

## **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS: 7 November 2012**

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

#### **Question 1 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

When the Conservatives were in control of this Council a member of the administration chaired property strategy meetings. Before the Council vacated properties, not only were issues such as timing, alternative site provision and realisation of proceeds considered, but also other matters such as HR, IT, logistics of removal, records and business continuity addressed. In other words Conservative members took responsibility for our actions, as you were so quick to point out when you opposed the Conservatives' proposed use of Southgate Town hall for a school.

I understand that the property strategy meetings have been abolished by the Labour administration. That being the case, following the vacation of the Southgate Town Hall site and the continuing use of the site by third parties, including film crew, which member of the Labour Council had political oversight in relation to the failure to safely secure at Southgate Town Hall or elsewhere children's services files containing sensitive personal data, including data relating to children in care, abused children, foster and adopting parents? Was it (i) Councillor Orhan as Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, (ii) Councillor Stafford as Cabinet member for Finance & Property, (iii) you, with ultimate responsibility as leader or (iv) has every member of your group abdicated political oversight of such matters? In your opinion, which member of the administration ought to resign or be dismissed over such a failure of political responsibility and oversight?

#### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

The Council is currently investigating the potential breach of data protection and is in communication with the Information Commissioner's office (ICO). Due to a possible forced entry within the building to a secure area, the police have also been notified.

So as not to undermine or jeopardise the investigation(s) I do not wish to comment further. As you will appreciate the matter may result in potential legal or other action involving the ICO, the Council, officers, members and third parties.

#### **Question 2 to from Councillor Sitkin to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Could Councillor Taylor update the Council on the allegation of confidential files being found in Southgate Town Hall.

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

Please refer to the response provided for Question 1.

### **Question 3 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

Were you aware that Children's Services sensitive records including those on Victoria Climbié were available for anyone using Southgate Town Hall to access including the production company crew and actors on set there? Do you take responsibility for this calamitous breach of confidentiality and what actions have you taken to address this scandalous failure in safe guarding? Will you be resigning as Cabinet member?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan:**

Please refer to the response provided for Question 1.

### **Question 4 from Councillor Savva to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Could Councillor Taylor update the Council on whether the Government will change its mind on the £8 million it has taken from the borough that is damping?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

Regretfully, there are no signs that the Government will take action to stop this unfairness. In fact, the Government's new business rate localisation scheme will build the £8m into our funding for many years to come. As you know, we have lobbied hard against this injustice but our efforts have fallen on deaf ears. Nevertheless we will continue to lobby strongly and continue to fight for the interest of Enfield's residents.

### **Question 5 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Taylor Leader of the Council**

What actions have you taken to deal with the appalling breach of confidentiality and safe guarding in Children's Services at Southgate town Hall where records of adopted and fostered children and serious individual cases such as that of Victoria Climbié were available for any casual user of Southgate Town Hall to access? Have any officers been suspended, will any member of your Cabinet take responsibility for this shocking breach and resign?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

Please refer to the response provided for Question 1.

**Question 6 from Councillor Cicek to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Could Councillor Bond update the Council on the progress being made to modernise our Waste services including current recycling rates?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

- The last quarter figures show recycling rates in Enfield at their highest ever at 40% (39.8%)
- We are introducing On Board weighing for the trade and commercial rounds to eliminate over production of waste
- Vehicles have and are being fitted with cameras to provide total cover of all incidents to operatives (e.g. road rage to operatives)
- Wheeled bin roll out completes in November
- Rather than shutting an HWRC site (Carterhatch) we've upgraded Barrowell Green.
- Procurement of a new Depot to ensure our staff's welfare and safeguard our service.

**Question 7 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

When attending a meeting of Weir Hall Ratepayers Association on 16th October, which covers a few roads in my ward, a complaint was raised from residents about the very high pollution levels in Pymmes Brook, flowing through Palmers Green, which was reckoned to qualify as an open sewer rated on the level of bacteria found in the water.

In fact Thames21, an independent charity which was developed from a partnership of Keep Britain tidy and number of public bodies to promote river cleanliness in the capital, states on its web-site: 'The rivers in the Lea Valley are the most polluted in Britain. The Lea, The Ching, Salmon's Brook and the Pymmes Brook are being damaged by sewage, household chemicals and oil on a daily basis.'

Given part of the cause is the discharge of sewage from residential properties, my position was that Enfield Council has a role and should be taking action, however does the Cabinet member agree with the position taken at the meeting by his fellow councillor, Councillor Savva, not contradicted by Councillor Cole, that this was not a matter for the Council, but for the Environment agency?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

Contamination of water courses like Pymmes Brook can be caused by a

number of factors; one of which is drainage misconnections where foul water is incorrectly connected to surface water drainage.

The Environment Agency are responsible for the water quality in water courses. The enforcement of misconnections is undertaken by the Council's Environmental Protection Team which uses Building Act legislation to get the misconnections corrected so that foul water goes to foul water drains and not surface water drains which run into water courses. The team also works with Thames Water to identify and enforce misconnections and are working on a particular programme of this work during this year.

We are also participating in the Lower Lee catchment pilot being led by the Environmental Agency with other organisations (including Thames 21) to improve the water quality in the whole of the River Lee; into which Pymmes Brook and other water courses feed.

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

Would Councillor Goddard update the Council on the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Broomfield House.

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

As all Members will know Cabinet considered and approved a report on Broomfield House at its 10th October meeting.

This report outlined how Broomfield House had come to be in its present distressed condition, alluded to a much more positive future for the House, Gardens and Stable Yard produced by the Broomfield House Trust and Friends of Broomfield Park, who have been working with the Council. It also proposed that the Council submit a Stage 1 funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) by no later than the 22nd October 2012, for a grant of £4,175,000 towards the restoration of the House, which is a key heritage asset for Enfield, Greater London and the Nation.

That report also pointed out that, following discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Gardens and Stable Yard would be the subject of a separate, and later, funding bid to Parks for People.

Since Cabinet a lot of work has taken place behind the scenes to finalise the Stage 1 bid for the House, and progress has been reported to both the Friends of Broomfield Park at a meeting held on 17th October and to the Bowes, Palmers Green, Southgate Green Area Forum on the 18th October.

I am really pleased to see how well the Friends and the Council have worked together to produce and inform the Stage 1 HLF bid, and the strength of this

partnership can only auger well for the future, especially as if we are successful at Stage 1, there will be plenty of work to do before Stage 2 can be submitted, and many hands make light work, relatively speaking.

I am also greatly heartened to see how many letters of support have been received from various people and organisations, which have all been included in the HLF bid, as this shows a real depth of support for this project. Support has come from, for example:

- The Green Lane Business Association
- The Enfield Conservation Advisory Group
- The Fox Lane and District Residents' Association
- The Enfield Society
- Southgate District Civic Trust
- The Federation of Enfield Residents and Allied Associations.

I am grateful for their support, as I'm sure are all Members of the Council.

The one thing that I should say, is that the HLF bid has been submitted, and although the competition for HLF funds is fierce, and success cannot be taken for granted, I believe that we have submitted a very good bid which merits support from the HLF; and to coin a phrase 'if we aren't in it, we can't win it !' Let's keep our fingers crossed as it's all in the hands of HLF now.

