

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14th September 2009

Q 'N' A: Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Lifelong Learning – Councillor Dhiren Basu

Page/ Point	Question/Observation	Answer (Where applicable)
	Questions from Councillor Newton	
Allotments	1. What plans are there to increase the number of allotment sites in the borough in addition to bringing the three former disused sites of Risley Avenue, Gospatrick Road and Salisbury Road back into use?	We are progressing action to bring these new sites into active use in 2010. The related improvement programme includes work to both improve the physical infrastructure, and develop the volunteering interest and capacity to support the ongoing management of the sites. Our current priority is to improve both the quality and operational management of existing provision within current resources. Whilst we have established a clear understanding of need and demand, resourcing of any future growth in provision will need to be considered alongside other Borough priorities.
Allotments	2. Does the Council plan to consider provision of allotment sites on communal space or other small sites?	Whilst we are not currently in a position to develop and plan a borough wide approach, we can consider site specific opportunities. We are also working closely with Planning colleagues to establish a more robust approach to developing new provision within the proposed Local Development Framework Core Strategy.
Allotments	3. Will the Council assist residents to use land that has been left fallow for a number of years like the land adjacent to 82 Muswell Hill Place N10?	Clearly land ownership, use and status would need to be established, before any specific allotment use proposal was considered. The Council's Recreation Service can offer advice and support to establish and manage new provision.
Muswell Hill Library	4. What specific changes to the building are currently planned including provision of full disabled access to all floors and what is the time scale for providing each change?	The roof of Muswell Hill Library has recently been repaired and the upper floor is shortly to be redecorated. Plasterwork repairs will be undertaken where necessary and the flooring will be replaced. The toilet facilities on the first floor will be dramatically improved. In the next financial year, the issue of disabled access will be considered as will accessible toilet facilities.
Muswell	5. Will a garden be included?	We have already improved the provision of plants to the front of Muswell Hill



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Hill Library		Library and would wish garden facilities to be included in any future development of the building.
Muswell Hill Library	6. Are there any plans to extend the Library in the future to allow more space for existing library functions as well as to accommodate additional space for training and adult learning etc?	We have developed and are applying for grant funding to support this development.
Muswell Hill Library	7. What has happened to the £500k committed to Muswell Hill Library in the 09/10 Budget?	The £500k related to the proposed sale of the car park to the rear of the library to support the development of the building. This will not take place at this point in time because of the downturn in the property market. This will be re-presented during the forthcoming PBPR process and any future receipts from sale of the adjacent land will be used to fund the development of Muswell Hill Library.
	Questions from Councillor Aitken	
Page 1 Culture & Lifelong Learning	8. Is the Cabinet Member aware of the problems of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in Stationers Park and Coldfall Woods?	<p>The Member is aware of the issues at these sites.</p> <p>In relation to Stationers Park a focus group has been set up involving representatives from the Metropolitan Police, local residents, local ward Cllr, and the Parks Service to explore options on tackling the issues at the park.</p> <p>With regards to Coldfall Wood we are not aware, nor have we received any reported incidents of any vandalism in the wood this summer. However there were concerns from residents regarding the adjacent green open space namely Muswell Hill Playing Fields about youths on mopeds causing anti social behaviour. This has been reduced through increased MPS patrolling, and Neighbourhood Management colleagues are liaising with local residents regarding access issues from Osier Rd to the Playing Fields.</p>
Page 1 Culture &	9. How many offences have taken place in parks and commons across the Borough in the last	147 crimes committed in Haringey parks and open spaces in 2008/09, according to the Metropolitan Police Service figures. To date, in 2009/10, 95



Lifelong Learning	year?	reports have been generated and a total of 9 arrests made.
	Questions from Councillor Winskill	
Page 1 Greener Haringey projects:	10. Have any actual targets been developed or agreed for reduction in energy consumption at our Libraries?	The corporate target for energy reduction is 10% by 2010/22 and library buildings are included within this corporate target. A <i>powerPerfactor</i> unit was fitted in Wood Green Library and this has resulted in an 11% reduction in average kWh consumption during library opening hours. We are looking for similar reductions in other locations.
Page 1 Greener Haringey projects:	11. Are efforts being made to involve the community in library gardens projects?	Yes, the Libraries Service is engaging with the community in the development of library gardens. At Highgate, for instance, the Friends Group has taken a lead role, while at St Ann's a Gardening Club has been formed.
Page 2 A Thriving Haringey	12. Wood Green library: When will work start on improvements to Wood green Library. Please outline the details of the plans and the available budget.	Funding has been allocated within the capital maintenance programme administered by Corporate Property Services for both internal and external works. The internal works which relate primarily to the replacement of ceilings and associated lighting are expected to be completed by April 2010. In relation to external works, Corporate Property Services is developing a programme in conjunction with Urban Environment and their Conservation Officers. The programme will be partially funded from this financial year with the potential of adding additional funding from next year's budget. The costs will vary depending on the scope of the solution which is agreed. It may be possible to attract grant funding if a 'green' solution is achievable to improve both the visual impact of the building as well as improving its environmental performance.
Page 2 A Thriving Haringey	13. Please give the timetable for the next milestones in the development of the Cultural Strategy.	We are currently in a research and review stage where we are reviewing the previous work undertaken and are aiming to produce the draft of the final report in mid October to mid November. The milestones in this process are as follows: Desk research and review of the consultation to date - late August to late September



