

COUNCIL QUESTIONS – 20 FEBRUARY 2006:

ORAL QUESTIONS

Oral Question 1 – To the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration from Councillor Quincy Prescott

Could the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration comment on the progress of Haringey's appeal to keep the concrete factory out of the borough?

Oral Question 2 – To the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration from Councillor Winskill

How does the council plan to protect employment at the Pembroke works site, Hornsey?

Oral Question 3 – To the Executive Member for Community Involvement from Councillor Dobbie

Could the Executive Member for Community Involvement outline to us what the Council is doing to mark Fairtrade fortnight?

Oral Question 4 – To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Oatway

Do posters fixed to lamp posts require planning permission?

Oral Question 5 – To the Executive Member for the Environment and Conservation from Councillor Santry

Does the Executive Member for the Environment and Conservation agree with me that the £75,000 secured by White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre from the London Marathon Charitable Trust, is a great success, and can he inform the council about other projects which ensure our continuing commitment to sport and leisure in Haringey?

Oral Question 6 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Hoban

Could he please explain why the innovative and futuristic aluminum bus shelters sited on both sides of Wood Green High Road opposite Wood Green Underground station, are poorly maintained and cleaned?

Oral Question 7 – To the Executive Member for the Housing from Councillor Basu

Can the Executive Member for the Housing outline the ongoing improvement works that are currently taking place on the Tiverton Estate to upgrade the children's play areas?

Oral Question 8 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Dillon

Could I ask the Executive Member for the Environment and Conservation to outline new recycling initiatives that have been introduced within the borough since the start of this year?

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 1 - To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Viv Manheim

Could the Executive Member for the Environment and Conservation detail replacement tree planting across the borough?

ANSWER

There is a planned planting programme to increase stock and replace trees previously removed on the basis of disease or insurance claims and residents are informed prior to planting.

The programme aims to spread available resources throughout the borough which should result in net gain in stock. Planting is also supported by NRF, SRB and Making the Difference (Area Assemblies) funding. In preceding years the Council has targeted those areas with lower levels of planting.

Summary of Highways Planned Street Tree Stock Replacement / New Planting

Postal Code	Tree Stock 2003/04	Trees Removed 04/05 and 05/06	Replacement or New Planting 04/05 and 05/06
N2	301	5	16
N4	824	75	115
N6	839	42	43
N8	1710	119	50
N10	1735	83	47
N11	181	8	2
N15	892	62	109
N17	1524	108	96
N22	1907	109	102
Total	9913	611	580

Written Question 2 - To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Oatway

What is the total cost to date of advertising in the better Haringey campaign for: billboards; posters (including those on bus shelters, etc) lampposts, buses, radio, and other media (please list cost separately for each)?

ANSWER

Commercial advertising is just part of the overall marketing strategy for Better Haringey, and key to the success of the campaign. Without it, we would not

have such very high levels of support for the programme by residents, businesses and schools. The messages are carefully chosen to change attitudes and behaviour towards the environment.

However, expenditure in marketing terms has been low and still stands at less than £1.50 per resident per year.

In 2003/04, total spend on commercial advertising was £71,493.50, of which £28,450.50 was spent on bus backs, £26,630 on billboards and £16,413 on tube stations.

In 2004/05, total spend was £157,084.75, of which £49,610.75 was on bus backs, £20,820 on billboards, £21,519 on tube stations and £65,135 on radio advertising (LBC, London Greek Radio and London Turkish Radio).

In 2005/06, total spend was £159,234, of which £49,792 was on bus backs, £40,170 on railway stations and £69,272 on radio advertising (Kiss FM, London Greek Radio and London Turkish Radio).

All these costs include design, print production, studio time, advertising space and air time. In addition, Better Haringey has also supported other community events such as the Tottenham Carnival by placing advertisements on promotional materials, totalling no more than £2,000 per annum.

Written Question 3 - To the Executive Member for the Environment from Cllr Beacham

What is the total cost to date of information leaflets for residents in the better Haringey campaign?

ANSWER

Better Haringey is one of the Council's key priorities to facilitate improvements to both the natural and built environment. Clear written information is an integral part of the communications strategy to enable residents help us make improvements and to encourage them to take responsibility for the environment in which they live. Results of the Annual Residents' Survey have shown that residents' preferred method of communication is via literature posted through their front door. The total cost for information leaflets for residents provided by our Communication unit and charged to the Better Haringey, Recycling and Waste Management budgets is £64,951.

Written Question 4 - To the to the Leader of the Council from Cllr Hare

If he will undertake to ensure that there will be no advertising of the better Haringey campaign during the purdah period, and set out what steps he has so far taken to ensure this?