#### **Question 9 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Is he satisfied that he has sufficient numbers of building control staff to deal with the growing number of unregulated building operations on houses in the borough which are resulting in poor and unlawful drainage connections leading to serious pollution in local rivers?

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

Yes. I'm sure however that Councillor Neville will agree that the Conservative Party proposals to relax planning rules for rear extensions will only increase the risk of unlawful drainage and consequent serious pollution to Enfield's rivers.

#### **Question 10 from Councillor Bakir to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Could Councillor Bond update the Council on the progress being made to improve street cleansing across the borough?

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

- The streets are cleaner than they've ever been.

- In response to the residents satisfaction survey, work has been carried out to re-profile the street cleansing service to be more adaptive and responsive to areas of need and priority
- Investment has been made into new street cleaning equipment – additional mechanical sweepers and caged cleansing vehicles
- The National Indicator scores for litter and detritus are the best they have ever been for the borough
- Cleansing schedules are being merged to incorporate open spaces wherever possible to ensure improved continuity and consistency of service
- We have recently won a Clean Britain Award for high standards of street cleanliness.
- We have employed on a full time basis 3 apprentices from the borough apprentice scheme as a part of our succession planning for the service and our commitment to employ local people
- We've maintain the budget after the previous administration cut it by £250,000

**Question 11 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can he tell the Council why it has taken so long for him to realise that introducing Sunday parking charges in Enfield Town was detrimental to the attempts by the town's businesses to weather the present economic downturn.

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

The review was conducted with the timescales outlined at previous Council meetings. I seem to recall it took the Conservative Group two years to agree their Parking Enforcement Plan. I also note that at the cabinet meeting (October 2009) that group considered and ruled out 15 minutes free parking in town centres.

**Question 12 from Councillor Constantinides to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Could Councillor Bond inform the Council about the on-going capital expenditure programme for roads and footways within the borough?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

The Capital programme involves implementing planned maintenance schemes to improve the condition of Enfield's highway infrastructure.

The overall budget is divided into a number of separate work streams as follows:

Carriageway Renewal Programme	3,750,000
Structures & watercourses separate capital allocations	450,000
Structures & Watercourses	50,000
Partial Resurfacing Programme	850,000
Carriageway Joint Repair Programme	50,000
Partial Footway Replacement Programme	2,600,000
Safety fencing renewal	50,000
Verge and Shrub Bed Renewal Programme	100,000
Highway Trees Removal & Replacement Programme	150,000
Rights of Way	25,000
Renewal of street nameplates	30,000
Minor Highway Improvements Programme	200,000
Provision of pedestrian dropped kerbs	45,000

Individual work streams have their own specific delivery programmes, which are programmed throughout the year in coordination with other activities on the highway. I receive regular progress reports from Officers and can confirm that all proposed carriageway and footway schemes for 2012/13 are either completed, on site, or programmed with the Council's contractor for completion by 31 March 2013.

In particular on the Carriageway renewal programme, 35 schemes have been completed of the 52 programmed and of the 42 partial footway replacement schemes, 6 have been completed and 10 are on site.

I am pleased to confirm that the Council is continuously reviewing processes and techniques in order to achieve greater value for money for Enfield's residents, such as the use of recycling carriageways rather than full reconstruction, thereby achieving significant reductions in CO2 emissions, time, costs and disruption to residents.

**Question 13 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can he tell the Council what was the turning point which persuaded him to vary significantly his policy of charging for Sunday parking in Enfield Town?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

As previously stated we always said we'd keep these charges under review. We've listened to all the views and acted. That's what mature, responsible organisations do. If anyone has significantly changed their policy on Sunday Parking it is the minority side of this Council who when in power rejected a 15 minute free period, but now due to a government driven recession are in favour. This flip flopping of policy is not good for business and leaves shoppers

and residents somewhat confused.

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

Could Councillor Bond comment on Conservative Party proposals to relax planning restrictions on rear extensions and the effect that this proposal will have on our residents?"

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

The proposals are bonkers. The impact upon residents is immeasurable and we will resist using all available powers and welcome the support of the new Deputy Leader of the Opposition of this Council in this regard.

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

Does Councillor Bond accept that increasing parking charges in town centres as he did in 2010, is also detrimental to the centres in the present economic climate and will he now follow the example of Barnet who had the grace to realise their mistake, and reduce Enfield's on street charges in town centres to the 2010 levels?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

Response "To Follow" due to amendment on original wording of question.

**Question 16 from Councillor Cranfield to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Could Councillor Bond comment on the very positive reception from traders on the new parking charges on Enfield Town and what further work is coming forward?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

The proposed changes to Sunday parking restrictions show that we have been able to strike a sensible balance between

- meeting the needs Enfield traders
- detering and displacing long stay parkers
- successfully achieving a good turnover of spaces in the car parks for shoppers

The changes have been very well received by the traders and we look forward to continuing to work with them on a number of initiatives to boost trade, some related to parking, others aimed at encouraging more people to cycle to the

Town Centre, and others that will form part of the Town Centres Strategy. This Strategy will include a variety of projects to promote our town centres, ranging from introducing Wi-Fi hot spots to co-ordinating festivals and events. Further press releases will follow shortly.

**Question 17 from Councillor Prescott to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

At the meeting of the Public Transport Consultative Group held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012 it was agreed that a review steering group of the PTCG should be established to undertake a comprehensive review of bus services in Enfield leading to a report setting out the Council's short, medium and long term priorities for bus service improvements.

Why were the following interested parties not included in that review steering group:

- (i) the Enfield Transport Users' Group
- (ii) FERAA
- (iii) EBRA
- (iv) a member of the public
- (v) a member of PTCG nominated by the minority party

Why is it that this Council is not engaging with users, local businesses and residents associations in relation to this matter? Does he not consider that this would have been a suitable opportunity and time to involve local businesses in such an important issue?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

I'd like to thank Councillor Prescott for highlighting an excellent initiative by this Labour Council. We want a clean, efficient and convenient bus service for residents. I fail to see what the previous administration's contribution in this area was, other than of course wanting to close a bus lane in London Road. The Steering Group is made up of appropriate members and the draft conclusions will be published for comment and as I've already demonstrated we will listen to our resident's views. The Transport Users Group provides an excellent forum for all the individuals mentioned above to contribute. And the charismatic chair, Councillor Derek Levy has already encouraged all concerned to attend and participate.

**Question 18 from Councillor Ekechi to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Could Councillor Bond update the Council on the work of our Trading Standards team to support the most vulnerable within our community and bring rogue traders to task?

## **Reply from Councillor Bond**

Enfield Council's Trading Standards Team is at the forefront of an approach to combat Rogue Trading and fraudsters in our borough. Rogue Traders and fraudsters damage legitimate local businesses. They prey on vulnerable people, deceive the public with substandard goods and can endanger public health by selling unsafe products and services. Tackling this issue is vital to improving consumer confidence, supporting local businesses and ensuring that our residents are safe and feel safe

The Trading Standards Team's approach is:

- (1) Delivering a co-ordinated strategy to target and reduce incidence of door step crime, through
  - A successful advice programme supporting residents
  - A hotline and rapid response for all "live" rogue trader incidents.
  - Implementation of No Cold Calling Zones (to deter traders and others trying to sell on the doorstep)
  - Extensive partnership working with police, safeguarding adults , other Trading Standards authorities, community safety, envirocrime team, council tax and benefits team, and the voluntary sector
  - Implementation of a 'Build with Confidence' scheme (vetted and approved builders)
  - Direct referrals from Building Control regarding any dubious builders they may encounter.
  