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		<p>Further consultation - late September to early October The development of key issues and opportunities report - early October Production of the draft study - end of October</p>
<p>Page 2 A Thriving Haringey</p>	<p>14. People's Network: Please give more details on "upgrading" the network: who is doing the upgrade and what is the cost?</p>	<p>A procurement exercise is currently being undertaken for this work. Further detail will be provided when this is complete.</p>
<p>Page 2 A caring Haringey</p>	<p>15. Adult Services joint working: Please give details of the expansion of services for older people.</p>	<p>As part of the wider wellbeing and personalisation agenda adult services is working closely with library services to look at opportunities for increasing preventative services. This may include additional 'drop-ins' for healthy living events; stroke care and prevention/awareness and older peoples facilities as an alternative to the traditional day centre attendances. Joint work across the Adult and library services has been progressing in 2009 to strengthen signposting and access to information for residents and help to improve awareness about services that can improve their quality of life and wellbeing.</p> <p>The AD for Culture, Libraries and Learning attends the Older People's Partnership Board to ensure a joint strategic approach the planning and delivery of services such as Adult Education Classes which promote the lifetime learning and wellbeing of older adults in the Borough. The Joint ACCS Monthly Senior Leadership team with health alongside the Wellbeing Partnership Board promote joint working and maximise the development of joint service ventures. For example, recent consideration of a joint project with Adult Services to consider the benefits of a 'Music in Hospital's and Day Opportunities Programme'.</p>
<p>Page 3 Leisure</p>	<p>16. Olympics: Please give details of any discussions that you and/or your officers have had with Cllr Haley and/or his officers about any</p>	<p>There are a number of specific ongoing initiatives to support the Olympic Games. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Haringey Sports Scholarship Scheme



	<p>activities in Haringey parks and leisure facilities timed to support the Olympic Games.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Celebrating Sports Awards - London Youth Games - HariActive Make a Change, - White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre – Sports Hub Development / In Games Training Venue <p>This work is part of a wider regeneration programme that Cllr Haley and colleagues in Urban Environment are leading on. We have also hosted the 2012 Roadshow in Finsbury Park, and actively promoted 2012 through our Make a Change launch in June 2009, and will further develop related leisure activity programmes as we move towards 2012.</p>
<p>Pages 3/4 Green Borough</p>	<p>17. Down Lane Park: What discussions have there been with other departments in Haringey (Planning, Regeneration etc) over the future of the southern tip of Down Lane Park?</p>	<p>Discussions have taken place between officers from Recreation Services and Planning about Down Lane Park as this forms part of the overall package of initiatives funded through the GAF3 programme.</p> <p>This funding will enable the development of an overall design masterplan for the Park, however the public consultation for this masterplan will only commence once the existing consultation for the wider Tottenham Hale area is concluded.</p> <p>The Planning department is leading on this wider consultation and Recreation Services will lead on the Park masterplanning. The discussions between the 2 departments have incorporated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities • Timescales • Funding • Monitoring arrangements
<p>Pages 3/4 Green Borough</p>	<p>18. Down Lane Park: Can you tell me if there are definitions for “park space” and “open space”, if so what they are, and how they are distinguished from “recreational space” or “communal space” on housing developments?</p>	<p>Open space is a formal description used to describe land use and is generally split into public or private open space (both green and non-green). Park space is not a formal description but park space, with its established or unrestricted public access would therefore be considered public open space.</p>



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		<p>Parks and open spaces provide the setting and facilities for formal and informal recreation from dog walking to playing football or bowls and are therefore also recreational space. Parks have many roles and can therefore also be natural and semi-natural green space, cultural and or educational space.</p> <p>Green spaces in and around housing areas are formally described as ‘Amenity space’. These can also take various forms and be used for recreational purposes or as communal amenities for gatherings/ events etc.</p>
Pages 3/4 Green Borough	19. Down Lane Park: Do you support the loss of any park open space for redevelopment? If so, what conditions would you insist are applied?	There will be no net loss of publicly accessible open space. A key objective of any proposed redevelopment will be to make any new open space as good as, if not better than, the existing space is for local residents.
Page 4 Green Borough	20. What is the average cost of planting a new tree in Haringey. If a resident wanted a tree planted (subject to the selection of a satisfactory site being selected) what would the charge be?	The cost is £170 sponsorship on highways land and £200 on parks sites. Relevant information is available on the Haringey website.
Page 4 Green Borough	21. Wolves Lane – please give details of the new management arrangements, budget and objectives for Wolves Lane/Faith Plant Centre. How many people will it provide employment for?	<p>The site is now managed by the Council within the Parks Service of Recreation Services. The centre has a net budget of £150k (Expenditure £585k and Income £435k) and employees 7FTE, with a further 53 on training / volunteering programmes. Current objectives include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of educational, volunteering, training and employment programmes. • Master plan development with key stakeholders/users • External Accreditation / recognition of education & learning • Engage Sustainable food initiatives • Promotion of site. Web development, signage, literature • Explore options to establish a new not for profit organisation to operate the site



