

QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT Councillor Timothy Godfrey		
CQ042-17	Creatura, M	Park Bins
CQ043-17	Pollard, H	Croydon Talks Parks
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CQ045-17	Pollard, H	Park Hill Park
CQ046-17	Pollard, H	Parks Masterplans
CQ047-17	Pollard, H	Fairfield Halls Refurbishment
CQ048-17	Pollard, H	Fairfield Halls
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING Councillor Alisa Flemming		
CQ041-17	Stranack, A	Legacy Croydon Youth Zone

CQ042-17 **from Councillor Mario Creatura**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Summer is upon us, and so many residents will be more frequently using our beautiful parks and green spaces. This will inevitably lead to a greater amount of waste being produced and park bins being filled to overflowing many times a day.

Can the Cabinet Member please detail:

- the process by which the frequency for emptying the park bins is established during the different demands of each month;
- how the frequency changes from month to month based on demand (i.e. How many times each day are bins emptied in the winter vs summer?)
- what the penalties are for contracted waste cleaning services who do not empty according to the criteria outline by the Council.
- where possible list the bin emptying rota for each of Croydon's parks during the summer season.

Reply

Under the conservative administration the budget for parks was cut to the tune of £500,000 just prior to the award of the current contract.

Bins in our parks are emptied on a performance basis rather than to a specific frequency. The contract specifies that litter bins should not be more than 75% full at any time. The contractor is therefore required to deploy sufficient resources to maintain this standard. The resource required to achieve this fluctuates over the year to cater for seasonal variation and holiday periods based on demand.

Any bins found to fall outside of this specification are required to be rectified within 2 hours. Failure to do so results in a default being issued to the contractor, and if a certain number of defaults are accumulated in a period, a financial penalty is applied.

Since 2015 over 150 dual use bins have been introduced in to our parks, these have greater capacity and can take a mix of litter and dog fouling bringing the total number of bins deployed to over 490.

Fly-tipping and domestic refuse sacks are often encountered in our parks which leads to bins being immediately full or loose bags being attacked by foxes and dogs causing increased litter problems and requiring the contractor to clear and litter pick before moving on to the next park and reducing their ability to respond more rapidly.

The council is ambitious for how our Parks are used and we wish to see a high standard of

care and maintenance at each green space. I am pleased that we have been able to respond to residents requests and removed recycling facilities at Ashburton Park which had become an unsightly mess of dumping.

Our contract monitoring team have been doing a great job in ensuring the high standards that the authority requires of iDverde are carried out, across all of their duties from grass cutting to hedge trimming. Bin Emptying is no exception.

CQ043-17 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Please can you tell me when the Summary Report of the Croydon Talks Park consultation was published on the council website?

Who has this report been distributed to and when did they receive information that it is now available to view?

How is the information in the report being used?

Reply

The Summary Report of the Croydon Talks Park consultation was published on the council website on 07 April 2017. Prior to this the report was circulated to myself as holder of the Cabinet portfolio.

CQ044-17 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Croydon Talks Parks Survey

I have looked through the results from this survey and I would like a bit more information on the data.

On page 10 'Getting more involved' it states that 463 people responded to the question (in the online survey) about whether they would be interested in getting more involved. Please give me a breakdown of the responses to this question in terms of numbers and percentages.

Please give a breakdown of the types and numbers of responses from people who said they would like to get more involved and how.

Reply

Shaping and improving parks: online survey

Online survey respondents were asked whether they thought 'growing food; planting trees; clearing litter; raising funds for new playgrounds; and joining 'Friends of' groups' were good ways of getting involved in shaping and improving parks and whether they had any ideas of their own. They were also asked if they would be interested in getting more involved. 463 people responded to this question.

Many thought that these were good suggestions. Some other ways of getting involved that were mentioned included promoting activities through social media networks and getting involved in activities that also involved their children.

Of those who explicitly indicated whether they would be interested in getting more involved, there was a mixed response. A small number said they would and a similar number said they would not at this time or because they were already involved in 'Friends of' groups or with litter-picking.

Organising events and activities: online survey

310 people responded to this question. Some who responded said they were already involved either through being a member of a Friends of group or by volunteering at ad hoc events.