- (2) Provide robust enforcement against those traders who operate fraudulently together with the successful application of Proceeds of Crime legislation, through:
  - Planned intelligence led operations
  - Partnership Working
  - Supported the Illegal Money Laundering team in investigations concerning loan sharks leading to successful conviction.
  - Application of the Proceeds of Crime (POCA) legislation

## **Question 19 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

Does the Cabinet Member support the Headteacher of Lea Valley High School in banning all parents and families from supporting sporting fixtures. Would she agree with me this is an incongruous way for a Sports College to support the Olympic legacy?

## **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

As a Sports College, Lea Valley High School hosts a vast number of PE matches involving secondary and primary pupils. At these matches normal staffing would be 1 teacher per team, 1 of whom is acting as referee. Following a number of difficult situations that put pupil and staff safety at risk, often involving non family members, a decision was made to restrict access to certain matches. Unfortunately, this communication was sent in error to all parents and caused the resulting concern. It was never the intention of the school to ban parents and families. This situation has now been resolved by supporters having to apply for tickets/permits in advance so that the school knows who is on the premises and exclude any potential trouble makers.

**Question 20 from Councillor Uzoanya to Councillor Oykenor, Cabinet Member for Housing**

In the Enfield Advertiser on 10 October, Councillor Lavender, the Leader of the Conservative Group, is quoted as saying: 'It must be pretty upsetting for residents in north-eastern Enfield, who are losing Kettering Hall, in Ordnance Road...!'

Is there any accuracy in Councillor Lavender's statement?"

**Reply from Councillor Oykenor**

Councillor Lavender's statement is incorrect. Kettering Hall is being replaced with a new, fully accessible modern community hall which will form part of the new Joint Services Centre in Ordnance Road, including a GP Centre, Dentist Surgery and Library. This will have the benefit of being located near to other local services and will still be accessible in the evenings and weekends when the other services may not be open. This is due to open in the summer of 2014.

In the meantime the current Kettering Hall will remain open to the local community. A full public consultation is underway regarding the proposed Joint Service Centre development."

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

Given the extremely disappointing, if not disastrous, 16+ results for Enfield students in public examinations in the 2011/2012 academic year can the Cabinet member for Children & Young People please confirm what action plan is in place to improve this performance or when she will be in a position to provide the Council with a suggested action plan?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

Following this year's fiasco with the grading of English GCSE papers, Enfield is

currently supporting a legal challenge to OFQUAL to try to secure an equitable outcome for all our young people. However, looking at the current invalidated results for our maintained schools, Enfield is currently at 58.6% 5+ English & Maths. This is slightly above the National average as it is currently assessed. (If we include the academies this would fall to 54.5%). This cannot be described as disastrous. Since the results, one of our secondary schools which was seriously affected by the shifting grade boundaries has been judged outstanding by Ofsted on all measures. The School Improvement Service is working closely with all schools to identify those pupils particularly affected and putting in place intensive support for Heads of English & Maths to prepare them to meet the challenges of new grade boundaries.

**Question 22 from Councillor Lemonides to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property**

The Conservative Group on Enfield like to complain about Labour's economic competency. Do you think they are financially literate? Conservative Government borrowing is up a staggering £802 per second compared to last year despite their claim to be cutting borrowing.

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

One must not be too harsh on the financial plight caused by this Conservative Coalition Government. After 13 years of boom, economic success and growth delivered by the previous Labour Administration, it is only to be anticipated that the current Government would pall by comparison. Councillor Lemonides is correct in highlighting that the national financial gloom contrasts sharply with the prudent sound financial management practised in Enfield.

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

Given the statistics for Child Obesity in Enfield are significantly above National and London averages, what actions has the Council taken since May 2010 to address this major health concern?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

The Children and Young People's Plan 2011 – 2015 has the following performance indicators which are monitored by the Children's Trust Board.

- Obesity in primary school aged children in Reception: 12% by 2011/12
- Obesity in primary school aged children in Year 6: 21% by 2011/12

The Children's Trust 2012 Review reported the following measures put in place address childhood obesity:

- Under 5s health and obesity training has been provided to a range of practitioners including Parent Engagement Panel members (over 70 people trained). The aim is to increase the number of information providers and advisors to parents/carers and children to keep them healthy.
- Schools have been supported by various means (including Enfield PE Team) to engage fully with opportunities presented by the run up to the 2012 Olympics through a variety of sports and recreational activities. Activities have included:
  - ❖ 360 pupils participated in multi skills athletics challenges at Lee Valley Athletics Centre;
  - ❖ 50 pupils took part in a football fun day;
  - ❖ 12 schools participated in a Paralympics fun event for children with physical and learning impairments;
  - ❖ 1300 pupils danced on stage at Millfield Theatre for the Enfield's Schools Dance Festival;

Enfield's Childhood Healthy Weight Strategy 2011 – 2021 was originally produced in 2009 but has since been updated to respond to the rising threat of childhood obesity in Enfield. Tackling obesity requires long-term action and requires concerted and sustained effort by all partners. Our aims are to:

- Halt the trend: stop levels increasing and maintain current obesity levels until 2015;
- Reverse the trend: by 2021 see a reduction in rates of childhood obesity.

The strategy is divided into 5 areas:

1. Promoting healthy lifestyles
2. Creating healthy environments
3. Workforce and community development
4. Establishing a care pathway to meet different levels of need
5. Making effective use of data

The strategy was signed off by the Children's Trust Board in October 2011.

Progress includes:

- The Child Health Steering Group represents excellent multi-agency working.
- Participation in the Government's 'Eat Better, Start Better' programme. We will be training staff in early year's settings to enable them to deliver healthy eating messages.

- A number of information campaigns – particularly through the Children’s Centres
- Let’s Get Cooking is a national network of cooking clubs that has been used in many schools across the Borough and another 20 will start in the next six months. The aim of the clubs is that children will learn new healthy eating skills and replicate these at home.
- The Sport Development Team has been involved in a wide range of developments to promote easier access to a range of physical activity opportunities.
- The Commissioning Team work very closely with health and commission early years practitioners to focus on the health and well being of children under five at all levels of their development. Much of the work focuses on feeding and nutrition.
- The Change for Life 8 week programme has been embedded across the Children's Centres and focuses on the promotion of physical activity and healthy eating.
- Children’s Centres are being used to deliver the Healthy Child Programme run by the Health Visiting Service. This includes new parents groups providing support around nutrition, healthy eating, weaning etc.
- Since 2009, Health Visitors have used Children’s Centres to deliver the 2 year development reviews, and since 2010 to deliver the 3½ year development reviews which include advice about nutrition and healthy eating.
- Resources are set aside each year to devolve to Children’s Centres for local commissioning to support a number of priorities, a key one of these is anti-obesity work and many centres commission their own programmes to support this.
- Children’s Centres have developed a network of parents to provide breastfeeding support to new mums. 12 new volunteers have been trained to provide this support and a further two cohorts will be trained by the end of March 2013.
- Issued the Play Strategy 2012 – 2015 with the aim of encouraging all developments across the Council to consider the development of play and play space encouraging families and young people to become more active.
- The School Nurses are commissioned to weigh and measure every child

in Enfield in Reception and Year 6, some 7,500 children in total as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Last year the NCMP was made more effective locally by using the Department of Health parental feedback tool to inform parents of their children's weight status; this was piloted with approximately one fifth of parents. Following last year's successful pilot this year we have sent results to all families. Where a child is overweight or obese, they have been offered support from health trainers.

