

QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES, REGENERATION AND PLANNING Councillor Alison Butler		
CQ018-17	Cummings, J	Brick by Brick assets
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, SAFETY AND JUSTICE Councillor Hamida Ali		
CQ020-17	Mohan, V	Religious Celebrations
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TREASURY Councillor Simon Hall		
CQ017-17	Bashford, S	Community Space
CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT Councillor Timothy Godfrey		
CQ012-17	Creatura, M	National Park City
CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT Councillor Stuart King		
CQ033-17	Bird, M	Speed Cameras

CQ018-17 from Councillor Jason Cummings

Councillor Alison Butler

1. Please supply a full list of council assets that have been transferred to Brick by Brick Ltd
2. Please supply a list of the values of those assets at the time they were transferred.
3. Please also include the last previous valuation for each asset.

Reply

1. **Please supply a full list of council assets that have been transferred to Brick by Brick Ltd**
Council land is sold to Brick by Brick following a process detailed in the Cabinet paper found here:
<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kab14.pl?operation=SUBMIT&meet=55&cmte=CAB&grpid=public&arc=1>. No assets have yet been transferred.
2. **Please supply a list of the values of those assets at the time they were transferred.**
N/A
3. **Please also include the last previous valuation for each asset.**
The majority of the sites utilise areas within housing estates that are currently open land or parking and therefore they will not have a specific value attributed to them. Any individual assets such as garages or separate corporate assets will have an asset value ascribed to them but this does not necessarily represent a market value for the building (and could be up to 5 years old) and will not therefore be used in the process of agreeing values for each site. What will be undertaken is a site by site valuation based on the proposed scheme as set out in the planning applications and this will be agreed between the Council and BxB to determine the land value on disposal and will represent the “best consideration” for the specific scheme. This process is currently being undertaken and the results are not yet available.

CQ020-17

from Councillor Vidhi Mohan

Councillor Hamida Ali

Could you Cabinet Member explain why the Council did not host any public events to celebrate Eid and Diwali last year, as has been the practice for many years now. Does she plan to host such events in 2017?

Reply

Prior to 2016 faith specific events organised by the Council were well attended - but rarely attended by people from other faiths.

As a result, in 2015 the Stronger Communities Partnership Board (part of the Local Strategic Partnership and made up of voluntary, community and statutory partners) agreed that from 2016, the Council's strategic focus should be on events that bring people from different backgrounds together and that individual communities should lead on faith specific events - supported by the Council and other partners.

The Council continues to support community event organisers with faith specific events including Council officer time. The Mayor addressed Eid and Diwali events last year, and councillors including the Leader, cabinet members and ward councillors across the borough have taken part.

The Council has a crucial role (and an important legal duty) to bring communities together and to facilitate and promote greater cohesion between communities. The Council continues to fund Faiths Together in Croydon (FTIC) to organise interfaith activities which last year included:

- Jun - Annual interfaith picnic and the 2nd annual interfaith bike ride
- Jul - A trip to a Muslim cemetery
- Aug - Faiths Together Community Security Briefing
- Sep - Safeguarding awareness workshop
- Nov - A workshop to explore 'what peace means' to different faiths

FTIC meetings are open to the public, are attended by a council officer and the police Community Faith Liaison Officer and feature guests and speakers.

This year the Council will continue to support and attend events organised by the community and to lead inter-faith and inter-community activity. The Stronger Communities Partnership Board's Community Cohesion Sub-Group is also leading on discussions on a large scale community event designed to celebrate the borough's diversity (in its broadest sense) and to bring people together as 'One Croydon'.

CQ017-17 from Councillor Sara Bashford

Councillor Simon Hall

I have been made aware that the Community Space is being closed in August and the DWP are moving in.

Can you please provide the following advice:-

- 1a. How many booking were made for 14/15 and 15/16, including council bookings
- 1.b How many booking have been made for FY 16/17
2. How many booking are there from April - August 2017.
3. What organisations booked the space in 14/15,15/16 and 16/17
4. What income was derived from bookings in 14/15, 15/16 and 16/17 (actual to end Jan 17 and an estimate to 31/03/17 is Ok)
5. Where have the council advised community groups, who previously used the community space, to go to for their meetings and events

Reply

1a. How many booking were made for 14/15 and 15/16, including council bookings

There were 918 bookings in 14/15 (90% bookings were for council functions) and 968 bookings in 15/16 (78% bookings were for council functions).

1.b How many booking have been made for FY 16/17

There were 559 bookings in 16/17 (75% bookings were for council functions).

2. How many booking are there from April - August 2017.

There are 59 bookings from April – August 2017 (all these bookings are for council functions).

