

## **Section 1 Questions for Cabinet Members**

### **Question 1 from Councillor A M Pearce to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property**

Are there plans in motion, and do we have the money available, to start the new Palmers Green Library development?

#### **Reply from Councillor Stafford**

Details of the proposed works to Palmers Green Library and the budgeted cost were approved by Cabinet on 16 October 2013 and Full Council on 27 November 2013. There is a total of £4,455,000 in the capital programme agreed at Council on 26 February 2014.

Despite best attempts by David Burrowes MP to frustrate this project, it remains on track and on budget.

### **Question 2 from Councillor Orhan to Councillor Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Public Health**

Would the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Public Health provide feedback on Enfield Council's International Women's day event held last month which was on the theme of 'Inspiring Change'.

Would she also join me in congratulating all women involved in politics in Enfield and condemn the recent comments of David Burrowes MP's now former Parliamentary Assistant and Conservative Party election agent, Stewart Green, who reportedly said that he was sick of "these wretched women MPs who seem to be constantly going on about there not being enough women in frontline politics". He is also reported to have said that some feminist women "...need a good slap..." .

#### **Reply from Councillor Hamilton**

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on 8th March. It celebrates the social, political and economic achievements of women whilst indicating where further action is required. This year's event was organised by Public Health. The theme in Enfield was to celebrate successful and prominent women who were either born or lived in the borough. As part of the theme of inspiring change a focus was on women who were recognised for their achievements. Examples included:

Gladys Aylward (1902-1970) Christian Missionary

Elena Baltacha (1983- ) tennis player

Karren Brady (1969- ) business women, TV broadcaster

Charlotte Dujardin (1985- ) British dressage rider 2012 gold medal

Florence Dugdale (1879-1937) second wife of Thomas Hardy, writer

Joe Durie (1960- ) tennis player

Radclyffe Hall (1880-1943) author

Queenie Leavis (1906-1981) literary critic

Julia McKenzie (1941-) actress

Frances Perry (1907-1993) writer, Observer gardening correspondent

Flora Robson (1902-1984) actress

Stevie Smith (1902-1971) poet

Nancy Tait (1920-2009) campaigner on behalf of asbestosis sufferers

Speakers at the conference included women working in the not for profit sector, in Trading Standards, the Arts and who have been at the forefront of the prevention of domestic violence.

60 delegates attended the conference which also included young people's posters promoting positive messages. The event received positive coverage in both the Enfield Independent and [www.thisislondon.co.uk](http://www.thisislondon.co.uk).

I would absolutely join Councillor Orhan in congratulating all women in politics in Enfield and indeed the wider realm. As shown by our conference Enfield women have made a significant and positive contribution to people in Enfield and beyond. I agree that the comments of the former Conservative election agent can only be viewed with derision and urge that all politicians, male and female, join me in condemning such insulting comments.

### **Question 3 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

I note that Councillor Bond is cutting the support to friends of parks groups, so that there will be only 2 officers supporting 28 groups.

- Firstly will the Cabinet Member set out the reasons why he decided to reduce the number of parks officers supporting the friend's groups?
- Secondly given the value of the voluntary work put in by many park groups, particularly that of the group in my ward at Bury Lodge Gardens, will he rethink this decision and ensure that the groups continue to be supported at the same level?

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

The Friends of Parks Groups will continue to be an important part of the Council's drive to improve the public realm, and officers within the Public Realm Improvement Team will continue to work with the Friends Groups through the Partnership Agreement.

The Parks are safe in our hands and have seen increasing improvement under this administration.

I am sure Councillor Chamberlain will agree that this administration's investment of a further £2m in parks will only be good for our residents.

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

Would the Leader of the Council provide information on this Council administration's policies on improving Edmonton over the last 4 years?

Would he also provide his views on David Burrowes MP's now former Parliamentary Assistant and Conservative Party election agent, Stewart Green, who was quoted in the Enfield Gazette and Advertiser on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014, page 3, "Why pay for an entrance fee to London Zoo when one can just wander round Asda Edmonton and have exactly the same experiences?"

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

The Labour administration obviously does not hold Edmonton out as a second class part of the borough. But it is an area with higher deprivation than some other parts of the borough. Through investment and attention we have righted some of the failings of the previous Conservative administration.

The MP for Southgate must have gone through a selection process for his Parliamentary Assistant and Conservative Party Agent. His appointment, as reflected by these views, suggests an extremely poor decision. The remarks betray a deep seated disrespect of the residents of Edmonton and by inference do not serve the Conservative Party well.

For example Edmonton has benefited by the following actions and preparation for action –

- Restoration of the Crescent, a Grade II listed building and local landmark is nearing completion at a cost of £600k.
- A feasibility study and options appraisal, to support proposals for a positive future for Charity Hall, a listed building in the heart of the Church Street Conservation Area, was completed in 2013, for £13k.
- £100k investment programme in Edmonton Leisure Centre to provide state of the art facilities was completed in 2014.
- Restoration of the historic Millfield House and Millfield Theatre was completed in 2011 at a total cost of £2.6m.
- A new library opened in Millfield House in May 2012 at a cost of approximately £40k.
- A successful and vibrant Edmonton Festival has been held every year, at a cost of approximately £75k pa, attracting thousands of local residents and visitors.

- In Summer 2012, the Olympic Torch Procession culminated in Edmonton before continuing its journey to the Olympic Park.
- £250k has just been awarded by Sport England for initiatives to help tackle childhood obesity in parts of the borough including Edmonton.
- Edmonton Green Masterplan is being prepared. Consultation on Issues and Options took place in 2012.
- Improvements are underway to Salmons Brook and Montague Recreation Ground to reduce the risk of flooding. The work by the Environment Agency will also include environmental and wildlife improvements to Montagu recreation ground.
- Two new lifts are being installed at Edmonton Green Station. This will provide step-free access for both platforms, as well as improving the environment outside and inside the station and creating a step-free interchange between the train station, bus station and shopping centre.
- Improvements to Edmonton Green Town Centre; works include lighting the trees next to Edmonton Green station, planting new trees next to the Asda car park, better signage for the library, and lighting up the railway bridge tunnels at Bridge Road and Church Street have all been completed since 2012 – funded by Outer London Fund 1 (secured from Greater London Authority).
- Bounces Road/Montagu Road area has recently been awarded funding to set up a community improvement project.
- Shop Mobility - Shopmobility scheme in Enfield and Edmonton. With free loans of manual and powered wheelchairs to those with limited mobility, this service opens up the town centres to residents that may otherwise struggle to visit them.
- Window dressing and retailer training - Vision On, a retail skills training consultancy, was commissioned by Enfield Council to help local businesses increase their sales as part of the Council's continued dedication to supporting local businesses completed in 2012.
- Green Towers – refurbishment of Community Centre multipurpose fully accessible venue, now functioning 7 days per week as planned. Opened October 2012, total cost £1.3M
- Edmonton Green Shopping Centre South Mall – completed December 2011, complete refurbishment of the Mall with St Modwen, including new roofing, flooring lighting and shop fronts, £1M.
- Historic refurbished Edmonton Town Hall clock – installed in 2013, £25K.