- During 2011 a local weight management programme was set up following a successful bid for Local Area Agreement funding. The programme was successfully evaluated, but unfortunately came to an end when funding ceased. Training was provided to schools and Children's Centre staff to encourage them to deliver Change 4 Life programmes and provide sustainability for the programme.
- The Road Safety Team worked with schools on their travel plans to promote and encourage more children to walk cycle or scooter to school.
- Working with Environment, Street Scene and Planning Policy Team to restrict planning permission to takeaway premises within proximity of schools.
- Influencing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Health and Well Being Strategy to ensure that childhood obesity remains top priority with regard to commissioning children's health services.
- Implemented a "Free School Meals (FSM) Pilot" in Eastfield Primary School. The aim of the pilot scheme is to provide a free school meal to every child that wanted one, regardless of eligibility, to see whether it had an impact on children's weight, body mass index (BMI), behaviour attendance and attainment. Initially it was agreed that the pilot would run for 2 years, 2011/12 – 2012/13, however, it has now been agreed that the pilot should run for a further year to 2013/2014. At the end of year 1, 90.6% of children at Eastfield are having a FSM. The parent's survey showed that 70% of parents believed that their child was doing better at school as a result of the pilot and 82% believed that their child was eating healthier as a result of the pilot. The school has yet to submit the attainment and behaviour data, but anecdotally the Headteacher reports that in KS1 all children have made above the 3 points of progress expected.
- The School Catering Service ensures that their all their menus meet the Government's food and nutrient based standards. They have launched an ethnically diverse menu which they hope will make the meals more appealing to children and young people. There is currently a campaign to encourage families to check whether they are entitled to a free school

meal.

We believe that the Childhood Obesity Strategy is comprehensive and has put in place a wide-range of initiatives across our partners to address this area. Reducing childhood obesity is undoubtedly a challenge in Enfield and changes will not be seen immediately, hence a 10 year Strategy. CMB have agreed, as a priority, further research into this area starting in January 2013.

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

Could Councillor Bond update the Council on the progress being made to improve our Parks service and what investment is being made for the future.

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

- The merger of parks into one operational Division with waste has generated a new streamlined management structure across the services within 18 months.
- Enfield In Bloom continues to win awards.
- We have retained our Green Flag parks.
- Volunteer hours are increasing and are now reviewed and agreed and logged and properly organised.
- We have already invested over £300K in new parks equipment – with more to come – a further £170K this year. We had to throw out 30% of existing equipment due to a lack of investment by the previous administration.
- We have a full apprenticeship programme in parks linked to Capel Manor training programme – from which we have employed 4 gardeners and 2 arborists and currently have 11 apprentices working with us.
- We are working with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) re the Phase 2 HLF bid for Forty Hall that will bring a further £2M investment to this park.
- We are to launch an events strategy for parks in November at the annual parks Friends Conference.
- At the same time we will launch the Parks Friends Agreement – whereby there is a formal agreement with the Council and the Friends Group(s) in terms of expectation and responsibility.
- We have received a number of bids from community groups to take over assets in parks and run community or social enterprise operations.
- We've made £600 savings per day through a reorganisation.

**Question 25 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

Given the statistics for Child Poverty in Enfield are significantly above National and London averages, what actions has the Council taken since May 2010 to address child poverty?

## **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

In May 2010 we commissioned the child poverty needs assessment to better understand the factors affecting child poverty so that we can work with partners and the community to provide a better future for children and families in the Borough. It is also a requirement of the Child Poverty Act (Part 2, Section 21) that the Local Authority prepares and publishes an assessment of need of children living in poverty in its area. The needs assessment told us that 37% of Enfield's children live in poverty. The ward with the highest number of children in poverty is Edmonton Green with over half the resident children living in poverty.

As a result of the assessment the Council produced the Child and Family Poverty Strategy which was consulted on between Aug – Nov 2011. The Strategy and Action Plan was approved by full Council in September 2012.

The Strategy has 7 key aims:

- Aim 1: Developing employment, education, training and skills
- Aim 2: Maximising income and supporting financial resilience
- Aim 3: Supporting families to achieve their aspirations
- Aim 4: Improving children and young people's experiences
- Aim 5: Narrowing the gap – reducing health inequalities
- Aim 6: Encouraging the development of sustainable housing
- Aim 7: Reducing and preventing crime

Neil Rousell, Director of Regeneration, Leisure and Culture became the Council's Child Poverty Champion in 2011-12.

We are now working towards implementing the action plan, and can report that:

- The Children's Centre Commissioning Team fund the Citizens Advice Bureau to ensure that young families are able to maximise their income and access benefits advice. The workers also run money management workshops.
- Edmonton Children's Centre have directly employed a Welfare Benefits Advisor. They also commission services to encourage families into work - ESOL classes at all levels, confidence building and some literacy and numeracy.
- Services are provided to families living in temporary accommodation.
- This year we have also made a donation to the food bank, to be spent on baby milk, nappies and other essentials for families with children under five.

- We are delivering the Reed in Partnership programme. This programme is designed to get people back into work and is funded by European Social Fund. The Council is working in partnership with Reed Employment by referring people to the scheme. Of the 68 referrals, 53 have been via Children's Centres. We are tracking whether families are accepted onto the programme and monitoring their outcomes. (since March 2012).
- Children's Centres have commissioned "Women Like Us" to deliver 3 x 4 week programmes supporting families regarding work readiness, targeting 45 families in this financial year. 3 programmes ran in the last financial year and supported approximately 40 families. (Since Nov 2011)
- It should be noted that the child poverty situation may be exacerbated by the national changes to the welfare benefits system and financial support for poorer households. In addition, there may be an influx of lower income households into the Borough from inner London. We have been fully engaged with the Council's Benefit Taskforce identifying those families most at risk from changes/reforms to the benefits system. Community Access, Childcare & Early Years (CACEY) have also developed a promotional programme of information for families to help them through the initial transition period as follows:
  - ❖ have run a joint promotional campaign with Job Centre Plus to advise lone parents of the initial change of moving to Job Seekers Allowance from Income Support when they have a child aged 6 (May 2012) and will be advising parents of the next change from August 2012.
  - ❖ intend to run a promotional campaign with regard to Child Benefit from December 2012 to advise parents of the changes.
  - ❖ intend to run a promotional campaign from March 2013 to advise parents about the changes to tax credits.
- The Play Development team continue to offer parents/carers best possible value at after school clubs and holiday playschemes, as well as open access play provision and "Reach Out and Play" sessions.
- We have implemented the Children's Centres 'Core Purpose' strategy. The core purpose sets out to improve outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged, so children are equipped for life and ready for school, no matter what their background or family circumstances.
- Barriers to Access Steering Group – this group works with our partners to look at barriers to take up of employment and childcare.

