



CROYDON COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 20 JULY 2015
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Welcome to a meeting of Croydon Council. Attached are the questions from the public and the replies which will be taken at this meeting.

WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU COLLECT THE PRINTED QUESTIONS/RESPONSES AND THEN MOVE INTO ROOM F4 ON THE FIRST FLOOR, RATHER THAN GO STRAIGHT TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY. A MEMBER OF STAFF WILL REGISTER YOUR NAME WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN THE ROOM SHOULD YOU WISH TO ASK A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION AND THEN ASK YOU TO PROCEED TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY.

Public Question time is usually towards the beginning on the meeting and the process for this item is as follows:

- ◆ The questions will be taken in the order in which they were received by the Council;
- ◆ The question and the reply will be taken as read;
- ◆ The person who asked the question, if present, will then be invited to ask a supplementary question, (if they wish) to clarify a point related to the reply they have been given in the written answer. The **length and detail of such a question should be brief** and at the discretion of the Mayor, allowing for the time available and the number of other questions which need to be dealt with;
- ◆ Public question time is limited strictly to **15 minutes** - if all the questions and answers have not been reached at the end of that time, the other replies will be taken as read and there will be no further opportunity for asking supplementary questions at that meeting; and
- ◆ Questions will not be carried over to the following meeting, but it is of course in order for questioners to ask another question on the same or another topic before the next meeting.

After the public question time you are very welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting

Question Number	Question to Cabinet Member	Question From	Subject
PQ030	Councillor Flemming	Mr Paterson	New primary school
PQ031	Councillor Hall	Mr Cartwright	Count Venue
PQ032	Councillor Watson	Mr Khan	Clean up for bill posting
PQ033	Councillor Watson	Ms Oliver	Family Justice Centre
PQ034	Councillor Butler	Mr Collier	Planning Policy
PQ035	Councillor Bee	Mr Weaving	Cycle Race

PQ036	Councillor Woodley	Ms Saddler	Bedroom tax
PQ037	Councillor Bee	Mr Gibbs	Penalty Charge notices
PQ038	Councillor Newman	Mr Samuel	Council services
PQ039	Councillor Collins	Mr Ottley	Green Waste Collections
PQ040	Councillor Bee	Mr Morton	Pollution from buses
PQ041	Councillor Godfrey	Miss Selezneva	Public Pool

The attached replies are subject to oral amendment by the Cabinet Member or Committee Chair.

From Mr John Paterson

Councillor Alisa Flemming

Question No.

PQ030-15

The December 2014 report of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee stated 60,000 deaths a year are due to air pollution and are Croydon Council seriously considering building a new school at the Five Ways road junction before knowing the effect of the TFL proposed changes at this intersection?

Reply

The new Primary Academy is proposed to be built in Propeller Crescent off the Purley Way, not at the Fiveways junction. The site was previously occupied by a Primary School. The new Academy will provide much needed additional primary school places for the central area of Croydon and is situated close to existing and planned new housing.

The development is at an early stage and will have to go through a full planning process, including public consultation, before it can be built. We are aware of potential changes to the Fiveways junction and Transport for London will be one of the organisations which we will consult over our plans, as well as the Environment Agency. The proposed new school site contains an air monitoring station and the data will be used to inform planning, design and use of the building.

From John Cartwright

Councillor Simon Hall

Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

Question No.

PQ031-15

Why was the venue for the general election count moved from Trinity School to Fairfield Halls?

Reply

I thank Mr Cartwright for his question. The decision to move the count to Fairfield Halls was taken by the Returning Officer after discussion with relevant stakeholders. The decision was then ratified by the General Purposes and Audit Committee meeting of 28 January 2015.

In making this recommendation to change the count venue the Returning Officer was of the view that the use of Fairfield Halls would improve the count process, allowing him to follow the key principles for an effective count, namely that all processes were transparent and that the count itself produced an accurate result.

In view of the close result in Croydon Central, a final result that was achieved without challenge, the Returning Officer's decision to change venue can be seen to have been fully justified.

From Mr Shasha Khan

Councillor Mark Watson

Question No.