- Craig Park Youth Centre – Unity Hub £3M lottery and S106 – bespoke youth hub including café, cycle facilities, climbing wall ICT suite and recording and dance studios – opened in 2013.
- Montagu Recreation Pavilion – refurbishment of community facility to provide gym, boxing training facilities and community.
- Residents Priority Fund accessed to install ICT facilities in the Shires Estate in the basement of Shropshire House - £20K.
- Series of initiatives to fund Jobsnet – in-house Job Brokerage Service employability support from Edmonton Green, Fore Street libraries and Internet at 31 South Mall; Enfield Summer Workout one month paid work experience for Enfield Young People, Pre-apprenticeships programme, Young People into local small businesses, mentorship for disadvantaged communities – support for the Future Jobs Fund – over 3,000 local people supported towards work and training of which a large majority come from N9 and N18 areas – funded by European Social Fund, Working Neighbourhood Fund and Department for Work and Pensions as well as Council core funding - over £1m spent.
- Regular Job Fairs have been run in Edmonton Leisure Centre bringing local job-seeking residents in contact with employers offering vacancies and highlighting training and apprenticeships opportunities.
- Bountagu – community initiative funded by Lottery to target Montagu Road, Bounces Road estate and Barrowfield Estate - £1m over 10 years from 2012, shop front made available as community hub, now open 7 days per week for the community.
- Active Area Partnerships to bring key stakeholders to drive forward major regeneration of Meridian Water and Edmonton Green Town Centre. Edmonton Green Neighbourhood Panel was set up in January 2012 and continues to meet every 2 months with active engagement with local representatives.
- Upper Edmonton Improving Life Expectancy Programme – led by Public Health, initiated 2013 in response to worsening health outcomes for resident in Upper Edmonton.
- Pop up art installations in Edmonton Green Shopping Centre in partnership with St Modwen.
- Food event held in Edmonton Green to promote healthy eating through Council's Food Strategy - January 2012 partnership event with Southgate College, North London Chamber of Commerce.
- Free and subsidised community space is now available at the Ark in Claverings and the Angel Community Centre – hot-desking facility at Community House for small community groups.

- Closer partnership working to increase expertise and local knowledge for Department for Work and Pensions advisors in Edmonton Fore Street Job Centre for benefit claimants resident in Lower Edmonton, Upper Edmonton, Edmonton Green and Haselbury wards to enable customers to overcome barriers to employment (eg: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), poor mental health, lone parenthood).

**Question 5 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property**

In your reply to Question 41 at the Council meeting on 27 March 2013, you stated that appointments to register deaths are offered within five days, which does not match my experience of registration. Can you now provide figures showing the average number of days wait between the date of death and registration for each month in 2013.

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

Enfield's Registration Service currently offers same day appointments for the registration of deaths. The General Register Office's Key Performance Indicator (KPI) is to achieve 95% within two working days of the request, which is being achieved for requests made to the service. This has been achieved throughout 2013/2014.

Councillor Chamberlain may wish to note that when a person passes away, the death is sometimes referred to the Coroner before the next of kin or the family can register the death. Registrars are only able to register deaths where a medical certificate has been presented and, in cases where the Coroner has been involved, the relevant form has been issued to the individual registering the death. The authority has no control over the timing of when a Coroner issues the certificates and this does result in requests being made by informants outside of the KPI target.

Once a medical certificate (and where applicable a Coroner's form) has been issued and a person wishes to register the death, they are able to book an appointment through the Customer Services Department, usually on the same day or at the latest, the following day.

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

The body which represents London's 32 Councils warned last year of the impending shortfall of school places and called on the Government at the time to provide the much needed funding for Councils to meet this shortfall.

Councillor Orhan, can you tell this Council if the Conservative led Government provided this much needed capital funding for Enfield to build and or to expand school places?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

Last year's warning came very late in the day and I am proud to be able to say that this Labour Council saw the impending shortfall as early as 2010/11 and have developed a strategy and found the resources in spite of the Government's slow response and inadequate funding.

The money we have received from the Government has not met the need and we have already put considerable additional funds to the pupil expansion projects, and we will continue to prioritise these projects until we have schools that we can all be proud of.

Our capital programme shows that over a 7 year period from 2010/11 we will have invested £155m increasing the capacity within our primary schools. Of this £116m will be funded by various government grants (Basic Needs, Targeted Basic Needs and Maintenance) that have been allocated to Enfield. This means that the remaining balance of £39m has had to be found from the Council's own resources in order to ensure that the required places are provided.

**Question 7 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property**

Further to Council Question 41 from last March 2013, I also asked that the Cabinet member undertake a review into the death registration arrangements?

Will he now answer the question he failed to reply to then, as he surely has had enough time to ponder it?

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

In May 2013, changes were made to the management arrangements in Registration Services, which has delivered improvements to the entire service, not just in respect of the registration of deaths.

Enfield now compares extremely favourably to neighbouring authorities, as identified below:

Registering a Death in:

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| Enfield          | - | Same Day Appointment                            |
| Barnet Burnt Oak | - | Next Day  |
| Barnet Whetstone | - | 4 working days                                  |
| Brent            | - | Next working day                                |
| Haringey         | - | Next working day (only register 2 deaths a day) |

I see no need for a review, and, indeed, congratulate the Registrars for the work they do, the quality of service they offer and the steps being taken to improve things further.

