CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS: Councillor Brian Haley Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation

From Cllr Catherine Harris:

Question 1

There is a serious and continuing problem with flytipping and rubbish filled empty Council-owned lots in Wood Green. At present there is one community clear up day per year and the Council doesn't clear its vacant lots (ie top of Lymington close to Matalan as an example, and next to a food shop too!) on that day. Can Cllr Haley plan for a second ward clear up day, to co-ordinate the usual agencies, plus the Council Property Services to clear the vacant lots on the ward, Parks, to give the park a good cleaning out, and also liaise with HfH on a widespread 'garden clear out' with their staff being accessible to assist the elderly and diasabled, as front gardens on some of the HfH properties contribute to the sense of rubbish and mess.

Answer:

The Community Clear Up programme for this year commenced in September and is due to be completed next March. The service is designed to allow residents to dispose of up 15 large items from their front gardens free of charge. Due to improvements in the efficiency of the service, white goods are not collected as part of the CCU service but residents are informed in the CCU leaflet how they can arrange for these to be collected free of charge through the Haringey Accord Call Centre. The leaflet also provides details of our Re-use and Recycling Centres so residents are informed about how they can dispose of unwanted items free of charge throughout the year.

There are currently no plans to introduce a second annual community clear up service in Haringey as we currently provide a good range of free of charge bulky item collection and disposal options to our residents.

The Council has a duty to keep its own land free of litter and waste which is similar to our duty to keep streets free of litter and waste. In terms of the BVPI 199a indicator for cleanliness, the presence of litter and waste on parks, council property and Homes for Haringey estates is measured in our performance alongside the presence of litter and waste on our streets. To this end the Waste Management Service has been working very closely with Parks, Corporate Property Management and HfH to ensure that they carry out their duties and in doing so there should be adequate arrangements in place to ensure that these areas are kept in a clean and tidy condition.

The proposal for HfH to carry out a widespread 'garden clear out' has not been investigated to date. Clearly this is something which HfH would need to consider taking a lead on and of course the Waste Management Service would be prepared to support such a project. I will ensure that the proposal for a 'garden clear out' is given due consideration during the operational meetings which are held between the Waste Management Service and HfH.

From Cllr John Bevan:

Question 2

College Park Road, N17 LBH/40947

The above is a very short unadopted road adjacent to one of the entrances to the 6th form college; it is in a very poor state concerning maintenance and is on no schedule for street cleaning this being the responsibility of the former Middlesex University.

There is a general discretionary power conferred by Section 2 of the Local Authorities [Land] Act 1963 for local authorities to carry out works for the benefit of their area. This could be considered as a mechanism to improve College Park Road in place of seeking to adopt it.

Please can it be confirmed that the discretionary power referred to above is to be used to improve this road to the same / matching standards now being implemented to the adjacent College Road. Please also confirm that regular street sweeping will be introduced for College Park Road.

Answer:

We have an agreement with the developer [Kier] of the residential site adjoining College Park Road that they will resurface the carriageway. We will be undertaking improvements to the pavement ourselves to raise the overall appearance of the whole area and we will also relocate the streetlights. We are planning to complete the footway works by early November following completion of the residential development. The final road surfacing works to College Road would be undertaken at the same time. We will also make sure that arrangements are in place for regular street cleansing.

From CIIr Martin Newton:

Question 3

Haringey's parking signage does not conform to DfT regulations and guidance. This is particularly apparent in the case of pay-and-display bays where a period of prohibited parking is in force outside the permitted hours of parking. Can Cllr Haley give details of when signage will be changed in Haringey to show that "The time periods for parking and the prohibition of waiting do not overlap" (i.e. the times of prohibition either side of a permitted period, should be expressed as two separate time periods) as Department for Transport (DfT) guidance demands. Can he also detail what is being done to make all parking signage legal in Haringey.

DfT guidance also states that it is OK to stop on yellow lines to drop off a

passenger, even when loading is banned. Can Cllr Haley explain the Councils position in such cases where enforcement is monitored by CCTV, if a motorist stops to drop off a passenger off.

Answer:

The council would assert that parking signage across the borough complies with regulations. The only plan to replace signs is where the operational hours of restrictions are changing. This will apply to Wood Green and Green Lanes as the operational hours of both of those CPZ's will change following the recent review of the schemes.

The signage that applies to the off peak pay-and-display bays complies with regulations. It may also be worth noting that more recently the DfT were consulted on and agreed the design of the signs relating to the new stop and shop schemes in Crouch End and Muswell Hill. Those signs can all be matched to sign numbers in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 and the permitted variants.

With regards to CCTV enforcement, this is generally carried out where there is a ban on parking and no exemptions apply. This applies to loading restrictions and footway parking. The CCTV operators are advised to observe a vehicle for 2-3 minutes where loading restrictions apply before issuing a ticket. The council feels that this is sufficient time to observe whether or not passengers are being dropped off or picked up.