

**COUNCIL – 30 NOVEMBER 2009 - QUESTIONS**

**Public Question to the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Justin Hinchcliffe:**

Is She aware of the policy of Conservative-run Wandsworth Council, with Labour support there, to introduce compulsory dog chipping? Both parties in that Authority believe it will curb the number of stray, neglected, dangerous and stolen dogs. Owners who refuse to comply may be fined and may lose their right to keep their pet. This scheme is also supported by the National Dogs Trust. Will She have a look at this policy with an open mind and consider following Wandsworth's excellent lead, which I believe will be supported by the majority of our residents from across the borough?

**Oral Questions**

**Oral Question 1 - To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Peacock:**

How will restructuring the Street Enforcement Service help to tackle environmental crime?

**Oral Question 2 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Baker:**

Does the Cabinet member and his colleagues support the campaign for a one hour bus ticket for Haringey's bus users?

**Oral Question 3 - To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Demirci:**

Could the Cabinet Member explain how enforcement and planning are dealing with rogue landlords who are responsible for multiple occupancy?

**Oral Question 4 - To the Cabinet Member for Housing Services from Councillor Davies:**

When did the Cabinet Member for Housing last review the payment terms offered to leaseholders and how do they compare to neighbouring boroughs?

**Oral Question 5 –To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Santry:**

Will the Cabinet Member join me in congratulating our Member of the Youth Parliament, Funmi Abrai, for making history as the first person to open a parliamentary debate by under-18s?

**Oral Question 6 – To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing from Councillor Scott:**

How does the future of the St Ann’s MHT site fit into the plans for health provision in the Borough?

**Oral Question 7 - To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Lifelong Learning from Councillor Dodds:**

Can the Cabinet Member explain the progress the Council have made on planting trees in the Borough?

**Oral Question 8 - To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Aitken:**

Will the Cabinet member give assurances that the changes to Police bases in Wood Green will not result in any reduction in public access to Police front counter services?

**Written Questions**

**Written Question 1 – To the Cabinet Member for Housing Services from Councillor Aitken:**

What is the current number of empty residential properties in the borough? Please provide a ward breakdown showing where the empty properties are.

**ANSWER**

The total number of empty properties in Haringey is 3113. This information is based on Council tax records. The number of properties which are empty for longer than six months is 2039. The Council currently has a programme of targeting long term empty properties which has resulted in the Council taking enforcement action either by enforced sales procedure or using CPO powers. This has resulted in bringing empty properties back into use and also increased Council Tax by over £100,000.

A ward breakdown of the total number of empty properties in the borough is shown below:

Breakdown by ward:

Alexandra	131
Bounds Green	182
Bruce Grove	163
Crouch End	308
Fortis Green	210
Harringay	171

Highgate		215
Hornsey		148
Muswell Hill	146	
Noel Park		135
Northumberland Park		214
Seven Sisters		123
St Ann's		172
Stroud Green		128
Tottenham Green		190
Tottenham Hale		123
West Green		126
White Hart Lane		100
Woodside		128

**Written Question 2 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Alexander:**

What action has the Council taken to help solve the traffic issues in the Arena Shopping centre? Has the Council made any representations or requested any funding from Transport for London to improve traffic flow? What progress has there been on providing a separate entrance and exit to this busy shopping area?

**ANSWER**

The Council has worked with both the developers and their consultants to address the increased congestion around the junction of Williamson Road and Green Lanes. Haringey have also liaised with Transport for London which is responsible for the installation and maintenance of traffic lights in order to upgrade the traffic lights at this junction. New signals were introduced in December 2008.

The Arena consultants have developed a scheme which includes the extension of two exit lanes into Green Lanes and the closure of the access closest to the junction of Green Lanes; this would require the introduction of a new entrance further into the development. Planning permission was granted for this scheme in December 2008.

The owners of the retail parks are hoping to implement the major part of the approved scheme before Christmas to reduce the severe traffic problems experienced at that location last Christmas. The remaining elements will not be done before Christmas due to complex retaining wall work but this is planned to follow in early 2010.

Once implemented Haringey with TfL will monitor the impact before considering any additional adjustments to the signals.

**Written Question 3 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Allison:**

How many shops have closed in Haringey over the last two years? Please provide a ward breakdown showing where shops have closed.

