 weeks)

Wheeled Bins: 1638

Domestic Bags: 2009

Total: **3,647 out of 4.94m during this period.**

This equates to a weekly average of 76 out of 95,000 collected per week.

Percentage of door to door refuse collections reportedly missed per week  
([76/95000] x100) = **0.08%**"

### **Question 37 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment.**

"Why has a decision been taken to only partially construct the Green Lanes (Firs Lane to Elm Park Road) Safety Scheme, which formed part of the Council's approved 2011/12 Corridors and Neighbourhoods Programme.

Specifically why has it been decided not to construct the Green Lanes / Vicars Moor Lane junction improvement part of this scheme without an officers' report having been submitted to the responsible Cabinet Member and a formal decision having been taken - which could have been subject to the Call-In procedure?"

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

"A report recommending the introduction of a safety scheme on Green Lanes between Firs Lane and Elm Park Road was approved by my predecessor on the 2 February 2010. The main safety elements of the scheme were implemented in the following months and initial results indicate that it is being very successful at reducing casualty rates on this section of Green Lanes. The implementation of the mainly environmental improvements at the Green Lanes / Vicars Moor Lane junction were delayed by the need to pursue statutory processes to convert carriageway to footway, and by difficulties around relocating a fire hydrant.

Following the change in administration in May 2010 there was a major change in priorities for the Corridors and Neighbourhoods Programme, with a particular emphasis on our manifesto commitment to introduce 20 mph zones in residential roads around schools in the borough. The Green Lanes / Vicars Moor Lane junction was left in the 2011/12 Corridors and Neighbourhoods Programme as a reserve scheme, but with only 1 slight injury collision occurring at this junction in the last 3 years I took the decision not to complete the environmental works at this time."

## **1.2 Questions to Overview & Scrutiny & Scrutiny Panel Chairman**

### **Question 38 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Rye, Chairman of Crime and Safety and Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel.**

Could Councillor Rye inform the council of any work undertaken by the Crime and Safety and Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel with regard to the safety of the public in open spaces in the London Borough of Enfield?

### **Reply from Councillor Rye**

“The Crime & Safety & Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel set-up a working group to look at issues around Public Confidence in Open Spaces. The working group received data on local crime statistics and from this evidence decided to focus the review on the retail areas of Enfield Town, Palmers Green, Angel Edmonton and Edmonton Green and the associated transport hubs. Councillors on the working group and a member of Enfield Business Retail Association visited all 4 areas and met with a large number of traders listening to their views and walking around the vicinity noting areas of concern.

The working group is now in the process of finalising its report with a number of recommendations, which will go to the next Crime & Safety & Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel for discussion.”