ANSWER

I am ensuring that in the purdah period there will be no fresh advertising or distribution of material focussing on the key achievements of the Better Haringey campaign or associating Members with them. Specific campaigns such as "Clean Sweep" and "Better Haringey Rewards Re-Cyclers" are scheduled to end before 24 March. There will still be previously published service user information in circulation stamped with the "Better Haringey" logo. This logo reminds residents that caring for the Borough's environment is a matter of civic pride for us all. It will not, so I am advised, be a breach of the Code of Practice on Council Publicity.

Written Question 5 - To the Executive Member for the Environment from Cllr Simpson

Why was only part of North Road N6 including in the recent extension of the Highgate Village CPZ, when this was not indicated in the Council's report on the issue (although it was for other streets where only part was to be included) and what does he intend to do regarding this anomaly?

ANSWER

The report presented to the Executive in October 2005 provided location plans showing the extent of the CPZ extension boundaries, which clearly indicated that only North Road, south of Castle Yard would be included. The boundaries were agreed with ward councillors and were in response to feedback received during the review of the existing Highgate High Street CPZ. It is acknowledged, however, that the report did not specify in writing that only part of North Road was to be included and therefore will we consider local residents concerns by investigating the possible extension of the CPZ along North Road, north of Castle Yard.

Written Question 6 - To the Leader of the Council from Cllr Williams

Will he condemn remarks made by Labour councillors regarding the Liberal Democrats and race, sexuality, and alcoholism and outline what steps he is taking to ensure that Labour members, including himself, do not bring the Council into disrepute?

ANSWER

I thank Councillor Williams for his question. I am not aware of remarks made by Labour Councillors of such a nature as to bring the Council into disrepute.

However, I am sure all members on the Labour benches would agree with me that whilst pejorative remarks about people's sexuality and alcoholism are always inappropriate, Liberal Democrat hypocrisy and mendacity on any issue are always worthy of our condemnation.

Written Question 7 - To the Executive Member for Community Involvement from Cllr Featherstone

With regard to library services, a, what bylaws govern the exclusion of persons from Haringey's public libraries and in terms of these bylaws what council officer is authorised to exclude persons from Haringey's libraries?

ANSWER

The byelaw that governs the exclusion of persons from Haringey's public libraries was made under Section 19 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 by London Borough of Haringey in 1967. The byelaws are held at each library.

Byelaw no. 25 states 'every person who, within the view of a library officer, contravenes any of the [foregoing] Byelaws may be excluded or removed by such officer'.

A 'library officer' as defined by the act means 'the librarian or any other person employed by the Library Authority for the purpose of its functions under the act'.

Written Question 8 - To the Executive Member for Community Involvement from Cllr Floyd

What is the statutory procedure for excluding persons from public libraries and what evidence is required to exclude such persons, do any appeal procedures exist to appeal against such exclusions and could I please have details of such procedures?

ANSWER

There are no statutory procedures for excluding persons from public libraries, although there is a right to do so. Persons may be excluded for a number of reasons related to any of the Byelaws that have been made. For example:

Byelaw 17 provides that "a person shall not wilfully obstruct any library officer in the execution of his duty."

This test is satisfied if there is evidence that a person deliberately did something which prevented an employee from carrying out his/her duty or made it more difficult for him/her to do so, and if s/he knew and intended that his/her conduct would have that effect. Consequently this would be grounds for removal or exclusion.

Also under common law, not statute, a person is trespassing if they are on private property. The libraries of Haringey Council are Council property and therefore any person who remains on such property without permission is a trespasser. The law states that once a person is asked to leave by an individual in authority such as an employee of Haringey Council, that person becomes a trespasser and can be removed from the property.

Evidence required in order to exclude a person under the byelaws cannot be quantified in a list. However, wilful obstruction need only prevent a librarian from carrying out their duties and need not be hostile by intent.

There are no procedures contained within Byelaws to appeal such a decision.

The Council does have a Policy on Unacceptable Behaviour by Library Users which provides that the council "will not tolerate any abuse, be it verbal or physical, or any other unacceptable behaviour towards any members of staff, or anyone else using Library Services. If such behaviour continues, this could lead to services to individuals being suspended or withdrawn". The policy states that where a person does not accept this decision they should be referred to the Head of Libraries, Archives and Museum Services.

In practice, any 'appeal' would be in the form of a complaint through the council's complaints policy, ultimately leading to an ombudsman enquiry if still dissatisfied.

Written Question 9 - To the Executive Member for Regeneration from Cllr Hoban

With regard to the report titled 'The Bridge NDC New Organisational Structure' presented to the Executive on 1st November 2005, could he please set out full and specific details of the essential changes in the work of the Bridge NDC which required the organisation to be restructured, and also full details of the revised staffing structure?

ANSWER

The Bridge NDC Programme is going through a necessary transition. The first four years of the programme were characterised by intensive and very successful revenue funded work across the Theme areas of education and training, employment and enterprise, health and social care, crime, housing, environment and community engagement. A number of innovative and award winning pilots were trailed and there have been successes in mainstreaming some of this work.