**Question 8 from Councillor Robinson to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

What steps are being taken to improve traffic flow and combat speeding in Chase ward and what representations have you received from ward councillors on this matter?

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

As part of our programme to introduce 20 mph speed limits around our schools we recently erected electronic signs on Theobalds Park Road. Once UK Power Networks have provided the electrical connection, these signs will allow us to impose a 20 mph speed limit at school times only. This scheme was introduced at the request of St John's Primary School and supported by Councillor Tom Waterhouse.

We are also proposing to reduce the speed limit on The Ridgeway, between Botany Bay and the border with Hertsmere, from 60 mph to 50. This will help to improve safety on this road which has seen a number of high speed collisions in recent years, including a fatal collision last year. Statutory consultation on the traffic management order needed for this change will begin next month.

#### **Question 9 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property**

Can you now provide figures showing the average number of days wait between the date of death and registration for each month in 2013 for members of communities with religious burial requirements requiring burial within days of death?

#### **Reply from Councillor Stafford**

There is no statistical information available as to which appointments are from Members of religious communities. Green certificates (authorising a burial but not a cremation) are issued by the Registrars for Muslim and Jewish burials as drop-ins each day. These families are not expected to make an appointment.

A Sunday service is provided specifically for burials that, for religious reasons, need to take place within 24 hours of the death. Registrars on Sunday duty are called most weekends to issue Green Certificates. The actual death can be registered up to a week later (normally at the choice of the informant) as in these cases the urgency is for the burial to take place within 24 hours, not for the death to be registered.

I, along with the Assistant Director of Legal Services, Asmat Hussain, met with several Members of the faith communities with regards to the services we provide, and there were no complaints or concerns raised, but only praise. The Registrars team has also met (and will continue to meet) with representatives of faith communities, including Palmers Green Mosque, Edmonton Mosque, Ponders End Mosque and the Sikh Temple. The Service also maintains close links with local churches.

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

Can the Cabinet Member give an update on the mini Holland bid?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

I'm delighted to inform you that after a very competitive bidding process Enfield has been successful in attracting some £30m of funding to transform cycling in our borough.

**Question 11 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

Will the Cabinet Member confirm the number, dates and schools she has visited as Cabinet Member since January 2013?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

I confirm I have been to 10 different schools since January 2013 as follows:-

**Primary**

Brimsdown – 1.07.13  
George Spicer - 13.05.13  
Worcesters – 12.02.14

**Secondary**

St. Michael's Church of England – 28.06.14  
Chace Community – 10.06.13  
Edmonton County (all-through) – 7.10.13 and 27.01.14  
Lea Valley High School – 21.03.13, 16.04.13 and 1.04.14  
Southgate School – 19.04.14  
St. Anne's Catholic High School – 19.4.14

**Academies**

Oasis Academy Hadley (all-through) – 1.02.13

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

Can the Cabinet Member tell this Council how many members does the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor now have?

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

The Consortium's current Membership is:

- Cambridgeshire, Essex County Councils
- Greater London Authority
- London Boroughs of Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest
- Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council and Peterborough City Council

- Borough of Broxbourne
- East Herts, Epping Forest, Harlow, Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire and Uttlesford District Councils
- Anglia Ruskin University
- The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
- The London Legacy Development Corporation
- Colleges of further education which are based within the corridor
- Higher education institutions which are mainly based within the corridor

**Question 13 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Public Health**

Can the Cabinet Member set out the addresses of locations which are part of the Community Help Point scheme, including the number of staff currently trained and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checked, as well as the year the location joined the scheme, particularly as part of the recently announced expansion.

Furthermore, if any exist, can she set out locations which are no longer part of the scheme and the reason why they have withdrawn?

**Reply from Councillor Hamilton**

We are not able to provide at this time the information about every individual but can confirm that the controller in all cases is trained and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checked.

Details about when each of the help points joined the scheme, is also not available, nor any sites which might have withdrawn, but we can demonstrate the recent expansion of the schemes and provide maps to demonstrate the spread of these sites across the borough. Further information on the CHiPs points in the Borough has been attached in Appendix A.

**Question 14 from Councillor Anolue to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property**

Can Councillor Stafford please give details as to how the algae problem in the waterways at the front of the Civic Centre has been so effectively dealt with?

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

The waterway at the front of the Civic Centre has been treated with a product called Bio Chela Clear. This works effectively, is cost effective and is not tested on animals.

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

Will the Cabinet Member undertake to supply chairs for the public at Remembrance Services where the location permits?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

Wherever possible we will be working closely with event organisers to make sure adequate seating is provided at any such service.

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

Councillor Neville appeared at the last meeting to be clear that a future Conservative administration would look to outsource posts to outside Enfield. Is Councillor Stafford of the view that this is their policy and what would the net loss to Enfield residents be of such a decision in terms of loss of employment and impact on local businesses of loss of spending power?

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

Based on what Councillor Neville said at the last Council meeting, I do indeed believe this is the Conservative policy. Such a step would be catastrophic to the local economy. Welfare reform changes have already seen nearly £100m taken out of the local economy, much of which would have been spent with local businesses. Outsourcing 500 jobs to other parts of the country would be similarly devastating. The Council is the largest employer in the borough, and I am proud to be the Cabinet member for Human Resources, as we clearly have a very loyal and highly skilled workforce. We know there are tough choices to be made, and we will work with the workforce to ensure that the impact is minimised, for both the staff and our customers. Outsourcing would have completely the opposite effect. Moving 500 jobs to another part of the country would remove between £10m and £15m per year from our local shops and businesses, whilst saving the Council a much smaller sum. Whichever way you look at it, this short term expediency would damage the Borough for much longer, and is not something this Administration supports.

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

Will the Cabinet Member for Environment join with me in thanking the Mayor of London for the recent announcement that Enfield was one of the successful Mini Holland boroughs?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

As the Mayor himself said at the announcement he had “nothing to do with the decision”. I would like to thank him for keeping politics out of the decision and basing the awards purely on merit.

**Question 18 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

Most recently the BBC reported on the London Government Association (LGA) analysis of official figures which suggested that 80,716 new secondary places will be required by 2019-20 to meet the acute shortages in London.