**ANSWER**

We do not have figures on how many shops actually closed over the last 2 years. We have figures about current vacancy rates. Planning Policy protects key retail frontages from change of use away from important retail use and the UDP and the forthcoming LDF proposes we increase retail floor space of the plans' life times which is happening.

Currently the total number of empty units stands at 182 out of a total borough number of 3,032, which represents 6.0% of commercial units. This compares favourably with our overall borough business premises vacancies (currently at 10%) and with the average vacancy rates given by the British Retail Consortium at 12%. The information is not available on a ward basis.

**Written Question 4 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Baker:**

What percentage of streets in Haringey have had new environmentally friendly street lighting installed in the past three years? Please provide a list of all Haringey's streets showing where new lights have and have not been installed.

**ANSWER**

In 2006 the Council started using new lanterns and switch gear which reduced the wattage from 97W to 67W.

Please see the attached sheet for the list of roads that have been relit in the last three years which represents approximately 10% of all the roads in Haringey.

There remain about 5000 street lights to be replaced throughout the borough.

**Written Question 5 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Beacham:**

How many accidents have occurred in the last five years (year by year) at or near the junction of Alexandra Park Road and Colney Hatch Lane and at the pedestrian crossing on Colney Hatch Lane, immediately to the North of the junction with Alexandra Park Road?

**ANSWER**

During the previous five years there have been a total of seven personal injury accidents (PIA) either at or within 20 metres of the junction of Colney Hatch Lane, Alexandra Park Road and Pages Lane. This information is provided by

the London Accident Analysis Unit (LAAU) who are a body of Transport for London.

Below is a year by year table showing numbers and severity of PIAs between 01/06/2004 – 31/05/2009.

<b>All Accidents by Severity</b>						
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Serious	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
Slight	1	2	0	1	2	<b>6</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>

**Written Question 6 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Beynon:**

How many teachers does the Council currently employ and does the Council annually keep a record of the teacher profile in Haringey?

**ANSWER**

The Council undertakes an annual survey for the Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF), of Teachers which provides an analysis of the number, level and type of teaching roles within each school. The survey also captures information on the ethnicity and level of sickness absence of all Teachers. This survey is conducted each January and according to the last one, in January 2009, Haringey employs 1930 full time equivalent teachers, full time being 32.5 hours per week. The actual number of staff is 1742 full time and 350 part time staff therefore the total headcount is 2092.

**Written Question 7– To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Bloch:**

How many complaints have Planning enforcement received in the Muswell Hill ward in calendar years 2004,2005, 2006,2007, 2008 and the first 10 months of 2009?

**ANSWER**

Year Opened	Number Opened
2005	52
2006	66
2007	51
2008	47
2009	42 (Up to October 09)

**Written Question 8 – To Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Butcher:**

How much of agreed savings identified in the budget over the past three years have been achieved by the Council?

**ANSWER**

The total planned savings relating to the general fund budget identified as part of the Council's annual financial planning process for the 3 years 2006/07 – 2008/09 was £26,449m net of any annual re-phasing between years. For 2008/09, £25,860m had been delivered.

Of the remaining £0.5m, some of these savings were delayed and delivered in this year, others replaced by other efficiencies.

**Written Question 9 – To the Cabinet Member for Housing Services from Councillor Davies:**

How many Council properties have received new kitchen and bathrooms in the last three years and how many will receive new kitchen and bathrooms by 2010. How many council homes will not receive new kitchen and bathrooms by 2010?

**ANSWER**

In the last 3 years (2006/2009) 1,152 council properties have received new bathrooms and 1,277 council properties have received new kitchens. We anticipate during 2009/10, a further 1,243 properties will receive new bathrooms and 1,309 properties will receive new kitchens. Therefore, by April 2010, 2,395 council properties should receive new bathrooms and 2,586 council properties should receive new kitchens.

The decent homes programme is due to be completed 2012/13, and it anticipated that a total of 7,487 bathrooms and 7,469 kitchens will be replaced. These are estimates and the exact figure will be based on detailed condition surveys undertaken before decent homes work start and access to properties.

**Written Question 10 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Edge:**

How many students in Haringey are still awaiting student loan payments for the current academic year?

**ANSWER**

Since May 2009 new applications for student loans are dealt with by the national Student Loans Company (SLC). They also administer payments.

We have requested details but they have refused to discuss student payments with us and will not provide figures.

**Written Question 11 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Engert:**

Please provide the total spent on Haringey’s Youth clubs in the past financial year (revenue and capital spends) showing a breakdown per youth club, amount spent on personnel, the opening time of each youth club and the cost of opening youth clubs per hour.