PQ032-15

Given the levels of fly posting by the SayNo20mph campaign <http://tinyurl.com/o8kwoa8> and the clear links between their web site and the UKIP Croydon North web site (the 20mph pages are identical), will this council bill UKIP for the clean-up operation or even seek a prosecution?

Reply

Officers have made enquiries regarding the flyposting of SayNo20mph materials. The identity of the person or organisation responsible for the flyposting is not clear and there has been no admission of guilt by any one person. As the Council is unable to prove who actually put them up, the evidential basis for enforcement action, including prosecution or seeking the costs of removal, is not straightforward. The Council is unable to enforce purely based on links and assumptions.

A warning regarding flyposting has nevertheless been sent to the contact address listed on the SayNo20mph materials as being involved and the materials were removed. No further materials were put up after that point to our knowledge. No reply was forthcoming from the contact address.

The Council is unable at this point in time to take any more action. Our response has been measured and, insofar as the flyposting appears to have occurred only on those lamp columns where the Council's own scheme notices were displayed, is considered proportionate.

From Ms Susan Oliver

Councillor Mark Watson

Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice

Question No.

PQ033-15

Given the high rate of domestic abuse in the borough, why is the Croydon Family Justice Centre open only 24 hours a week?

Reply

We are developing an on-line advisory service for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. We are currently at the testing phase and training of staff.

The service will go live in September. We plan for the service to be available during core service hours (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Fridays from 10am to 4pm), early evenings (5-7pm), Saturday (2-6pm), Sunday (9am – 1pm).

The online service will not only mean the council is offering more hours than currently provided at the Family Justice Centre but also provide another way that the public can access support as some victims are unable to physically attend the FJC. Combined with the offer at FJC, the council will be offering an extended and more flexible service during the week and also early evenings and weekends.

From Mr Peter Collier

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ034-15

The National Planning Policy Framework states that local plans should be involving their local communities, why was this not done in this case, when contemplating allowing another school to be built on the Waddon Infant site on the Purley Way, knowing this road has a severe pollution problem.

Reply

A pre-application enquiry for a new primary school at the Waddon site has been received. The discussions are at an early stage but we will be encouraging the applicant to engage in public consultation as part of the pre-application process.

Only Strategic Policies and more Detailed Policies (for use in determining planning applications) have been published as part of the preparation of the Croydon Local Plan. The Strategic Policies were adopted in April 2013 and preferred options for the Detailed Policies were consulted upon in October 2013. Neither of these considered the use of specific sites. A consultation will take place later in 2015 on preferred options for specific sites where matters such as those raised by the questioner will be considered.

From Mr Colin Weaving

Councillor Kathy Bee

Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment

Question No.

PQ035-15

Which member of the council or officer thought that the idea of a cycle race through central Croydon late afternoon / early evening on Tuesday 2 June 2015, was good for business and residents and who approved it?

Reply

This administration is keen for Croydon to attract visitors to the borough and Town Centre to be entertained as well as to shop or work. The Ambition Festival is another example of this in action. The Race was intended to provide a spectacle and excitement for residents and workers alike, encouraging them to stay in the town centre for the evening to enjoy the event, in contrasts to the usual weekday worker exodus. It is intended to send the strong message that Croydon is changing. The Race had the backing of senior officers and councillors alike and I hope we will be able to host it again.

From Ms. Cynthia Saddler

Councillor Louisa Woodley

Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care

Question No.

PQ036-15

Can the council tell me when I am going to stop paying the bedroom tax, due to my 'temporary' housing continuing unnecessarily?

Reply

Thank you for your question. To afford you the necessary privacy, it is not appropriate for me to discuss your individual circumstances in an open forum such as this. I have therefore asked the Director of housing need to contact you to respond to your question in detail. I would however make the general comment that the homelessness legislation provides that where an authority discharges its functions to secure that accommodation is available for an applicant, the accommodation must be suitable. In considering the suitability of available accommodation, the council takes into account whether the accommodation is affordable by an applicant. To determine this, account is taken of financial resources available to the applicant, the cost of the accommodation and any reasonable living expenses.

The Director of Housing Need will contact you to explain about your personal situation.

As you may be aware this Labour Administration is opposed to the 'bedroom tax'.