- Targeted outreach programme to support the 2 Year Old Offer. By September 2013 disadvantaged/vulnerable 2 years olds will be offered 15 hours of free early education. We are working with settings to raise quality to best support delivery of the offer.
- Participation in the Government's 'Eat Better, Start Better' programme. We will be training staff in early years settings to enable them to deliver healthy eating messages.
- We have ensured that workless adult families are included in the targeting of our Troubled Families provision, including those who may be impacted by benefit reform.
- We have successfully exceeded our targets against those recorded as NEET.

**Question 26 from Councillor Cranfield to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader of the Council define the word 'Pleb' and can he give us an example of when this word would be used in Enfield?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

I suspect the Councillor is referring, by inference, to Andrew Mitchell MP, the privately educated, Cambridge educated, investment banker. As you know, he resigned for allegedly using this word to denigrate the police in Downing Street.

The word dates back to Ancient Rome and was a term for the non-aristocrats who could not stand for high office. Today it is value laden, derogatory and suggests inferiority.

Despite a splash of eau de Cologne, the stench of Tory elitism has resurfaced vividly with this term.

I would advise Members opposite to refrain from referring to Council staff or residents with this term. My side requires no such advice.

**Question 27 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

Those Councillors who attended the SPOE (Single Point of Entry) launch on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012 heard that Enfield has 3,000 young people referred via the CAF (Common Assessment Form) flagging serious concerns. How many CAFs have been referred in each of the last three academic years 2011-12, 2010-11, 2009-10 and can these be broken down into pre-school, Nursery, Yr. 1, Yr.2, Yr.3, Yr. 4, Yr. 5, Yr.6, Yr. 7, Yr. 8, Yr. 9, Yr. 10, Yr. 11, Yr. 12, Yr.

13, any that are 16+ and not in full time education?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

Within Enfield the use of CAFs and integrated working agenda (with teams around the family) was first launched in April 2008. Agencies were asked to complete a CAF identifying any child, young person, family requiring additional services (outside of their own service delivery) to meet the assessed need.

We are unable to breakdown the information into each school year as requested as we are still collating information manually until we are able to retrieve statistics from our electronic database E-CAF. It is expected that data will be able to be retrieved in this way from 2013.

In order to respond to the Councillors query data has been collated manually as best as we can from the following years:

April 2009 - March 2010

April 2010- March 2011

April 2011- March 2012

It is not possible to identify data for each school year group but we have collated data for pre-school, primary school, secondary school and others as follows:

Between April 2009 -March 2010:

**818** CAFs were received

**26** were completed by pre-school agencies

**293** were completed by primary schools

**223** were completed by secondary schools

**17** CAFs were for young people aged 16-18

Between April 2010 - March 2011:

**736** CAFs were received

**122** pre-school

**263** primary school

**258** secondary school

**29** CAFs were for young people aged between 16-18

Between April 2011- March 2012:

**587** CAFs were received

**103** pre-school

**271** primary school

**165** secondary school

**10** CAFs were for young people aged between 16-18

For the first 6 months of this year we have received over **500** CAFs.

We do have CAFs by age but it would be several days work to put it into specific ages as requested by the Councillor.

At this present time I am unable to identify primary presenting concerns from back dated information therefore unable to give a true representation on NEET as referred through CAF. From next month we will be capturing primary presenting concerns at the point a CAF is completed. This will allow us to be able to report on NEET issues as well as many other initial presenting concerns.

**Question 28 from Councillor Keazor to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader of the Council advise it's membership of when it would be acceptable to use first class fares on Council business?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

I think this question arises as a result of the media interest in George Osborne's Standard Class rail ticket whilst sitting in First Class.

Although it is not specific in our member's allowances scheme, it is Council policy that all members travel by the cheapest means, which we would normally assume to be second class travel. We do not pay for first class travel.

**Question 29 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

How many children are there in each Year Group being educated outside of the Borough (possibly at Special Schools) at the Council's expense and what is the cost of each such education plan by Year Group?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

No child's education can be described as being funded at the Council's expense. Money for pupil places is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which is allocated directly by the Government. If a child/young person requires provision outside mainstream or Enfield Local Authority provision, this is also funded from the DSG. This would be the case for pupils with SEN, Looked After Children (LAC) or those complex needs cases that require residential out of borough provision.

We currently have a total of 212 children and young people in a range of schools, including mainstream, special and residential schools, placed outside

of the borough. This is at a cost of £5m which is funded from the DSG.

However, we also have children placed in our borough by other Local Authorities, for whom we receive income for their placements. In 2011/12 we received £1.062m for such placements in our mainstream and special schools.

Our net expenditure therefore is £4m. However, a significant proportion of this relates to highly specialist and residential placements, particularly for LAC and those with complex needs. The table below shows the number of pupils and the costs by year group.

#### LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD'S STATEMENTED PUPILS BEING EDUCATED OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH

This information relates to children in each year group being educated outside the borough – this includes residential and day independent placements, mainstream outborough and special outborough placements.

SCHOOL YEAR GROUP	£	Number of pupils per year group
RECEPTION	18,287	2
YEAR 1	8,641	1
YEAR 2	128,624	7
YEAR 3	105,953	6
YEAR 4	189,166	5
YEAR 5	76,989	8
YEAR 6	249,640	13
YEAR 7	107,285	10
YEAR 8	362,389	14
YEAR 9	535,297	19
YEAR 10	655,953	27
YEAR 11	690,946	27
YEAR 12	702,698	28
YEAR 13	616,964	25
YEAR 14	269,451	13
YEAR 15	282,482	7
TOTAL CHARGE	5,000,765	212

PLEASE NOTE - All children's education are funded from the dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and this is the information that has been provided.

Income raised for financial year 11/12	
Mainstream	£510,093
Special	£552,877
Total income raised	£1,062,970

**Question 30 from Councillor McGowan to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet**

## **Member for Finance and Property**

The Opposition has suggested in a recent press article that Council consultations are intrusive and asked irrelevant questions about gender and race. Is this critical allegation accurate?

## **Reply from Councillor Stafford**

The view of the Council is that it is not. Council consultations are designed to illicit the views and opinions of our residents and service users. The Council conducts an extensive range of engagement activities, which help to ensure our services remain relevant, meeting needs and aspirations, while also delivering Value for Money.

Excellent services are predicated on good engagement. In terms of collecting demographic data from respondents, the Council's policy is that we only collect information that is appropriate within the context of the consultations.

The Council is committed to 'fairness for all' and best practice; we seek the views of all sections of our population, service users and non-service users.

Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is also obliged to

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity and access
- Foster good relations between different groups in the community.

In determining relevance and proportionality, we must have regard to protected characteristics, as defined by law. These are:

1. Race
2. Disability
3. Gender
4. Age
5. Religious belief
6. Sexual orientation
7. Gender reassignment
8. Pregnancy and maternity
9. Marriage and civil partnership (eliminating discrimination only)

The gathering of equalities monitoring data is used to analyse results from consultations by these key groups within the community. It helps to ensure that all members of the community have equal access to our services and are not unintentionally discriminated against. It helps to inform how services should be developed and improved and is an integral part of the service planning process.