Councillor Orhan, as the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, can you

tell this Council how your department has made Enfield ready to meet this shameful situation caused by the Conservative led Government?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

We started to plan our secondary place strategy as soon as we could see the huge rise in Reception age pupils coming through our schools. I have to say, our strategy has been severely affected by the lack of investment from this Government in our existing secondary schools and the almost total reduction in capital funds for repairs and maintenance.

We are passionate about the need for excellent schools to raise standards for our young people and are rightly proud of the ongoing improvements to our results at Key Stage 4 and 5.

Our strategy has ensured we have made use of all available avenues for additional places. This has meant that we already have 2 new secondary free schools open in the Borough ready to admit children year on year and we are working with a third that will be ready to open in the near future with more possible bids in the pipeline.

In addition to this we have continued to work with all our secondary Headteachers to explore the possibility of expanding our existing schools should this Government provide the much needed resource through our basic need allocation.

### **Question 19 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Will the Cabinet Member for Environment join me in thanking the Officer Team for their hard work on the successful Mini Holland bid?

### **Reply Councillor Bond**

I would certainly like to join you in thanking the Officer Team for their hard work and congratulate them on the quality of our successful Mini Holland bid.

### **Question 20 from Councillor Murphy to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing**

Tenancy fraud in Enfield Council Housing threatens to deprive families of a secure place to live. Can Councillor Oykener please tell us what the Council is doing about this and what the Council's targets are for repossessing these homes?

### **Reply from Councillor Oykener**

I agree that tenancy fraud needs to be stopped in order that those applicants in real housing need can be assisted. In 2013 a new Housing Tenancy Fraud Team was formed, working jointly across Enfield Council and Enfield Homes, with a Tenancy Fraud Manager and four Investigators. The team is funded from Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) grant and a contribution from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). In 2012/13 42 properties were repossessed

following investigation. This year we have recovered 60 properties despite the team only being fully in place since November 2013. Next year our target is to repossess 75 properties for use by families in need of a home.

In 2010 the Audit Commission estimated that Local Authorities saved £18,000 per property recovered, so this year that is in excess of £1m in savings.

**Question 21 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Will the Cabinet Member for Environment reaffirm his pledge to consult with residents and businesses on the Mini Holland proposals?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

It has always been our intention to consult fully and widely on our Mini Holland proposals.

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People inform the Council how much money has been allocated to replace the aging kitchen at Brimsdown School?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

I am glad that you have asked me this question as it gives me the opportunity to comment, firstly, on the Government's decision to offer all infant age pupils Free School Meals (FSM) without having any apparent understanding of the current state of schools' kitchens across the country and the inadequacy of funds they have allocated Local Authorities to make alterations and bring the kitchens up to a standard where they can cope with the increase in numbers. It also allows me to repeat this Administration's commitment to building and developing schools we can be proud of.

Brimsdown Primary School is an excellent example. As a result of the reduction in capital funding from the Government for repairs and maintenance, we have some schools that are in great need of alteration and support. Councillors will be aware of the Cabinet Report (12.03.14) regarding the school's current situation and I am proud to be able to commit £3 million needed to provide new facilities for the school that can be used for the benefit of the school now and for any future development that may be needed.

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

Will the Cabinet Member for Environment acknowledge that the Mini Holland stakeholder consultation prior to submission was far too narrow and it is therefore imperative that Enfield Council consults more widely going forward?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

It has always been our intention to consult fully and widely on our Mini Holland proposals.

**Question 24 from Councillor Keazor to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing**

It is noted that the unsightly view of satellite dishes on council homes in Fore Street Estate has been removed. How has this been achieved and what is Councillor Oykener's view on this?

**Reply from Councillor Oykener**

The Decent Homes project at Fore Street, Edmonton, included works to 17 Blocks with a total of 275 properties. The works included, new windows, secure by design flat entrance doors, new communal screens with clear glazing enhancing visibility and security, flat roof renewals, pitched roof repairs, balcony/ walkway repairs, new fascia's and soffits, communal lighting upgrades, external and communal area repairs and redecorations.

Fore Street is in a designated Conservation area and Planning Officers were very keen to maintain slim window profiles, hence the use of powder coated aluminium windows on this project. The planners were also keen to see the removal of the overwhelming number of satellite dishes from the blocks, as many of these were causing damage to the fabric of the buildings and restricting views for residents.

Fore Street was therefore selected to pilot the first installation of an enhanced IRS system that includes: Freeview TV , DAB Radio, Top Up TV and Satellite Television services including: Sky Plus / High Definition, Free sat, Hot bird & Turk sat. Resident liaison during the transition from dishes to the new system was paramount and effectively carried out with minimal disruption to the residents. The removal and reduction of satellite dishes has greatly enhanced the appearance of the blocks and the estate as a whole.

Overall resident satisfaction with the major works is high. Officers are currently preparing to carry out a separate survey to gauge further feedback on the residents experience with the new IRS system in the next 2/3 months.

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

The businesses of Enfield Town are concerned that the Mini Holland submission proposals will have a negative impact on the High Street and Town Centre. Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment meet with the businesses to reassure them that Enfield Council does not wish to waste this money and that the objective is to work with the businesses not against them?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

We have already met with Enfield Town Business Association and assured them that one of the aims of our proposals is to revitalise Enfield Town and fully consult.

## **Question 26 from Councillor Ibrahim to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

Councillor Orhan, I have read the recent 5 point plan issued by the LGA calling on the Conservative led Government to give councils the power to deliver school places in readiness to children needing secondary school places in 2015 and beyond.

I am of course referring to the fact that currently any free school can open anywhere in Enfield and on its borders and the problems this might cause namely:

1. Government wasting public money building new schools in areas lacking demand.
2. Negative impact on existing schools, especially where they may face reduced funding due to a drop in their student roll.
3. Huge displacement of existing schools and a development of a two tier education system.
4. Shortage of school places where there is a growing/evidence based demand.
5. Children having to travel further and longer.

Councillor Orhan, are you supportive of the thinking that local councils should have the power to decide the location of a school, to support the councils place planning duties, and to ensure that schools are not built in areas where they are not needed?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

I would like to thank Councillor Ibrahim for raising the problems that we are facing in Enfield as a result of the Government's lack of a coherent strategy for meeting the need for pupil places.

In Enfield we have worked really hard and effectively to identify need using all available data, we have developed an effective strategy to meet need for our primary pupils by working with all our partners, schools, Academies and Trusts, and I am determined that we will never be in a position where we do not have enough places for our Reception age pupils.