**ANSWER**

The table below shows total spend, including personnel costs for the 3 main youth centres. There has been no major capital spend on any of the buildings in the past financial year. The reason for the higher unit cost for Muswell Hill is that there is a full time Area Co-ordinator who additionally works peripatetically outside of Centre hours

<b>Yth Centre</b>	<b>Hours per day</b>	<b># of Days</b>	<b># of weeks</b>	<b>Hours per yr</b>	<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>	<b>Personnel Cost</b>	<b>Cost per hour</b>
<b>Bruce Grove</b>	5.5	5	48	1320	£ 129,000.00	£ 78,000.00	£ 156.82
<b>Wood Green</b>	5.5	5	48	1320	£ 81,000.00	£ 89,000.00	£ 128.79
<b>Muswell Hill</b>	3	5	48	720	£ 81,000.00	£ 80,000.00	£ 223.61

**Written Question 12 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Gorrie:**

What was the total collected through business rates by the Council last year and what is the projected increase in collection from business rates next year? What was the average business rate bill for businesses in every of the past three years and what help is available from the Council to businesses if bills increase substantially in 2010?

**ANSWER**

The amount of income received within 2008/09 in respect of Business Rates was £50,279,000.

At present we are unable to predict the level of collection for 2010/11 as the Government have yet to confirm the rating multipliers. This is usually an inflationary increase. There will be an additional 2p in the £ for large organisations as a result of the supplementary business rates in April 2010 for the GLA for Crossrail.

The average business rate bill has been assessed using the overall amount payable each year divided by the number of hereditaments as at 31 March of each year:

2007/08	£6,890.58
2008/09	£7,682.43
2009/10	£8,110.36

The larger increase between 2007/08 and 2008/09 can partially be explained by the change in legislation affecting empty properties. Previously exempt property became liable for payment, hence pushing up debit and hence the average charge.

There will be a transitional relief scheme following the 1/4/2010 business rates revaluation so easing the burden of increases for ratepayers. There have been changes to the levels of small business rate relief which will allow more ratepayers to become eligible. The Business Rates Team will be contacting businesses - prior to March 2010 – to ensure applications for small business rate relief are submitted by those eligible for new levels.

Throughout 2009/10 the Business Rate Team have offered those ratepayers experiencing difficulty in meeting their monthly instalments the opportunity to extend their instalment plans from ten to twelve months. This opportunity will be extended into 2010/11.

**Written Question 13 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Hare:**

How much CO2 do Council owned public buildings (including Civic buildings, schools etc) emit per year? What is this as a proportion of total CO2 emitted in Haringey per year?

**ANSWER**

In 2008/9 our actual carbon emissions from public buildings were 36,059 tonnes. Figures for borough-wide emissions are published by the Department for Energy and Climate Change on a two-year delay (NI 186). Therefore, the earliest Borough-wide emissions figure available is 2007 (calendar year). In this year, the Council's public buildings accounted for approximately 3.9% of Borough-wide emissions.

**Written Question 14 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Mughal:**

How many Children's Centres has the Council built in the last three years – how many have opened on time and on budget, is the network of Children's Centres throughout Haringey complete and is the Cabinet member confident that all families have access to childcare that Children's Centres provide?

**ANSWER**



The Council has built seven centres in the last two years, in addition to those already completed prior to this period. Six of these constituted phase 2 of Haringey's children's centres development programme. All works were completed by September 2008, on schedule. The programme budget was £6.1m and overall spend matched this. The developments were managed as a single programme, with contingencies to allow for the Sure Start approvals process – the single most common reason for delays - and the usual site issues encountered on any building programme. Towards the end of the programme we were able to release unspent contingencies to enhance the centre developments.

In addition to the phase 2 centres, Triangle was built as a joint venture with the NDC. This was a complex and innovative project, substantially revised during its development to allow enhanced community facilities and to respond to the needs of users of the adjacent park. This increased the cost from an initial £4.4m to a final £5.26m and extended the completion date by four months.

By the end of the third phase of children's centre development, Haringey's network of children's centre main sites and link sites will be complete, with nineteen designated centres and five link sites.

The completed network of children's centre services will mean that all wards will have either a designated centre or access to services through a link site or nearby within a neighbouring ward. This degree of coverage will mean that only Alexandra ward will be without a dedicated site. We are confident, however, that families will be well served by the neighbouring provision within Bounds Green ward. This will mean that all children under five and their families can access children's centre services at venues local to them.