The questions we ask in our consultations are relevant, proportionate and designed to deliver on our key strategic aims of fairness for all, growth and sustainability and strong communities.

**Question 31 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

In order to take up a school place are primary school age children living in Enfield having to travel further for their education than they did four years ago?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

The Local Authority has not collected this data during the period requested. This data could be misleading, as parents do choose schools that are not their local school for a number of reasons e.g. Wolfson Hillel is our only Jewish Primary School and therefore pupils will travel a considerable distance to get to that school. Also, once a parent has chosen a primary school, they may then subsequently move house and wish to remain at that school, any siblings would still be entitled to attend that school even if the family live a considerable distance.

However, we do monitor every year the percentage of parents that get their preferred choice of schools. There is only a direct comparison over the last 2 years as the system has changed. Full co-ordination across the London boroughs came in for the 2011 admission round. We have been able to maintain 94% of parents being able to secure a place at one of their preferred schools for the last two years.

**Question 32 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property**

The Opposition has suggested in a recent press article that consultation on Welfare Benefit Reform could result in pensioners suffering cuts. Is this critical allegation accurate?

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

No it is not. We have made it clear throughout the consultation that we want to protect pensioners from cuts. We await the outcome of the passing of the legislation to see whether this will be possible once the Government's scheme is clear.

**Question 33 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

Did the Cabinet member for Children & Young People attend the Academies Show in May in London or is she planning to attend the Academies Show in Birmingham later this year?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

I get invited to attend conferences on a regular basis and work in Enfield comes first. I did not attend the Academies show in May, and I will not be attending later this year.

**Question 34 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property**

The Opposition has suggested in a recent press article that this Administration has bankrupted the Council. Is this critical allegation accurate?

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

No it is not. The Council's finances continue to be strong, despite the tough economic times. I am proud of our track record, which balances strong financial management with social justice. The District Auditor has recently reviewed our finance, and, for the second year running given us the highest marks possible in the annual Financial Resilience review.

**Question 35 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

With through schools being proposed, what consultation has there been with parents and governors at Broomfield School and Edmonton County?

How much would the expansion of Broomfield and Edmonton County cost?

Are there any Primary Schools with vacant places?

Are there any Secondary schools with vacant places?

How many children still do not have a place at an Enfield school

Given Broomfield School's experience of special measures should it not be concentrating on improving its existing education services before embarking on opening up primary classes? Edmonton County only achieved 48% A\*-C including English and Maths in 2012. Again, should Edmonton County focus on improving its secondary standards and not be distracted by expanding into the primary sector?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

At Edmonton County the consultation process is underway. It began on 26 September and the informal consultation stage runs until 31 October. Two public meetings were held at the school and Dr Tranter has consulted with her Governors and at a recent Governing Body meeting all Governors present voted unanimously to support the proposals.

Broomfield is a Foundation School and as such has the responsibility for its own consultation process. The Council has met with Broomfield's Governing Body who voted in favour of expanding to become an all-through school. However, with agreement between the Governing Body and the Council, this will be deferred until a future date when the school has made sufficient progress to be removed from the category.

- How much would the expansion of Broomfield and Edmonton County cost?

It is likely that the expansion of Edmonton County will cost in the region of £3.5 million.

There are no current costings for Broomfield, as the feasibility study is not yet developed with the school, and will only be developed once the decision to proceed or not is made.

- Are there any Primary Schools with vacant places?

Yes - There are a number of reasons why some schools have vacancies (e.g. pupils leaving, parental preference, religious criteria) and the Admissions Service work with schools to fill the vacancies as soon as we are made aware of them.

- Are there any Secondary schools with vacant places?

Yes - There are a number of reasons why some schools have vacancies (e.g. pupils leaving, parental preference, religious criteria) and the Admissions Service work with schools to fill the vacancies as soon as we are made aware of them.

- How many children still do not have a place at an Enfield school?

There is sufficient capacity across the secondary sector for all children to have access to a secondary school place.

In relation to primary, as of 25.10.12 there are currently 178 primary aged children who are without a current offer of a primary school place.

- Given Broomfield School's experience of special measures should it not be concentrating on improving its existing education services before embarking on opening up primary classes? Edmonton County only achieved 48% A\*-C including English and Maths in 2012. Again, should Edmonton County focus on improving its secondary standards and not be distracted by expanding into the primary sector-

The decision to expand any school is based on a number of criteria including local demand, available space and of course educational benefit. The Headteacher of Edmonton County School has had considerable experience in developing all age provision. She is determined to ensure that the needs of the secondary pupils will not be affected by the primary expansion and there will be clear benefits for both age groups in terms of enhanced facilities, supporting transition and developing staffing and effective cross phase working for all abilities. (Edmonton County results are now 51% A\*-C and likely to rise further).

With regards to Broomfield there is a real shortage of primary places in the vicinity of the school and no space to build a new school. We are of course concerned about the pressure on a school currently in Special Measures which is why the start date for this expansion has been deferred. Also the Local Authority School Improvement Service, working closely with outstanding primary Headteachers, have guaranteed that they will take the lead in the initial implementation of the scheme while Broomfield continues to concentrate on making rapid improvement.

**Question 36 from Councillor Constantinides to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property**

The Opposition Leader suggested in a recent press article that Capital Expenditure had been diverted from Enfield North to build a community facility in Edmonton. Is this critical allegation accurate?

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

No, it is not. We are investing in Enfield North and Edmonton.

**Question 37 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Goddard Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

With reference to your reply to my Question 37 at last Council, I was referring to a meeting on 4 November 2010. Can you confirm to Council that when the Aessica Pharmaceuticals site (now the proposed Highways depot) was mentioned to you by Bill Price at that meeting as a suitable council site, you responded by saying that the council had no need for it and no money to purchase the site?

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

As I stated for the last Council Councillors' Questions, I think you refer to a meeting about CCTV held about 2 years ago. I recall, but not in any detail, Mr Price raised the future of the site. What is clear is that the landowner made no contact with the Council, and the property was not marketed publicly.

**Question 38 from Councillor Simon to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member**

### **for Environment**

Could Councillor Bond update the Council on the Brimsdown Avenue petrol station situation?

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

The Council has been working closely with the agent for the owners of the site to attempt to remove the squatters and all of the vehicles they are storing on the site. The landowner has secured a court date when they will seek to obtain an eviction order to evict the squatters. If this action is successful the Council will expect the owner to clear the land and secure the site to prevent any further unauthorised occupation. It is understood that the court date is likely to be in the new year.

The Council has advised the landowner's agent that it has been more than patient in its approach. The further delays in this matter will again leave the local residents with what can only be described as an eyesore within the Brimsdown area.

We are looking at options for gaining entry to the site in order to further fully assess the environmental impact of the current condition of the land on the illegal tenants and surrounding properties and residents. Following any visit and dependent on the findings we will consider the use of appropriate powers to address the issues on site.

### **Question 39 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Goddard Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

In your reply to my question 37 at the last Council you also said "What is clear is that the landowner made no contact with the council...". Will you now accept that you were mistaken, in that CBRE the agent acting on the disposal of the Aessica Pharmaceuticals site brought it to the attention of Navigant, a consultancy instructed by the Council to find a site for the consolidation and relocation of the depots, in 2010?