The NDC Partnership appointed a new Director in January 2005. The Director was given a specific brief to carry out an organisational review and to make recommendations to the Board regarding an organisational structure that would best deliver the programme and leave a lasting legacy.

The NDC Partnership recognised that the drive to achieve visible improvements on the ground and in the eyes of the community was successful but also meant that the NDC had not paid sufficient attention to the development of long-term strategic partnerships or on bringing the work of mainstream service partners and the local community together to improve services. Equally, the NDC Partnership had not spent sufficient time developing its succession/exit strategy. The transition that the NDC Partnership is going through including the implementation of the new organisational structure aims to deal with these issues.

New Organisational Structure

Implementation of the new organisational structure was approved by the NDC Board on 8th February 2006. The new structure has been designed to address issues brought to the attention of the Board by the new Director as follows:

1. **Re-orientating the structure into three key strands:**
Strategy – incorporating succession arrangements, evaluation and research, external funding opportunities and community engagement

Programme Delivery – incorporating three new Theme portfolio areas, capital programme team, finance and administration

Communications and marketing
2. **Ensuring the programme operates in a more strategically coherent way** with an emphasis on Neighbourhood Renewal, mainstreaming and sustainability
3. **Enhancing the strategic capacity of the programme** with the recruitment of a Head of Strategy and Head of Programme Delivery
4. **Refocusing the Theme areas to be much more strategic** to provide a greater level of cross Theme working and a strong emphasis on neighbourhood management. Three new Theme portfolios were agreed by the NDC Board to enhance the potential for cross Theme working and to enhance the strategic coherence of the programme:
Neighbourhood Services – Housing, Environment and Crime
Education, Employment and Enterprise
Health, Social Care, Sport and Leisure
5. **Establishing a community engagement framework** that can support the succession/exit strategy and activities and link these more directly to Thematic priorities and outcomes linking in directly to the work of the Haringey Strategic Partnership Board and its Sub Boards. This is especially important in the context of the development of the Local Area Agreement.

As for myself, I took no part in the NDC Board's detailed deliberation of this reorganisation since I declared an interest as an employee of the trade union,

UNISON, that acted on behalf of the staff affected. I therefore feel that I cannot provide you with any details of the revised staff structure. If you continue to want this information I would suggest you contact the NDC Director, Symon Sentain.

I continue to be concerned over why Opposition Members, in particular Cllr Hoban, continue to raise questions about the NDC in this way. You do not represent, and are unlikely ever to do so, those Wards fortunate enough to benefit from the work of the NDC. I say this in this way as all you need to do to get information such as this is to simply contact the NDC Director.

Written Question 10 - To the Executive Member for the Finance from Cllr Davies

How many claims against the Council have been (i) made and (ii) accepted/refused, in respect of residents tripping on pavements in each of the last 12 months?

ANSWER

For the period 1.2.05 to 31.1.2006 we have been notified of 111 new claims in respect of slips and trips on pavements.

98 of these claims are still outstanding, 11 closed with no payment, 1 referred to TFL and 1 referred to Enfield Council.

The breakdown by month of claims received is as follows:

	<i>No. of claims</i>
<i>February 2005</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>March 2005</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>April 2005</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>May 2005</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>June 2005</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>July 2005</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>August 2005</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>September 2005</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>October 2005</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>November 2005</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>December 2005</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>January 2006</i>	<i>9</i>

Written Question 11 - To the Executive Member for the Finance from Cllr Edge

What criteria are used to assess whether a claim for compensation/costs, in respect of residents tripping on pavements, is accepted and have these criteria changed at any stage in the last 12 months?

ANSWER

For a claim to be successful against the Council negligence must be proved by the claimant on the part of the Council. Following receipt of a claim a full investigation is carried out, the area in question is inspected and a report produced. This report includes details of the inspection programme in place for the location in question, dates and details of previous inspections and details of any defects found. Section 58 of the Highways Act is regularly used in the defence of these claims, this states that if an authority can prove they have a regular inspection programme in place and can produce documentation to substantiate this the claim can be defended.

This procedure has not changed in the last 12 months.

Written Question 12 - To the Executive Member for the Finance from Cllr Aitken

Is means testing ever used in assessing claims in respect of residents tripping on pavements, before or after the validity of the claim is decided?

ANSWER

I can confirm that means testing is never used in assessing claims.

Written Question 13 - To the Executive Member for the Environment from Cllr Winskill

What steps are being taken to address the problem of residents in properties (e.g. flats above shops) without a front yard/garden leaving rubbish bags outside on the pavement on days other than their scheduled collection day?