Of those who said they would like to get more involved there were three distinct areas that offers of help included:

- Helping with sports activities and events
- Helping with more cultural events
- Promoting activities

Please give a breakdown of the types and numbers of responses from people who said they would like to get more involved and how.

Individual responses to this question were coded into categories (listed below) by The

Campaign Company. This means that a particular response that expressed more than one opinion could be coded into more than one category. This explains why the total of the below percentages add up to 115 and not 100. The percentages below have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Already Involved – 18%

No (general) – 8%

No (time) – 8%

Yes (general) – 22%

Yes (In friends of group) – 4%

Yes (Growing food) – 5%

Yes (Planting Trees) – 3%

Yes (Clearing Litter) – 4%

Yes (Raising Funds) – 3%

Don't Know – 2%

Suggestions

- Friends of groups – 2%
- Growing food – 2%
- Planting trees – 3%
- Clearing Litter – 3%
- Funding – 1%
- Maintenance – 5%
- Local Participation – 5%
- Awareness (Promotion) – 2%
- Activities and Events – 1%
- Facilities – 2%
- Other – 4%

CQ045-17 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

How much s106/CIL money will be available for Park Hill Park once the masterplanning process has been completed i.e. by January 2018?

Reply

Previously £99,950 was allocated to Park Hill through section 106 funds and it is intended that this funding is rolled forward. There are opportunities for the friends of group to complement this funding through applying for grants, support from other organisation and companies as well as crowd funding. Other friends of groups/community organisations have been successful at using the section 16 funding as a lever to significantly increase funds available. Council officers would provide support to friends of groups who would like to explore these opportunities.

CQ046-17 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Once the masterplans for the six parks have been completed, what money will be available for the other five parks that will have an agreed plan?

Reply

We will work with friends of groups to explore different sources of funding that are available, which could include funding through community grants, support from private organisation, crowd funding as well as Councillor ward budgets, section 106 and CIL. A number of our friends of groups have been successful in using council funding through for example Section 106 and Councillor ward budgets, as a lever to attract other sources of funding. We will actively encourage and support this approach, as it will deliver the best outcome for all of our parks.

CQ047-17 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Has a decision been made about whether the seats in the Concert Hall in Fairfield Halls will need to be refurbished or replaced? Is there money in the original Fairfield Halls refurbishment budget for the replacement or refurbishing of the seats? If not, where will the money come from is refurbishment or replacement is necessary?

Reply

A condition survey has been conducted to establish the extent of refurbishment works for each seat, including replacement, in the concert hall and Ashcroft Theatre. The cost of refurbishing the seats has been captured in the overall budget for the Halls.

CQ048-17 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

It is planned that Fairfield Halls will be marketed as a conference venue in future. What plans are there for installing wifi throughout, as well as charging points for mobile devices?

Reply

The marketing plans are for the operator to confirm, the preferred operator has considerable experience in this area and conferencing will be a key part of the viability and success of the venue. Twin data outlets have been allowed for throughout the Halls which have been specifically allocated for wifi. The operator will need to install their own wifi products into this infrastructure to provide a network across the building. Similarly, the operator can choose to specifically provide for phone charging using the provided electrical sockets and wider network.

CQ041-17 **from Councillor Andy Stranack**

Councillor Alisa Flemming

Can Cllr. Flemming give an update on the 'Legacy' Croydon Youth Zone in Whitehorse Road:-

- a) How much money has the Onside Charity raised towards the capital costs of building the Zone, please provide a breakdown of where the money has come from?
- b) What is the anticipated opening date of the zone?
- c) Please give a breakdown of the revenue support the Council has provided to the project to date?

Reply

- a) Current Capital Pledges are:
London Borough of Croydon - £3.25m
The Queen's Trust - £1m
The Stone Family Foundation - £0.5m
Anonymous Donor - £1m
Fidelity Foundation - £0.25m

All of the capital required, £6 million in total, is now secured.

One donor has asked that their contribution remain anonymous.

- b) Subject to planning, procurement, completion of the Youth Zone is anticipated in September/October 2018
- c) The Council has not provided any revenue support to the project to date. Post completion the Council has committed to provide £300k per annum, of the £1 million per annum running costs, in each of the first three years of the Youth Zone's operation. Beyond the council commitment OnSide has so far secured a further £350k per annum of private sector, again for a 3 year period.