### **Reply from Councillor Goddard**

This was not mentioned as I recall in the meeting that I attended and therefore I have no knowledge of this.

### **Question 40 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

As Cabinet member for Environment can you inform the Council (as a separate answer to each numbered point):

1. Why Navigant was instructed in the search for a site for the consolidation and relocation of the depots?
2. What were Navigant's terms of reference?
3. Specifically, were Navigant required to report back on all sites coming to their attention which might be suitable?
4. When did Navigant report on the Suez Road site and to whom?
5. What fee was paid to Navigant?
6. Who negotiated the terms for the lease of the former Aessica site to the council?

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

The Agreement to Lease has been negotiated by Property and Legal on behalf of the Council with assistance from Navigant.

#### **Question 41 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

With reference to the Council's search for a new depot site (now the former Aessica Pharmaceuticals site) will he confirm that the Suez Road site was the preferred choice of officers as being "the best operational solution available"?

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

No.

#### **Question 42 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

When and why was the Suez Road site rejected as a potential location for the new depot given that it was considered by officers to be "the best operational solution available"? Were you consulted about this decision to reject the site, before it appeared in the Cabinet report No 16 and if not, which Cabinet Member was consulted?

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

The site was rejected due to proposed lease arrangements.

#### **Question 43 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Reflecting on the decision at the July Council meeting to proceed with a lease of the former Aessica site at an initial rent of £650k per annum for 40 years with no opportunity to break, can he explain why he believes that council tax payers who, over that period will pay a minimum of £26million in rental alone, aside from rates and running costs, will have had value for money from this

transaction?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

Councillor Neville should be the one reflecting. The previous administration repeatedly failed, over an 8 year period, to secure long term depot provision. In fact the refuse service is on a leased site, with no protection under the Landlord and Tenant Act, which means the council, can be evicted at any time after June 2013. No alternative depot means no refuse service, so a long term depot is essential for our residents. Furthermore the District Valuer has stated that the rental value for this site is appropriate.

### **Question 44 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Following the Council meeting on 4 July when the proposed lease to the council of the Aessica site was raised by me, debated and voted upon, did you request officers to attempt to renegotiate the principal terms of the lease, in particular the lack of any break clause over the 40 year term, and if not why not?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

Full Council agreed as you are aware the recommendations of the report including the term of the lease.

Officers advised me that there are no break clauses in the lease, as would be best practice, to protect the council's investment and provide complete security of tenure.

### **Question 45 from Councillor East to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for the Environment**

Whilst the foxes in the borough contribute to the unique character of Enfield, some residents in Chase ward have been affected by leashes of foxes skulking in their gardens, creating noise, mess and unnerving residents as they become increasingly bold and enter houses.

What is the council policy for dealing with foxes when they become established in residential areas and cause issues by fouling, attacking domestic pets and disturbing refuse?

What services are available from the council to help residents who are experiencing such difficulties caused by foxes - particularly some of our older residents who may not be able to deal with the issues easily?

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

The introduction of wheelie bins throughout the borough should help with the storage of waste in a manner that prevents foxes breaking open bin bags. We have found that areas where wheelie bins have been installed, and where they are used correctly, the instances of fox and pest sightings have reduced.

We advise residents disturbed by foxes to:

- Repair any holes in fences
- Not to leave food scraps outside
- Keep grounds well maintained to remove overgrown areas that could provide shelter
- Regularly watch for holes dug under sheds.

Further advice on foxes can be found at the fox project website ([www.foxproject.org.uk](http://www.foxproject.org.uk)) or on their advice line 01892 824111 (open Monday - Friday 9am - noon). Alternatively they have a recorded helpline on fox deterrence on 01892 826222.

A private pest control company may be able to provide assistance in the removal of foxes in a specific location. We do not hold any details of private pest control companies that provide this service so advise the public to contact companies themselves.

#### **Question 46 from Councillor Zetter to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for the Environment**

What is the cost to the Council of the re-tendering process for the Trent Park Cafe?

What is the cost to the original bidders of the re-tendering process for Trent Park Cafe?

Albeit on a smaller scale, how does Councillor Bond reconcile calls from the Labour Party for the Transport Secretary to resign for similar types of error with respect to the tendering of the West Coast Rail route when he has responsibility for similar errors at Enfield Council?

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

On a smaller scale? The Government's West Coast line fiasco has probably cost taxpayers £40m and the decision was only reversed after Virgin took the government to court. It's also alleged (in the Daily Mail) that government spent £1m on trying to nationalise the service before going cap in hand to Virgin at the last minute.

In comparison the Council's internal officers identified an administrative error with the tendering process. Being completely transparent officers decided to re-

run the tender. Unlike the Government's west coast line fiasco no politicians were involved.

The cost of re-tendering won't be known until afterwards. But it won't be anything like the cost of the Government's West Coast fiasco

We don't know the costs to bidders. But it won't be anything like those associated with the Government's West Coast fiasco.

**Question 47 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Bond, Cabinet member for Environment**

A few weeks ago new double yellow lines were painted on Sheringham Avenue, near the junction with Prince George Avenue, on the triangle in front of St Thomas's Oakwood. On 4th October residents received a letter from Enfield Council about a Carriageway Resurfacing Improvement Scheme that is going to resurface this section of Sheringham Avenue on 10th and 11th October. Two weeks prior to that double yellow lines had been painted on the very surface of road that was resurfaced. Will Councillor Bond please ensure that there is better planning in future of such matters?

Concerning the painting of the double yellow lines, residents were asked to write to the traffic consultation TG52/1134. Certain residents did not receive a reply, even though the letter from Enfield Council and Halcrow said, 'any objections will be carefully considered and we will write to residents again once a final decision has been made'.

Will Councillor Bond please confirm the number of letters sent about the scheme in the first place, the number of representations received by the Council and the number of letters sent by the Council about the scheme once a final decision was made?

Will Councillor Bond please also explain why the double yellow lines were necessary in the first place given that a single line was already there.

Local residents do not consider the introduction of these double yellow lines in this matter as the best use of public resources. Does Councillor Bond support these residents' views?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

The new Oakwood Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), which includes Sheringham Avenue, had a specific start date and, whilst it was understood that resurfacing would follow shortly, due to parking problems and residents' expectations of the new controls, a conscious decision was made to lay the yellow lines.

I accept this would be a temporary situation before the road was resurfaced.

However, these controls were introduced to help maintain highway safety and, as I'm sure you would agree, it's impossible to put a value on someone's life.

With regards to letters, numerous documents were sent to Oakwood residents during our extensive 3 stage consultation process. 2459 consultation leaflets were distributed across the entire Oakwood area at stage 1. 1079 were distributed at stage 2 across the existing CPZ and in streets that had expressed an interest in an expanded CPZ at stage 1. A similar number were distributed at the final statutory stage, and 14 formal objections were received.

I approved a report on the 21 May that recommended some minor expansions of the Oakwood CPZ and the introduction of double yellow lines at junctions for safety reasons. The report also carefully considered all 14 formal objections to these proposals. On the 25 June 157 letters were posted to residents within the CPZ expansions or adjacent to new double yellow lines. This letter gave details of the new scheme and went to all 14 objectors and households adjacent to the new double yellow lines on Sheringham Avenue. However, unfortunately it would appear a number of these letters did not reach their destination.