We need to have the power to implement our strategy and not see it undermined and the future achievement of Enfield's children put at risk.

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

Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment inform certain residents of Cecil Road that their homes will not be compulsory purchased as a result of Enfield being successful with its Mini Holland bid?

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

Our Mini Holland proposals have never included plans to compulsory purchase any properties.

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

Councillor Orhan the Local Government Association (LGA)'s report 'Councils Role in School Place Planning' calls on the Conservative led Government to give councils the funding to deliver school places, in particular it calls on the Government to 'restore decision-making on the provision of new schools to local level, as it was prior to the Academies Act 2011'.

Councillor Orhan, if the Government was to listen and to act on the recommendations issued by this highly respected body, would you welcome it?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

In response to Councillor Simbodyal, I would absolutely welcome the recommendation from the Local Government Association (LGA) and I would like to thank you for highlighting the problems that we are facing in Enfield. Can I also refer you to my answer in Question 26 above.

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

Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment give an update on the Palace Gardens Car Park problem regarding visitors having to leave the car park completely and re-enter it if they need to go from the lower level floor to the higher levels in order to park their cars?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

We expect to have a definitive position by the end of April 2014.

**Question 30 from Councillor Brett to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Would the Leader of the Council inform members of the Council's ambitious plans to turn Enfield into the garden of London?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

This response is in addition to previous reports given to Council. Enfield Council officially launched Garden Enfield at City Hall on 5 March, its market gardening project which aims to combine community growing with large scale food production to create 1,200 jobs and generate income. The ambitious project is being supported by the Mayor's Regeneration Fund.

The event attracted 90 attendees from a wide variety of organisations and was very well received. The programme featured an impressive array of speakers including Councillor Del Goddard, Rosie Boycott, Chair of the London Food Board; Rob Leak; Gary Taylor, Lee Valley Growers Association; Steve Dowbiggin, Principal, Capel Manor College; Julie Brown from Growing Communities; Julia Clarke from Prince of Wales School; Kate McGeevor from Forty Hall Farm and myself. Topics covered

included the broad spectrum of food growing from the large scale commercial growing perspective to community growing projects to growing food in schools.

To date, the project has established 3 acres of land set for organic vegetables growing at Forty Hall Farm, helped 10 schools start growing their own vegetables for school dinners and learning to cook and reaching over 270 children so far, and there are plans for another 15 schools to join the scheme later this year.

The project has also set up the Enfield Veg Co., and vegetable box scheme, serving 30 customers a week 50 weeks of the year, with ambitious plans for expansion to 120 customers by 2015. The Council will form a Community Interest Company as a social enterprise that will act as the business vehicle for the scheme.

Rosie Boycott, Chair of London Food and the Mayor of London's food advisor was quoted as saying 'Garden Enfield is cultivating not only jobs and economic opportunities in Enfield, but is set to provide fresh, home grown and healthy food for Londoners. The Mayor is impressed with the ambition of this exciting project which is why he is ploughing £600,000 from his regeneration fund into the scheme.'

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

Will the Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration explain what outcomes, if any, were achieved by his attendance at MIPIM (Le marché international des professionnels de l'immobilier)?

### **Reply from Councillor Goddard**

I fully understand that as Councillor Laban has not attended MIPIM and has not spoken to the Mayor of London about his views on the subject, that she is unaware of how MIPIM works.

This annual political knockabout (in Enfield and elsewhere) was commented on by the Mayor of London (with 5 officers and Deputy Mayor present) in his opening of the London Pavilion and Main Hall speech, when he congratulated those present from the commercial and public sector world for contributing to the international showcasing of the World's greatest city and confronting the nimbys that abound.

Outcomes are as follows:

- Raises the profile of Enfield in the London Pavilion along with the GLA (Greater London Assembly and 9 other London Authorities and many other organisations).
- Informs the delegates of current issues via the massive programme of talks and seminars in the London Pavilion and in the main halls.
- Establishes contact with a range of potential investors at a senior level through prearranged meetings and informal meetings arranged there that together explains the intentions of the Borough. These are then followed up in Enfield.
- Enables very substantial networking to take place in a less formal setting.

### **Question 32 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can the Cabinet Member advise the Council of what steps his department are taking to manage flood risk to protect residents and businesses in Enfield?

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

This is the subject of a comprehensive report that will be presented to Cabinet on 9 April 2014 describing the wide range of actions that the Council is undertaking, which have previously been set out in Enfield's Surface Water Management Plan. Key themes include routine and reactive maintenance, emergency planning arrangements, planning policy and development management, and programmed flood management works. We work with a range of partners to deliver these actions, including the Environment Agency and Thames Water.

In particular, we have a programme of cleaning road gullies and ditches, and removing silt and debris from high risk locations. We receive alerts when there is a potential risk of flooding and have emergency planning procedures in place, including inspecting some high risk locations using CCTV. We have included new requirements on developers for the management of flood water within our Development Management Document, including the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). We are leading by example and have a number of SUDS schemes that we are installing across the borough, such as at Pymmes Park. We have attracted considerable extra funding from DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), as a result of our in-house expertise and, in addition to funding for our responsibility as a Lead Local Flood Risk Authority, we have attracted an extra £366k over two years to develop solutions to 'Critical Drainage Areas' in the borough.

### **Question 33 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

Will the Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration inform the chamber of the number of investors he managed to get for the borough as a result of his time in the South of France?

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

I am sure that most Members of the Council understand that conferences do not make contracts but brief potential and current investors and agents about the intentions of Enfield. These are then followed up in the Borough. MIPIM is also used to strengthen existing arrangements with those already investing in the Borough as well as brief those that are interested. During the conference I had 20 pre-arranged meetings and several discussions.

Given all of this was at no cost to Enfield, I believe this is extremely good value for money.

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

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on Commonwealth Day?

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

Commonwealth Day took place nationally on Monday 10 March 2014.

Local authorities up and down the country, supported by HM the Queen, were encouraged to “Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth”

I am pleased to announce that we in Enfield organised a very successful “Fly a flag for the Commonwealth” event, hosted by our Mayor, Councillor Chaudhury Anwar, and attended by local representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector, including Enfield Racial Equality Council (EREC), the Greek and Greek Cypriot Community of Enfield (G&GCCE), and the Royal British Legion (RBL), among others.