Across ten of the children's centres, a total of 393 childcare places are available for ages 0-4 years. These places are further supplemented by some centres working in partnership with voluntary or private sector providers and childminders to enable parents to access appropriate childcare. The nine children's centres located within primary schools also provide nursery class places for children aged three and four.

The demand for childcare places continues to be assessed and forms part of the tracking and monitoring of childcare carried out as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Audit.

**Written Question 15 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Newton:**

Are leaves collected from roads and pavements recycled and if not what happens to the waste?

**ANSWER**

Yes, leaves collected from roads and pavements are recycled. Leaves are not recycled where leaf fall in low volumes causes it to be contaminated by litter mixed within it, this cannot be economically separated and so cannot be composted. Latest figures for the amount of leaves recycled are available for 2008: October 17.56 tonnes, November 86.66 tonnes and December 29.14 tonnes.

**Written Question 16 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Oatway:**

Can the Council confirm that safety improvements for pedestrians using Rhodes Avenue will be undertaken to coincide with expansion of the Rhodes Avenue Primary School?

**ANSWER**

Yes. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out by independent consultants and is being assessed. Site visits have been carried out to establish additional measures to enhance the pedestrian environment in view of the proposed expansion. The measures identified will be incorporated into the planning process to ensure that these works will be completed prior to the opening of the expanded Rhodes Avenue Primary School.

**Written Question 17 – To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing from Councillor Rainger:**

Please detail what, if any, discussions the Cabinet (and specify which cabinet members) has had with the Mental Health Trust on the specific subject of the future of the St Ann's site, the health services provided from it and has there been any pre-planning consultation provided to any potential developers or the Mental health Trust with reference to the St Ann's site?

**ANSWER**

There are no specific plans for the future of the St Ann's site at the moment. This is a long term issue and the Mental Health Trust, which owns the site, is continuing to work with key partners, particularly NHS Haringey and Haringey Council, on the future. The Cabinet member is involved with these discussions. There are a wide range of factors which will influence the future and the Trust is a long way from any decisions. The Trust has given a commitment to a process of wide stakeholder engagement before any definite decisions are made, however, this is some time away yet.

**Written Question 18 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Reid:**

Has the Council any plans to change Campsbourne Road to one-way access to reduce congestion and provide better access to businesses on Myddleton Road and Pembroke Works, and if so, when would funding be made

available? Have there been any traffic studies by the Council in this area to improve traffic flow and what was the result of these surveys?

**ANSWER**

The Council is aware of the traffic problems in this area but no studies have been conducted. Any changes would need to be funded through s106 agreements from developments in the area and no such schemes have been approved.

**Written Question 19 – To the Cabinet Member for Housing Services from Councillor Scott:**

How many Homes for Haringey (HfH) housing blocks are fitted with entry phone systems? How many HfH housing blocks are not fitted with entryphone systems? What is the target date for fitting entryphone systems to the blocks that are currently not provided with them?

**ANSWER**

There are 625 door entry and concierge systems in the borough, serving a total of 9,782 properties. Approximately one hundred blocks (each comprising four or more properties) do not have door entry systems.

Systems are installed in all properties where it is feasible, viable and cost effective, taking into account the layout of the blocks. Feasibility studies are undertaken on properties that do not have systems.

Although there are no immediate plans to install systems in all of the remaining blocks, the cost of installation will be included in the capital programme where this is viable and cost effective.

**Written Question 20 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Weber:**

Please could the Cabinet member confirm that the pavements on Shepherd's Hill be firmly placed in next years 10/11 forward plan to relay?

**ANSWER**

Works are currently in progress to alleviate the problems and these include excavating pavement sections around tree roots, pruning of the roots and surfacing over the roots with tarmac to achieve even surfaces.

Condition surveys for 2009/10 have commenced and it is anticipated that the pavements along this road would result in the road being included in next year's programme in view of the deteriorating condition.

The majority of the existing highway trees on the pavements along Shepherd's Hill have outgrown the environment and in some cases they limit

the available width for pedestrian access. In the long term, consideration may have to be given to phased replacements with more suitable species (as has started on the pavements on the northern side of the road.)

**Written Question 21 – To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Whyte:**

Please provide a schedule of all Section 106 money committed but yet unspent by the Council, when this was received, and for what development it was received for.