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Page 4 Green Borough	22. Bull Lane: What support did officers provide Community Action Sport (CAS) in preparing their bid to take over the running of Bull Lane and Pasteur Gardens and what support has been offered since the bid was submitted in May?	CAS requested an officer meeting prior to May and this took place with CAS's consultant in attendance. CAS briefed the Officer on the proposed development and the Officer went through the recently reviewed Haringey Football Development Strategy, Action Plan and draft investment plan with them. No further requests for assistance have been received from CAS since this time.
Page 4 Green Borough	23. Bull Lane: Does the Lead member support the proposals for CAS to take over the running of these grounds to provide sports facilities to local people?	There is an evidenced need for more outdoor sports pitches in the Borough or serving the needs of the Borough (W.S. Atkins survey, LBH PPP17 Standards/ Guidance). Sport and Physical Activity participation improvement is a Council and HSP priority, and reflected in the current LAA. These outcomes are reflected in the CAS proposal, and are supported by the Council. We are currently exploring options to both deliver and manage such improvements.
Page 4 Green Borough	24. Bull Lane: Does the Lead Member support the proposals to allow Haringey Sixth Form centre, Devonshire Hill School and St Thomas More School to use these two sites?	The Council is committed to developing proposals at Bull Lane which would improve provision for both the Sixth Form Centre and Devonshire Hill School. Whilst the Council recognises St. Thomas More School's interest in Pasteur Gardens, our Football Development Plan supports facility improvement in White Hart Lane adjacent to the school.
Page 4 Green Borough	25. Lordship Recreation Ground: Would Councillor Basu make a statement about the Lordship Rec redevelopment project and address all the issues surrounding funding gap of £1.4, telling us why several funding bids are yet to be made and how confident he is that the project will start and finish on schedule. <i>(NB this question is subject to Cllr Basu's response to cabinet on 8th September).</i>	Lordship Recreation Ground is our major district park serving the east of the Borough. Through extensive community consultation, we have developed an overall design masterplan for the Park that will cost a total of £6,820k to implement and has a current funding gap of £1.4m. We had hoped that this funding gap would be met via the £2m previously available from the GLA via the Mayor's Priority Parks programme. Unfortunately, though we successfully managed to secure £400,000 through the public vote in which Lordship was the most popular vote in north London, we were unable to secure the £2m. As a result we are having to apply to other external funding sources and this will take time before the applications are determined.



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		<p>As reported in my report of 8th September, we expect to know the outcome of all funding applications by January 2010 and be in a position at this time to submit our Stage 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Based on this timetable, works are programmed to commence on site in 2010 and be completed by 2011.</p>
<p>Leisure London Cultural skills Fund</p>	<p>26. Recently the LDA announced the twelve community based organisations who were awarded a share of the £500k fund to develop the creative skills of Londoners and increase their employment opportunities. The boroughs hosting the successful organisations included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wandsworth • Lambeth • Hackney • Southwark • Lewisham • Greenwich • Harrow • Croydon • Hounslow • Waltham Forest • Tower Hamlets • Southwark, • City of Westminster • City of London • Newham • Bexley • Barking and Dagenham • Havering 	<p>This grant requires 10% of the 16 beneficiaries to be from the London Borough of Haringey. A maximum of 3 dancers from Beeja Dance, a Haringey based dance organisation, will benefit from the project, exceeding the set 10% quota.</p> <p>Haringey fully supports the work of the Akademi and the benefits which the project will have for the participants.</p> <p>The Akademi is based in Hampstead and has Regularly Funded Organisation status with the Arts Council. Information relating to the fund was received directly from the Arts Council.</p> <p>Culture Libraries and Learning regularly updates arts organisations and individual artists on funding and other opportunities, and aims to make this a more rigorous process as part of the work being undertaken on the Cultural Strategy.</p>



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- Redbridge
- Islington
- Haringey

Haringey was a co-host with four other boroughs of successful bidder Akademi (Dancers' skills).
Can the Lead member tell me if any support was offered by his service to Haringey organisations applying for this fund and was the existence of the fund communicated by Haringey to Arts organisations in the borough?