I am also very pleased to report that we had participation from the following Commonwealth High Commission Offices that reflect key communities in Enfield:

- Jamaican High Commission
- Ghanaian High Commission
- Kenyan High Commission

Unfortunately the Bangladeshi High Commission, although having accepted our invitation were not able to attend on the Day.

I am also pleased to say that we had eight of my fellow councillors in attendance; the opposition was represented by Councillor Jukes.

The Ghanaian High Commission representatives came back on Thursday 13 March 2014 with a delegation that was over from Ghana to look at how we work as a local authority and involve local communities in decision making.

The day went very well and we raised the flag outside the Civic Centre at 10am, we then retired to the Mayor’s Parlour for a series of short speeches, reflecting on the values of the Commonwealth Charter including the values we hold dear, such as democracy, human rights and respect for women and young people.

Commonwealth Day is an annual event celebrated across the 53 nations that make the Commonwealth, and I personally look forward to next year when we can involve our young people through local schools, working towards uniting our nations and communities in common values and promoting active citizenship.

**Question 35 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

Please could the Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration set out how much in detail the recent event at Home House cost the tax payer?

### **Reply from Councillor Goddard**

None. As Councillor Laban knows already from her presence at the event, the answer is that it was fully sponsored, and judging by the turnout of nearly 100, well regarded by the growing group of people who support the Borough in its programme of regeneration.

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

Can the Cabinet Member advise the Council on how his department are to deal with the problem of potholes in Enfield and does he think the Mayor of London can assist?

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

Enfield has an established highway inspection regime in place whereby all principal roads (A class roads) are inspected every month and all other roads every 6 months. Any potholes or other defects that exceed our agreed intervention levels are passed to our Highway Contractor to repair. These arrangements are set out in our Highway Maintenance Plan approved by this Council.

We are very aware of the damage that extreme weather conditions can cause to our roads due to penetration of heavy rain or freezing conditions and, as well as repairing potholes through reactive repairs, I have just agreed a programme of carriageway resurfacing schemes totalling £4.5m as part of our annual Borough Capital Programme for Highway Maintenance. This sustained level of investment is a fundamental aspect of our highway asset management framework.

Currently the Mayor of London provides funding for carriageway resurfacing on principal roads only, and Enfield has been fortunate to receive approximately £1m in 2014/15 for this. However I will be writing to the Mayor to raise the need for maintenance funding to be extended to local roads throughout London, particularly as this will benefit local users including cyclists.

You may also be aware that the Chancellor has recently announced an additional £200m for road maintenance across the UK to repair potholes on top of an earlier announcement of £140m to repair damaged roads arising from this winter's extremely wet weather. I anticipate that this funding will be allocated to London Boroughs through the Mayor.

### **Question 37 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

Please could the Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration set out how much the New Directions work has cost the Council including member and officer visits to conferences?

### **Reply from Councillor Goddard**

The direct delivery costs of the New Directions Project for the Council to date are £23,859. This includes relevant costs of attending related conferences by Councillors and officers. This also includes external critical advice costs and research project costs, which in turn has helped analyse the Socio economic context in Enfield. This figure also includes a contribution to the North London Chamber of Commerce, assisting them in developing “A New Economic Story for Enfield”. New Directions work has assisted in delivering the innovative new partnership with British Gas using local people and local firms to insulate Enfield homes. It has worked to promote and develop the Market Gardening Project. It has hosted a conference to look at improving access to finances for local firms. It has improved the way the Council approaches supply chain procurement. It has developed innovative opportunities to increase ways to finance business growth in the Borough, all with the aim of increasing sustainable jobs in Enfield.

**Question 38 from Councillor Savva to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Youth and Localism**

Can the Cabinet Member tell the Council “What are the plans for our museums to commemorate the First World War”?

**Reply from Councillor Charalambous**

- Cityread Promotion in April: library displays and activities based around World War 1 (WW1) themes books – this is a Pan London activity. The featured book is Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo – the first children’s book highlighted by Cityreads.
- The ‘Enfield at War: 1914-1918’ exhibition in the Museum space in the Dugdale Centre launch event 27th March exhibition opens 28th March 2014 – 11th January 2015.
- Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) project ‘Enfield at War 1914–1945’ digitisation of Local Studies WW1 photographs, interactive maps, project packs for schools and a WW1 study day in September.

**Question 39 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Like most residents I received my council tax bill with the accompanying explanatory leaflet. I noticed that unlike the Mayor of London’s statement at the end of the leaflet, Enfield’s statement said nothing explicitly about the amount of grant and support funding this council receives from the Conservative led coalition.

Can the Leader explain why this is so and, does he not agree that the leaflet is lacking in transparency?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

As Councillor Neville knows, Local Government Finance (LGF) is a complex arrangement of Council tax (including the new local Council tax local support

scheme and housing benefits), business rates and government grant. The Government is constantly changing the LGF arrangements; for example merging Council Tax Freeze into Revenue Support Grant or cutting Revenue Support Grant whilst increasing other grants such as the New Homes Bonus. This makes the grant figures a moving feast which is often misleading without the support of long and detailed technical explanations (which are not the place of the tax booklet). We have therefore decided to focus the leaflet on the key issues facing the Council such as the mix of services provided shown in a chart of page 6 and the big changes in the budget as shown on page 13.

Should residents or businesses want more information, they can access it via the Council Web Site where more detail is available.

I would point out that whilst the GLA (Greater London Authority) quote grant figures this is of little use without the context as to how much of the grant funds each of the police, fire, Transport for London and GLA services and how that relates to council tax and local business rates paid by taxpayers (including of course the extra 2p levied on London and Enfield's business to meet the cost of Cross Rail).

**Question 40 from Councillor Ekechi to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing**

Right to Buy sales of Council Homes are exploding in the light of the increased subsidy offered by Central Government. Can Councillor Oykener tell the Council what is the overall social and financial price being paid by the Council and its tenants?