3. What organisations booked the space in 14/15,15/16 and 16/17

The following organisations booked the space in 14/15, 15/16 and 16/17

London Learning Consortium
Asian Resource Centre
Balagokulam (HSS)
Chinmaya Missions UK
Croydon Accessible Transport
Croydon CAB
Croydon Drop In
Datta Samai Yoga Mission
East Surrey Transport
Hestia Housing and Support
Hillsong Church Uk
Infertility Uk

Meditation
Mighty Men of Honour
NCY
SGI-UK
Slide Dance
Surang Arts
The London Centre for Personal Safty (LCPS)
Toynbee Hall
Turtle Key Arts
Victim Support
Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd

Croydon Mediation
Croydon Stop and Search
Community Monitoring Group
Evolve Housing
Evolve Housing
Onside Youth Zones
West Thornton Primary Academy
Healthwatch Croydon
CCG
SLAM
Octavo
Arcadis

4. What income was derived from bookings in 14/15, 15/16 and 16/17 (actual to end Jan 17 and an estimate to 31/03/17 is Ok)

Income derived from bookings in 14/15 was £1,040

Income derived from bookings in 15/16 was £0 (zero)

Income derived from bookings in 16/17 was £570.00

5. Where have the council advised community groups, who previously used the community space, to go to for their meetings and events

The community space is still available at the current time.

In terms of where we would advise groups to go, it should be noted that we are increasing the capacity of Braithwaite Hall to greater than the community space and there are other council sites such as the David Lean Cinema that can be offered.

We also signpost to other privately run establishments, for example, Stanley Halls and the Croydon Conference Centre.

CQ012-17 **from Councillor Mario Creatura**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Almost a year ago, every ward held by Croydon Conservatives declared their support for the 'Greater London National Park City' campaign: http://www.croydonconservatives.com/news_search_results_detail.asp?StoryNo=1541

London can become a National Park City once at least two-thirds (436) of London's 654 wards, the Mayor of London and the London Assembly have declared their support. So far just 213 wards have.

Despite requesting that Croydon's 40 Labour councillors register their support, none have yet done so. I feel this is a terrible shame.

Could the Cabinet Member please explain their reason for ignoring Conservative calls for cross-party support on this campaign to date? Alternatively will the Cabinet Member endorse our calls that Croydon becomes the first full borough in London to declare its support? Members can do so using the <http://www.nationalparkcity.london/> website.

Cllr Jason Perry, Shadow Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning & Regeneration, commented at the time: "Croydon is the most populated London borough and has over 120 parks and open spaces. We felt it vitally important to support this initiative that will protect and promote our precious green spaces for generations to come." I hope all members of the Council agree with that sentiment, and that all Croydon Labour Councillors will be encouraged to get behind this important initiative.

Reply

Councillor Creatura is inaccurate in suggesting that the administration is not in support of the Greater London National Park City campaign and similarly mistaken in calling for Croydon to be the first London borough to declare full support which was achieved in Islington and Ealing last year. As of February 2016, 220 voting wards out a total of 654 across the capital have declared their support via their local councillors. In Croydon councillors from 10 wards have declared their support.

As you are aware the aims of the London National Park movement are :

- All Londoners will have free and easy access to high-quality green space
- Connect 100% of London's children to nature
- Make 51% of London physically green
- Improve London's air & water quality
- Improve biodiversity and connectivity between habitats
- Inspire the building of affordable homes green homes
- Inspire new business activities
- Promote London as a Green World City

- Nurture a shared National Park City identity for Londoners

A strong policy context already exists to support these aims within the Croydon Local Plan. Croydon also makes a significant contribution to the area of high quality green space within London with 25% of the borough being made up of recreational space and broad leaved woodland and a further 35% made up of residential garden space. Theoretically making Croydon at least 60% green.

Croydon therefore already exceeds the campaigns aspirations as a borough.

Council policies naturally align with those of the campaign as do those of Mayor Khan at the London Level. We warmly welcome Mayor Khan's action to tackle air pollution.

We warmly welcome the campaign highlighting the importance of green infrastructure to London residents.

This mirrors our administrations founding of the borough group that brings together friends of parks, woodlands and green spaces across the borough. This ensures that the voice of all local parks are amplified and knowledge shared.

This administration believes that we need to improve the quality of our open space and the opportunities within those open spaces through ongoing investment in our Parks and Green Spaces across our borough. In this way we will be able to better support existing and new residents as this borough continues to grow.

This is all being achieved in the context of targeted cuts to Local Government. In Croydon that means that the Government has reduced our funding by 65.3% (cuts through to 2017) while continuing to fund other London boroughs more generously per head of population.

CQ033-17 **from Councillor Margaret Bird**

Councillor Stuart King

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the speed cameras operated by the Police and Roadwatch can be calibrated down to cope with the proposed 20mph speed limit and if yes will the Council be paying the cost?

Reply

Safety (speed) cameras are controlled and maintained by the London Safety Camera Partnership (LSCP) and they have been made aware of the Council's 20mph project. The LSCP are currently upgrading their old type cameras to the new digital type that can easily be adjusted to operate at 20mph. The upgrade to digital operation is part of the LSCPs general modernisation, and there are no cost implications for the Council.

It should also be noted that the only safety camera in Croydon which will be within a 20mph area is on Tennison Road and the LSCP have confirmed that this is already of the new digital type. All the other safety cameras in Croydon are on the main road network, which is being retained at 30mph, and these cameras will not therefore need any changes.

As for Roadwatch, the digital laser guns used for this project can determine speeds as low as 1mph so will have no difficulty in monitoring vehicles travelling at or below the 20mph speed limit.

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