While this is regrettable, the safety and congestion argument for the double yellow lines is clear. Sheringham Avenue / Prince George Avenue is a busy junction that needs to be kept clear at all times of the day and night to ensure safety and the free flow of traffic. Understandably some local residents are concerned about the subsequent loss of on street parking. However the need to maintain good visibility at this junction outweighs these concerns, especially when the houses next to it have off street parking.

#### **Question 48 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing**

When the Conservatives were in control of Enfield Council it submitted an audacious bid to the Mayor of London to assist in the wholesale purchase of the properties which fronted the North Circular Road and to regenerate the area. That bid was successful, demonstrated Boris Johnson's commitment to Enfield and helped to regenerate the south west corner of the Borough. The Conservative Mayor of London Boris Johnson has now launched a £100 million fund for new intermediate housing.

Bids are being invited for a slice of the funding, which the Greater London Authority says is aimed at providing homes for people 'on a range of modest incomes'.

The fund will be open to developers of intermediate housing, including councils, housing associations and house builders. It will provide homes for households on a maximum joint income of £64,300 a year, or up to £77,200 a year for families with children purchasing larger homes.

Boris has said: 'London's success is built by its workforce and if we are to maintain our vitality as a city we have to provide Londoners with a fairer housing deal. For an increasing number of Londoners the capital's current housing market is just not working and failure to deal with the issue could lead to a damaging exodus that will hamper our competitiveness.' I am sure that both parties agree with these sentiments.

Organisations have until 30 November to submit their bids. Given the important housing regeneration schemes being undertaken in the Borough, which the Government's housing revenue reforms have helped to make financially viable, given the stresses which have been placed on regeneration schemes by land values and prices paid, particularly for example in places such as Cat Hill and Ponders End and given the Council's properties continuing to lay derelict in Town and Chase wards, will Councillor Oyken confirm whether Enfield Council has submitted any bids, if so what those bids are and if not, why not?

### **Reply from Councillor Oyken**

The Mayor's Housing Covenant funding offer was made at the beginning of October. The Council's Housing and Regeneration departments are currently working on a joint bid with the aim of supporting first time buyers to access affordable home ownership products in our neighbourhood regeneration areas.

This bid will be submitted before the 30<sup>th</sup> November deadline however as discussions are at an early stage no detail is yet available.

### **Question 49 from Councillor Headley to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

I understand that meetings have been held between Enfield Council and Haringey Council concerning Haringey's proposals to sell off Bull Lane recreation ground. How successful have those meetings been in safeguarding this public open space for public use. Given the acknowledged pressures on school places has the Council considered purchasing the site for education purposes and if not why not?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

Both Haringey and London Borough of Enfield are committed to retaining the current space at Bull Lane playing fields.

An adjacent site is currently being reviewed by London Borough of Haringey for redevelopment purposes and it may be necessary to review access arrangements to the south of the open space with a resultant small land take, however, it is certainly not the intention of London Borough of Haringey to substantially build on Bull Lane as has previously been suggested.

It is anticipated that any potential proposals for the area will be capable of being shared with local residents by the end of the calendar year. I am also pleased to advise that in support of this statement Haringey have this week agreed to withdraw their 2003 planning application which contained the residential development proposal. Alternative options for the site will no doubt be discussed in the future."

**Question 50 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Will Councillor Taylor confirm that no officer or consultant employed by the Council is paid through a service company whether for the purposes of avoiding employer's contributions or otherwise?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

I can confirm that no officers employed by the Council are paid through a service company for the purposes of avoiding employer's contributions or otherwise. I can also confirm that no consultants hired by the council are paid through a service company for the purpose of avoiding employer's contributions.

**Question 51 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet member for Finance & Property**

With the continuing pressures on the Council's finances, will Councillor Stafford tell the council what steps he is taking to renegotiate some local conditions of service to ensure better value for money for the council tax payer against the present economic background?

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

The Council is aware of the need to provide a set of local conditions of service which are fit for purpose in the current financial climate balancing the requirement to reduce expenditure with the need to reward staff for their achievements. At this point in time, there is no intention to break away from national pay and conditions of service.

**Question 52 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet member for Finance & Property**

Could he tell the Council what steps he has taken to introduce flatter organisational structures within departments to bring about a lower ratio of managers to those managed?

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

Each year the Council reviews the organisational structures to ensure they effectively deliver services to the local community. In the last 2 years there have been a number of reviews which have resulted in the creation of flatter management structures.

**Question 53 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Please would the Cabinet Member for Environment explain why there has been no visible progress to clear the former petrol station on Brimsdown Avenue of its gypsy encampment?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

That's because legal action is only visible if you're in court. Please refer to question 38.

**Question 54 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Youth & Localism**

Please would the Cabinet Member update the chamber on when the upgrade of Southgate Leisure Centre will be finally completed?

**Reply from Councillor Charalambous**

In response to Councillor Laban's request for an update on the handover of Southgate Leisure Centre; the centre was handed over by the building contractor on Friday 26 October with an agreed list of outstanding snagging items. The centre is now fully open to the public. This is later than expected as there were a number of issues which delayed the project: This included the discovery of asbestos that was not known about, the construction of one of the original walls meant there were delays whilst it was supported before building work commenced and finally the Builders at the facility have been struggling to get the site clean enough to hand back in an acceptable condition to both the Council and Fusion Lifestyle. Once the builders hand the facility to Fusion there will be a short period of time before the building is operational and a further 3 - 4 weeks whilst snagging takes place, external landscaping is conducted and the removal of the temporary buildings is completed.

**Question 55 From Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Please would the Cabinet Member for Environment consider reopening Church Road in order to alleviate the dreadful traffic on South Street Ponders End that its closure has created?

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

No – Residents wanted it closed. We closed it!

### **Question 56 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

Please would the Cabinet Member explain the rationale behind the proposal to allow a secondary school in special measures to open primary school classes?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

Please see response to Question 35

### **Question 57 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Youth & Localism**

Many residents have contacted me about the Council's recent application for an entertainment license for events on Chase Green as they believe it would be inappropriate given the close proximity of the war memorial and homes for events to be held there. Please would the Cabinet Member explain further his department's plans for events on Chase Green?

### **Reply from Councillor Charalambous**

The Council is looking to develop more events and activities in and around its Parks and open spaces. One of the spaces identified for the development of the New River Festival is the Chase Green Site.

The Council is applying for a licence for this area so that the New River Festival 400th Anniversary event can be developed. The licence that has been applied for is a permanent licence so that repeat "one off" licences aren't required. Officers are looking to develop a New River festival proposal. Initial discussions centre around a Sunday but could include some build up and legacy. It will celebrate the River's heritage. We are looking to see if elements of poetry/photography/Story telling/ Biodiversity and a lasting built sculpture can be included. These proposals will be developed over the coming months.

### **Question 58 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Please would the Cabinet Member for Environment ensure that his department does everything possible in relation to scheduling the timing of pavements being dug up by utility companies as roads and pavements have been dug up twice as well as pavements in roads in close proximity to one another in a short space of time in my ward causing massive inconvenience to residents?