**Reply from Councillor Oykener**

The fact is we have lost 50% of Enfield's Council housing stock since Right to Buy was introduced in 1981. This has had a huge impact on the number of families that we have had to place in temporary accommodation, at great expense, over the years. Since the discounts were increased to up to £100,000, sales have risen from 7 two years ago, to approximately 90 this year. It is estimated that about half these sales are subsequently let in the private rented sector and this means large numbers of private sector tenants on our estates have no real stake in the community. The financial cost of this policy is not borne by the Government but wholly by the rent payers of Enfield. Tenants have a reasonable expectation that their rent should be used to maintain their homes and manage their tenancy.

The cost to Enfield's HRA (Housing Revenue Account) is £7 million this year.

**Question 41 from Councillor Vince to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

I note that the School Lettings Service is now closing. I am curious to learn that hirers from as long ago as 2011 are now receiving bills with four figure sums for their hire.

Can she explain why such amounts were allowed to remain uncollected to the present time and can she tell the Council how much money is outstanding in total from school lettings?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

Councillor Vince is correct in the fact that Schools & Children's Services are no longer offering a Lettings Service for schools from April 2014, and we are now in the process of implementing the close down plan for this service and supporting schools through the process.

Councillor Vince will also know that, due to the staffing issues in this service, we have concentrated on current requirements in terms of issuing invoices and processing payments to schools. Now that the service is ending, we are naturally ensuring that any historic debts have been followed up.

I have asked officers to look into any that may have gone back to before the current staffing changes. It does appear that in the past we did offer some groups the option of paying in instalments as a supportive gesture and that, in this case, there were some lapses in payment.

I would urge all Councillors to encourage these groups that they are connected with to ensure that these debts are paid so that the service can give the schools any monies that are owed.

I would also like to assure Councillors that the service will continue to operate through to the end of June 2014 to ensure an effective close down period.

I confirm the total outstanding in the Lettings Service is £150k, the majority of which is the usual quarterly amount, very little is from old debt.

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

Can the Cabinet Member advise the Council how the Bus Review is progressing in Enfield?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

The Enfield Bus Review was submitted to Isabel Dedring, the Deputy Mayor for Transport, before Christmas and I would again like to thank the Enfield Transport User Group for the hard work that went into developing their proposals. These were formulated following extensive consultation with elected Members, an open invitation to contribute to the review in the local press and several well attended public meeting. I was therefore surprised and disappointed to learn that Victoria Borwick, the Deputy Mayor, was critical of the review and the "minimal consultation" that she seems to have been told was carried out.

Councillor Levy and I have recently met with senior officers from both Isabel Dedring's office and London Buses to agree the next steps in the review and I am

pleased to report that they are committed to work with us to try and improve bus services in Enfield. Our review included many proposals and we have agreed with Transport for London (TfL) to focus initially on bus access to health services in the borough, which is particularly important in the light of the recent hospital reorganisation. In addition to this, TfL are working closely with us on the long-term planning of Meridian Water, North East Enfield and other regeneration priority areas to ensure that bus service can be shaped to serve the future needs of both residents and businesses.

I was surprised that no Conservative Councillor attended our last meeting to discuss this review with TfL (Public Transport Consultative Group (PTCG) on 13 March 14).

**Question 43 from Councillor Hurer to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment:**

- 1 How many PCN's (Penalty Charge Notices) have been issued over the last 4 years (per annum breakdown) by fixed CCTV cameras in Enfield and how much has this raised?
- 2 How many PCN's have been issued over the last 4 years (per annum breakdown) by the mobile CCTV camera car in Enfield and how much has this raised?
- 3 How many appeals against PCN notices have been made by drivers over the last 4 years (per annum breakdown) and what percentage have been successful?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

1. 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011- 28703 - £411,288.90

(The figures for 2010-11 start from when the Council changed its IT system. Previous figures from old IT system were incorporated in other PCN information)

1st April 2011 to 31 March 2012 – 29,153 PCN's (£1,233,126)

1st April 2012 to 31 March 2013 – 29,090 PCN's (£1,284,890)

1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31 January 2014 – 24,294 PCN's (£1,160,850)

2. 1st April 2010 to 31 March 2011-10,531 PCN's (£223,533)

(The figures for 2010-11 start from when the Council changed its IT system. Previous figures from old IT system were incorporated in other PCN information)

1st April 2011 to 31 March 2012-8,903 PCN's (£400,911)

1st April 2012 to 31 March 2013-12,569 PCN's (£597,439)

1st April 2013 to 31 January 2014-14,918 PCN's (£752,131)

3.

| Year            | Total PCNs Issued | Appeals received in a financial year | % Appeals Successful by motorists |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2010-11         | 85426             | 797                                  | 28%                               |
| 2011-12         | 86883             | 514                                  | 31%                               |
| 2012-13         | 84350             | 499                                  | 30%                               |
| 2013-31 January | 79287             | Data not yet available               | Data not yet available            |

\*The appeals received in each year do not necessarily relate to Penalty Charge Notices issued in the same year. For example an appeal received on 1<sup>st</sup> April will relate to a PCN issued in a previous year.

**Question 44 from Councillor Simbodyal to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

Councillor Orhan has made much about the withdrawal of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) funding in 2010-11: Will Councillor Orhan tell this Council if she will support the reinstatement of the BSF program, which was a capital program for rebuilding secondary and primary schools introduced by the last Labour Government?

Will she also remind this Council how much Enfield lost when the BSF was scrapped by the Conservative led government when it came to power in 2010?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

We definitely need the capital investment in our secondary schools and I will support the need to build the best schools for the future for our children. I can see the impact on Enfield following the end of BSF and several of our schools lost the opportunity to improve and modernise their provision. This is now urgently needed.

The money we were to receive in the initial phase was for £110 million and I have to remind colleagues this was not to provide core places but to make our schools fit for purpose and give the excellent provision our children need.

**Question 45 from Councillor Hurer to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing**

Will the Council be paying to itself the fee due for each property it owns under the proposed landlord registration scheme?

**Reply from Councillor Oykener**

The Council is currently considering implementing additional and selective licensing across the borough. The Council already self regulates through the HRA (Housing Revenue Account).

**Question 46 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

Can the Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration advise the council on the consultation he is undertaking to improve town centres and shopping areas in the borough?

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

The future of town centres is a major topic that is being taken up in a variety of planning policy documents that are and will be consulted on this year. As a first step a consultation document has been drawn up on the future management of town centres and how to take this forward. The document is out for consultation between 10 March and 11 April 2014 and was presented to the Strategic Business Forum in February 2014. The importance of Enfield's town centres to the people that they serve, be they local residents, visitors or tourists cannot be over-stated.