ANSWER

The Integrated Waste Management and Transport Contract with Haringey Accord Limited specifies that for flats above shops refuse is collected at least three times per week. However, since most flats above shops are on main roads the actual number of collections is 13 per week with most main roads benefiting from having two collections per day (except Saturday nights).

In order to address the issue of bags from flats above shops being left for a number of hours on the main roads, the Waste Management Service in partnership with Haringey Accord Limited has introduced timed collections on Green Lanes, Bruce Grove, Turnpike Lane, most of Tottenham High Road, parts of White Hart Lane and Northumberland Park. The timed collection service stipulates morning and evening time windows that both traders and residents can present their waste for collection. Waste left outside of these time windows may result in enforcement action being taken. This has proven to be a successful means of managing the issue of insufficient off-street refuse storage capacity and it is the council's intention to introduce this arrangement on all of the main roads in the borough.

Written Question 14 - To the Executive Member for the Crime and Community Safety from Cllr Gilbert

What pressure the Council is putting on Thames Water to resolve the unsatisfactory situation of raw sewage being leaked into the stream in Coldfall Woods?

ANSWER

The Enforcement Service has a history of working with the Environment Agency and Thames Water to control the discharge of untreated effluent into the various streams used to take the discharge from the surface water drainage system.

Connection of sewerage to a surface water system is illegal. Where Thames Water finds that foul drains connect into the surface water system, this service has threatened owners with the service of a formal notice under the Building Act 1984 section 59 to require proper connection to the foul drainage system. This has so far been successful.

Following a reported incident at the brook in Coldfall Woods , a visual inspection was undertaken in late January and this did not indicate any sewage pollution. At this time the Enforcement Service cannot confirm that there is any sewage entering the brook. We will revisit the site to view the latest position , and take a background sample of the water. The Public Analyst will be asked to determine if there are any bacteria indicating the presence of sewage contamination.

The water level in the brook was very low for this time of year due to the low level of rainfall experienced this winter. Any pollution that may occasionally occur would therefore tend to be more apparent."

Written Question 15 - To the Executive Member the Environment from Cllr Newton

Will the Council take all possible steps to ensure the continued provision of baby clinics at Fortis Green Clinic in light of current restructuring?

ANSWER

This is the PCT's responsibility. However the Children's Service is working with them on the development of Children's Centres which includes looking at the provision of baby clinics. The changes at the PCT, especially to modernise the health visiting service may result in changes to their "well baby clinics". The aim is to reduce health inequalities through the provision of a more defined core service to all families. It is this new core service that the Children's Service is in discussion with PCT in relation to delivery through Children's Centres within each Children's Network.

Written Question 16 - To the Executive Member for Crime & Community Safety from Cllr Engert

Please confirm how many days the police kiosk sited outside Cineworld in Wood Green has been manned during 2005-2006?

ANSWER

The police kiosk in Wood Green was launched as a pilot project for which Haringey Safer Communities Partnership received external funding. The idea was to have a police or 'guardian' presence at the kiosk at certain times. The staff that manned this kiosk were Police Beat officers, Police Support Officers, Crime Prevention Officers, and Council Wardens.

The kiosk was manned until the end of November, with the exception of the period following the London bombings when numerous officers were abstracted from normal duties. Between themselves and the wardens the police provided a presence at the Wood Green kiosk between 7am – 9am and 4pm – 6pm most days until the end of November. However if the police were called away to respond to crime then they had to close the kiosk.

However, policing has moved on and altered significantly over the past year. Police teams have gone out to the community rather than waiting for the community to come to them. We have a Police Business Support Team in Wood Green and they are working very closely with local businesses, shoppers and our residents to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the area. Also the CCTV facilities in Wood Green High Road have provided us with the monitoring presence regarding crime-solving, as was demonstrated in the swift arrest of the man later found guilty of the murder of Andre Linton. When I visited the kiosk last Summer the Wardens and local Police Officers told me that almost all of the people who came to the kiosk were requiring travel or shopping directions rather than wanting to discuss or report matters that were related to crime or anti-social behaviour. Plus we now have the roll out of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams which is a real commitment to the development of a citizen focus.

While it was initially believed to be a worthwhile project, the Safer Communities Partnership realised that methods of policing have moved on and this project has therefore ceased to be effective. Therefore, the Police Service is now removing the kiosks.

In Haringey, our Safer Communities Partnership is keen to identify new effective means to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. We evaluate all new projects and monitor them closely. When they are found – for whatever reason – to be less effective than we had anticipated, we stop the project. If this had been found to be successful, we would have sought funding to try it in other crime hot spots.

**Written Question 17 - To the Executive Member for & Community Safety
from Cllr Bloch**

Explain why the police kiosk sited outside Cineworld in Wood Green is not manned on a daily basis as promised when it was first installed?

ANSWER

Please see the above answer to written question 16.