**ANSWER**

Since 2004, there have been 120 developments where section 106 agreements (planning obligations) have been entered into. The table below provides a summary of all s. 106 contributions received but as yet unspent, broken down by topic area. When planning obligations (s. 106s) are agreed, they are allocated to a particular topic area in terms of how the impact of development will be mitigated.

<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>Total Unspent (£)</b>
Admin & Monitoring	675,643.00
Education Pool	2,816,877.09
Environment (Site Specific)	222,004.10
Street Scene	185,000.00
Recreation	43,500.00
Traffic Management Order	3,200.00
Heartlands Pool	1,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,946,224.19</b>

Please note that the Education Pool money is expected to be spent by January 2010.

It is important to note that there is a significant time-lag between the s. 106 agreements being signed, development commencing, funds being received by the Council, the specific allocations of funds to projects and then the actual expenditure of these funds on the designated projects.

**Written Question 22 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Williams:**

What was the total spend on the 'Better Haringey' campaigning in each of the years of its existence, and what is the budgeted spend of the 'My Haringey' Campaign going forward?

**ANSWER**

Since 2004, the Better Haringey programme has in total spent £511,000 on design and printing and £558,138 on publicity costs. The programme was a success in achieving its aims of delivering major visible improvements to the

natural and urban environments, promoting a sense of civic pride and responsibility and improving public perception on cleanliness, safety and the environmental agenda.

Key achievements include:

- The Better Haringey programme led on delivering a range of environmental improvement projects such as Clean Sweep, The Big Tidy Up and the Community Clear Up programme. These involved hundreds of school children, residents, community groups, businesses, councillors and other agencies and have encouraged local people to work with the council to take pride in, and responsibility for, their local neighbourhoods.
- As part of the Better Haringey programme new litter picking services and fly-tipping and fly-posting services were implemented. This has led to the removal of over 38,000sqm of fly-tipping each year and the installation of over 500 municipal litter bins since 2006.
- There has been a clear improvement in the delivery of, and satisfaction with, public realm services during this time. For example, National Indicators 195 (improved street and environmental cleanliness) have shown a sustained improvement and are now top quartile performers. This has led to increased resident satisfaction levels too. The Residents Survey has shown an increase with satisfaction for street cleaning from 39% in 2003/04 to 50% in 2008/9.
- These improvements have supported the overall increase in satisfaction with the area as a place to live from 61% in 2006/07 to 70% in 2008/09.
- Delivery of three Green Fairs for the borough which provided residents with a range of information and practical guidance on what they can do to live greener and healthier lifestyles. The most recent of these attracted almost 10,000 visitors.

The 'My Haringey' campaign, which focuses on a number of resident priority areas such as: cleaner, greener, safer, caring, thriving and active will cost approximately £100,000 per year.

**Written Question 23 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Wilson:**

How often is Stroud Green Road cleaned/swept by Haringey Council? How much money per annum has been spent on cleaning Stroud Green Road in each of the past three years?

**ANSWER**

Stroud Green Road is split into 2 sides Haringey and Islington and sweeping schedules for both boroughs may vary.

Stroud Green Road North side only(Haringey side only) Stapleton Hall Road to Woodstock Road

**Monday to Friday**

Litter control (3 passes) AM and PM,

Night sweep  
Mechanical sweep – during the day

**Saturday and Sunday**

AM (2 passes) and PM (2 passes) – first pass sweep, second pass a litter pick

**Monday to Sunday**

Dumps patrol Twice daily, once in the morning and once at night – first pass clear all waste, second clearance of any waste – boxes, sacks, bags etc

Stroud Green Road North side only (Haringey side only)Woodstock Road to Seven Sisters Road

**Monday to Friday**

Litter control (3 passes) AM and PM,  
Night sweep  
Mechanical sweep

**Saturday and Sunday**

AM (2 passes) and PM (2 passes)

**Monday to Sunday**

Dumps patrol Twice daily morning and night

Price per annum for sweeping Stroud Green Road over past 3 years is  
Stroud Green Road is 984 metres in length

**06/07**

£30,465.89

**07/08**

£31,701.34

**08/09**

£32,981.20

**Written Question 24 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Winskill:**

Please provide an update on the current situation regarding Bull Lane and the possible disposal of the site to Community Action Sport?

**ANSWER**

The Council is awaiting determination by Enfield Council of the Village Green application. This is to be considered by Enfield's Planning Committee on 30 November 2009.