The Further Alterations to the London Plan published by the Mayor for consultation in January 2014 highlights the long term challenges facing different aspects of conventional retailing and the implications of these for the traditional role of town centres. The growth in floorspace for comparison goods is predicted to slow as shopping habits change, including greater use of the internet. Through its Local Plan the Council will need to plan for the changing nature and role of the borough's main town centres.

Over recent years a lot of really excellent work has already taken place on town centre management in Enfield's town centres, making them welcoming places that people want to return to time and time again. We should all take pride in what has been achieved. The Town Centre Management Framework looks to give even more support to our town centres as we move forward and to help further improve their offer with a view to ensuring their continued success, viability and vitality, as their roles evolve, but focuses on their management.

The document is a useful reference point for all those interested or involved in the management of Enfield's Town Centres. The aim of the document is to provide guidance on the management of our town centres going forward and to encourage and enable all those involved in town centre management, be they in the private, voluntary or public sectors to produce Action Plans in the future, as they see appropriate.

The consultation is being promoted through leaflets to retailers and high street businesses. Details of the consultation can be found on the Council's website, Facebook, love your doorstep and business partner websites. Leaflets and emails promoting the consultation have also been sent to Libraries, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), stakeholders, businesses resident forums and advisory groups. All comments and observations will be carefully considered and will inform

the proposed final shape of the document. Consultation closes at 5pm on Friday 11th April 2014.

**Question 47 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The surface of Peartree Road in Town Ward is crumbling. Please would the Cabinet Member for Environment consider this road for resurfacing?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

I have already considered the condition of Peartree Road and have agreed with officers to include it on the reserve list for carriageway resurfacing schemes within the Borough Capital Programme for 2014/15.

Despite allocating £4.5m per year to carriageway resurfacing, there are more roads that require resurfacing than can be accommodated within the annual programme. Roads on the reserve list for 2014/15 will then become a high priority for resurfacing during the 2015/16 financial year.

In the meantime, the Council's highway inspectors will ensure that Peartree Road remains safe and in a serviceable condition for our residents by instructing our highway contractor to repair any defects that exceed the Council's agreed intervention levels.

**Question 48 from Councillor Sitkin to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Following the successful bid for funds to increase cycling in the borough, can the Cabinet member for Environment advise the Council on the consultation exercise he plans to implement for this scheme?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

Once the funding actually becomes available in the new financial year we will start preparing detailed scheme designs and surveys for each of the Mini Holland proposals. This will take several months but as each initial design is finished we will carry out a full and public consultation with residents and businesses. This will include providing details of the scheme to all residents & businesses with property fronting the scheme and holding an exhibition in a local venue. All responses will be carefully considered.

**Question 49 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The local Neighbourhood Watch Chairman has complained that security at the allotments close to Enfield Playing Fields is not good enough and things are being stolen from them.

Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment commit to review the security at this allotment?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

This was discussed at the Sustainability & Living Environment Scrutiny Panel on 11 March 14 and at the Chase, Southbury & Town Area Forum on 18 March 2014. The fencing has been repaired in the last 2 years and is made up of 1.8m weldmesh and 1.8m chain link. We have visited the site with the Crime Prevention team and officers can visit again, but the level of fencing is seen as adequate for an allotment site by Parks Police.

**Question 50 from Councillor Durieng to Councillor Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing & Public Health**

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing & Public Health inform the Council of the success of the International Women's Day conference she chaired on 7 March 2014?

**Reply from Councillor Hamilton**

I refer you to my answer in Question 2.

**Question 51 from Councillor Cicek to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment tell this Council what steps are being taken to modernise waste services in Enfield?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

Waste Services are procuring a new IT system that will integrate the existing service systems and as a result improve performance management and real time reporting for vehicle monitoring in terms of miles and fuel and vehicle weights et al. All new vehicles will have on board weighing and a full 360 degree camera system as well. In addition we have also brought in 2 new street cleaning vehicles to increase the levels of mechanised sweeping and are replacing the remaining fleet with 8 new vehicles arriving in April 2014. We are also rolling out a food waste collection system for flats. This will be complete by November.

**Question 52 from Councillor Lemonides to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

Would the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People join me in congratulating Ruth Shallcross, a teacher at Lavender Primary School in Enfield, who has won a prestigious national 'Primary School Science Teacher of the Year' award?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

I am absolutely delighted to be able to join you in congratulating Ruth Shallcross. Ruth has outstanding teaching skills and thoroughly deserves this recognition. It is wonderful that Ruth has shown such great commitment to the children at Lavender Primary School. Science is a fascinating subject and through her inspired teaching, young children are learning, experimenting and enjoying it.

We have many examples of excellence in Enfield and I am proud of the way we work to take the lead nationally in our areas of particular expertise.

The School Improvement Service has worked hard to raise the profile of Science in Enfield and we are recognised by Imperial College and Bristol University, to name just two partners, for the work we do and the quality of the outcomes of our primary and secondary pupils.

## **Section 2 Question to Chair of Planning**

### **Question 53 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Constantinides, Chair of Planning**

Given that the pattern of voting in planning does suggest whipped voting by the Labour side, will you publish for the record the voting pattern for all non-unanimous planning meeting approvals in 2013, showing the for, against and abstain votes by party for each planning application, along with the application's reference, address and the meeting date?

### **Response from Councillor Constantinides**

#### **Reply from Councillor Constantinides**

I am happy to publish details of the voting patterns at meetings of the Planning Committee, but should remind Councillor Chamberlain that these details are available to access at any time within the minutes of each meeting.

The pattern of voting at Planning Committee meetings during 2013 has been set out in Appendix B.

I should also point out, Members are regularly reminded that whipping is not appropriate within the Planning Committee and I don't believe there is evidence to suggest that this takes place. Legal advice has confirmed that Members of one party voting together on an application does not in itself constitute whipping. Indeed in the case of Lewis v Persimmon Homes, the appeal court in 2008 commented that "...the notion that a planning decision was suspect because all Members of a single political group had voted for it was an unwarranted interference with the democratic process". The decision went on to say that nor did it mean that any of the Members concerned had a closed mind.