

**20 November 2023**

**WRITTEN Questions**

**1. Cllr Rossetti to Cllr Hakata**

Last July Council I was told that Haringey is exploring ways of resolving the traffic issues currently being experienced in Crescent Road and Palace Gates Road. Residents should not be made to wait for the end of the Bounds Green LTN trial for action on this separate issue, so what is the result of this exploration and what measures will be implemented as a result?

**Response**

We will be progressing with a traffic and transport review of the area in the New Year. Residents, businesses and ward councillors will be fully engaged in this process which will analyse the main traffic and transport issues in the area and investigate the most appropriate interventions to overcome these.

**2. Cllr Barnes to Cllr das Neves**

This council unanimously passed the 'End Period Poverty' motion at Full Council last July. What steps have been taken to follow up the action we called for?

**Response**

Like many other London boroughs, in response to issues with access to period products the Council initiated a scheme with partners in 2020 to provide free period products to residents which many relied on during the pandemic. In light of the cost of living crisis, we are keen to expand this provision further.

We've established the Haringey Period Dignity Coordination Group (PDCG) internally, bringing together public health, housing support, libraries, localities, schools, comms, policy and council buildings. Through this group we are seeking innovative and sustainable ways to ensure inclusive access to a range of products for our residents and staff. Our future ambition is that this will become a partnership group.

Mulberry Junction was the first Council provision in Haringey to provide free period products. This was set up with a simple stock monitoring system; products are freely available in the bathroom but there is a sign out sheet to discreetly record what has been taken. This allows monitoring and timely replenishment. Mulberry Junction has so far relied on donations and its own budget to replenish stock.

This work was expanded to all Haringey Libraries which all provide free period products. Current stock levels are good, with products available currently and a top up process in place. Residents are able to access these with no questions asked at the library counter in each library. Libraries currently do not leave products in the public lavatories as previous experience indicates that products would be taken and not be available in a fair manner.

Most recently the Northumberland Park Resource Centre (NRC) has become an established venue for the provision of free period products – they currently have good stock (with over 200 tampons and over 1000 pads currently available). NRC have reported a high uptake which they have seen increasing recently (nighttime/heavy usage brands being the most popular). They report that residents most often access individual products via public toilets and approach the reception for packets – this has increased since the products have been clearly displayed on the reception with residents encouraged to take what they need. All toilets hold products and there is no requisite for anyone wishing to receive the free products at reception.

We are working with colleagues to gain a better understating of the breadth of need across the borough and our services, as well as Schools & Learning. As this picture becomes clearer, we will be able to calculate the required provision and quantify this. Currently each smaller programme relies on a combination of donations, small usage of local budget and a top-up from Public Health funds.

We are also working to develop a resource for residents on where else they else they can access free products such as the Morrisons 'Package for Sandy' scheme. Alongside this, we will be developing a resource for the VCS partners to advise them of organisations they can work with to access funding and/or free period products.

Links are also being built with health partners to better coordinate and develop responses across the borough – we are currently exploring a collaboration with North Mid hospital trust and will be taking the item to a future Neighbourhoods and Health Inequalities Borough Partnership Board to widen this approach in 2024.

### **3. Cllr Cawley-Harrison to Cllr Arkell**

What interim measures are being put in place to ensure residents can continue to use leisure facilities in the 12 months remaining of the contract with Fusion Lifestyle?

#### **Response**

There is continuing dialogue between senior Council officers and senior representatives of Fusion Lifestyle to ensure transition to the replacement service provider is conducted smoothly.

In the meantime, Fusion Lifestyle has indicated it will continue to meet its contractual obligations and deliver a leisure management service until the beginning of October 2024.

#### **4. Cllr Isilar-Gosling to Cllr Chandwani**

Families whose children are entitled to free school meals and are going to secondary school are able to apply for a school clothing grant from the council. Does this apply to all children on Haringey's expanded free school meal entitlement, or just to children on the national scheme?

#### **Response**

In January 2021, the decision was taken by Cabinet to fund expanded eligibility for free school meals to defined groups of primary school children in years 3-6.

The school clothing grant is available to pupils transferring to secondary school eligible for government assisted (national) free school meals.

Residents not eligible for this but still on a low income and experiencing financial hardship can apply for one-off emergency payments through the Haringey Support Fund which can include help towards the purchase of clothing and footwear: <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/community/here-help-financial-support-residents/haringey-support-fund>

#### **5. Cllr Emery to Cllr Hakata**

Barnet Council is rolling out on-pavement flush sunken EV chargers that users can plug in to using a 1.5M wand. Not only are they more sympathetic to old neighbourhoods than the current towers, they are also less intrusive to pedestrians, wheelchair users and the elderly. Is this something Haringey will consider going forward?

#### **Response**

On-pavement flush sunken EV chargers are just one of many solutions to diversify the options for charging electric vehicles in the borough. The team are currently undertaking a review of all these options and the on-pavement flush sunken EV chargers will be included in the research and analysis.

#### **6. Cllr da Costa to Cllr Arkell**

Ealing recently had to close its Central Library after bed bugs were discovered there. What contingency plans does Haringey have in place for if bed bugs are found in one of the council's buildings?

## **Response**

Haringey Council has contingency plans covering closure of any of its buildings, through its business continuity plans. Specifically in relation to bed bugs, we would take advice through the Council's Pest Control service and specialist contractors as required to eradicate the problem as quickly as possible.

### **7. Cllr Connor to Cllr Arkell**

Can you guarantee that, following renovation of Haringey's tennis courts by the LTA, there will be no reduction in hours when residents can book to play for free?

## **Response**

The funding from the Lawn tennis Association for the renovation of Haringey's tennis courts does not impose any limit on the timings of use of those courts following completion of the work.

The hours of operation are for the Council to determine, not the LTA. The programme for the tennis court usage is kept under review and there will always be a good balance between programmed and casual usage.

The Council has had the Clubspark booking system for a number of years now and the benefits are clear. Customers can be assured of getting a court, whereas before they had to attend on the off chance. This has increased participation. We also can retrieve data from the system around gender, age and postcode of the booker. The courts can also be booked out for development activities, such as our free holiday programme.

Adding the gate linked to the booking system (already in place at Down Lane) has the following benefits:

- As an award condition from the LTA it has unlocked £325K of refurbishment funding;
- The gate deters unauthorised use such as dog walking, football and other more serious anti-social behaviour;
- Where lights are available the system is linked to the light controls – so the lights will only go on when the code the booker has, is typed into the gate. This will save on electricity;
- Ensuring that the courts are used only for tennis activity will reduce maintenance costs around net replacement etc;
- The booking system and the gates working together ensures that the courts are not dominated by very confident tennis players. The Council and

the LTA across the country have observed that this widens and increases participation amongst women, young people and people from communities not traditionally associated with tennis.