From Mr Nick Gibbs

Councillor Kathy Bee

Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment

Question No.

PQ037-15

Can the cabinet member please explain the correct process and stages of enforcement with any options, of penalty charge notices issued for alleged contraventions, for example codes 01 and 54?

What happens after successful submission of witness statements or statutory declarations by an aggrieved motorist?

Reply

Please find below a link to the page on the London Councils website which provides information on the process and stages of enforcement.

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/parking-services/parking-and-traffic/parking-advice-members-public/understanding-parking>

Witness statements and statutory declarations are forwarded to the Parking & Traffic Appeals Service for a final decision on the matter.

Witness statements and statutory declarations are sent with all the case evidence (copy of Penalty Charge Notice, photographs, correspondence etc.) and the Council's case summary outlining the reasons why the PCN was issued and why the Council continues to contest the matter.

A copy of the Council's evidence is also sent to the appellant (registered keeper of the vehicle or person making the appeal) for their reference.

The Parking & Traffic Appeals Service is an independent body which decides parking disputes in place of a court and an Adjudicator makes a ruling having heard both the driver's and the Council's evidence before making a decision which is final and binding in law.

If the appellant wants to attend the hearing in person then he/she can request for a personal hearing and outline their case in person to the Adjudicator. The Council may also attend the hearing to explain the Council's case although usually due to staffing levels and work commitments the Council does not usually attend personal hearings.

If the Adjudicator allows the appeal then the Penalty Charge Notice must be cancelled and the case is closed. If the Adjudicator refuses the appeal then the appellant must pay the full amount of the Penalty Charge Notice within 28 days of the decision. A copy of the decision is then sent to both parties after the hearing explaining the Adjudicator's decision.

From Mr Mark Samuel

Councillor Tony Newman

Leader of the Council

Question No. PQ038-15

Can the leader kindly list all services and functions it provides to residents etc. by law or otherwise, that are currently affected by any shortage of money and the amounts?

For example, refuse collection £90,000,000 etc.

Reply

I recognise that Mr Samuel shares my desire to ensure that the Council delivers value for money. However in these very austere times pragmatism is essential and I regret that we do not have the capacity to collate the information for him so I will provide a [link](#) to where the information is held on the council's website.

From Mr David Ottley

Councillor Stuart Collins

Cabinet Member for Clean, Green Croydon

Question No.

PQ039-15

Can the cabinet member confirm the same criteria and eligibility apply for green waste collection, whatever the council tax band and across the borough?

Reply

Yes, the cabinet member can confirm that the seasonal kerbside green garden waste collection service is available to all residents living in properties which receive the comprehensive landfill & recycling kerbside collection service.

From Mr Sam Morton

Councillor Kathy Bee

Cabinet Member for transport & Environment

Question No.

PQ040-15

We now have a quiet cul-de-sac on Norbury Avenue which is great!

But why not be even more ambitious and invoke the Traffic Management Act 2004, S16-17 to reduce the congestion, pollution and damage to our roads by buses running 24/7 'NOT IN SERVICE', especially on Brighton Road, South Croydon?

Reply

The Act places a duty on the local traffic authority to manage their road network with a view to achieving, so far as may be reasonably practicable (having regard to their other obligations, policies and objectives) the following objectives—

(a)securing the expeditious movement of traffic on the authority's road network;
and

(b)facilitating the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the traffic authority.

Having a high quality reliable bus service is one of the main means of helping people not rely on the car, in turn helping to reduce congestion and support the expeditious movement of traffic objective. Unfortunately, the running of buses from the end of their route back to the depot, is part and parcel of providing that high quality service. That said I, am fully aware of the local impacts this can cause, and my deputy Cllr Canning and council officers will continue to press and encourage TfL and the bus operators (via the Public Transport Liaison Panel) to reduce this 'empty running.'

From Miss Ekaterina Selezneva

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport

Question No.

PQ041-15

What is the definition of a public pool and how does this apply to Purley Pool?

Reply

The council's definition of a public pool relates to leisure centres which are owned or managed by the Council or their service provider.

The Council own five Leisure Centres those being South Norwood, Thornton Heath, Waddon, Purley and New Addington

More information about these leisure centres can found at:

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/sports/spsc>