
Questions reported below are transcripts of submitted Help Forms raised during the meeting

Question 1: Waltham Forest Theatre and cultural provision in the Borough

L and N Caulfield (Winns Terrace) submitted the following written question regarding Waltham Forest Theatre and the cultural provision in the Borough: "I was told at the last meeting that I would be able to bring up the issue at the next meeting as they will ensure it would be in the minutes of the meeting held on 09.06.08 (reference, page 17, question 9 of the Agenda documents, 6 October 2008). We needed to do this tonight as it may be too late by the next meeting".

Response: Cllr Reardon, Cabinet Member – Leisure Arts and Culture

I will be present at the meeting and I am happy to answer questions from the floor to the best of my ability.

Question 2: New Developments to include designs for wildlife

D Burkett (North Countess Road) submitted the following question: "I would like the new building developments, e.g. Banbury to incorporate designs for wildlife – birds especially. Developers need to involve wildlife organisations – e. g. RSPB, etc.

The roads near the new proposed Banbury development – Ardleigh Road, Wigton Road, North Countess Road, have the old Warner flats which had nooks and crannies for birds. As they are modernised with plastic etc., the birds are losing their homes. We have already lost the House Martins that delighted us in the summer. We still have our returning Swifts (from Africa each year) but we will lose them if they lose their nest sites. We still are lucky enough to have House Sparrows in the area. We need to keep nest sites for these birds. There are purpose built boxes which can be incorporated into buildings (sealed, so that birds do not get into roof spaces etc)."

Response: Judith Carlson, Programme Manager - Regeneration

A. We have undertaken a full sustainability appraisal on Blackhorse Lane which is published on our website <http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/interim-planning-policy-framework-final-2.pdf> and we are currently consulting with English Nature on an Appropriate Assessment (Required under the European Habitat Regulation Directive) because of the proximity of the Walthamstow Reservoirs Special Protection Area. There will be opportunities to protect and promote biodiversity as part of the Blackhorse Lane developments, including the proposed Waterfront Park for which we have now commissioned a detailed feasibility study.

The developer has submitted a planning application for Banbury Park and the statutory consultation period will allow for any relevant planning considerations to be taken into account. I would recommend that D Burkett submits a formal response to the planning application number 2008/1709. Please write to Development Management, Sycamore House, Town Hall Complex, Forest Road London E17 4JF. In the meantime, I am copying the question and my response to the planning officer dealing with the application.

Second response: Jon Price, Deputy Section Manager

The Council have provided 21 days for residents and other interested parties to make comments about the proposal. Whilst the 21 days has elapsed, officers are happy to consider any additional representations that the public may wish to make up until the determination of the application, particularly given the scale and significance of the proposed development.

Question 3: Fly-tipping

D Hallsworth (Douglas Avenue) submitted this written question: "What is the Council going to do about the increasing number of people moving in to this area who constantly dump their unwanted items on the pavements outside their house?"

Recently, we had a settee dumped in Ardleigh Terrace, an old fan heater and lamp shades in Ardleigh Road, cupboard door fronts also in Ardleigh Road, and over a dozen bags of old clothing and shoes on the forecourt of Penrhyn Surgery.

There have been many more instances, but it would take too long to mention them all.

Whilst the Council needs to act, those offending should be made aware that these practices are both disgraceful and unacceptable. "

Response: Gareth Jones, Enforcement Manager – Street Services

Where we have positive proof of a person unlawfully disposing of their waste (fly tipping) we will progress the matter to legal proceedings. In October we had 2 successful prosecutions against 2 residents carrying out such activity and they were fined £300 and £250 respectively. We have a warning letter that we distribute to areas where such activity is taking place that details the Free Bulky Items Special Collections Service and the consequences of Fly Tipping i.e. maximum £50.00 fine and up to 5 Years imprisonment. I will ensure that they are delivered in the Ardleigh Road area to ensure that all residents are aware of this issue and the consequences if caught.

In January 2009 we are launching a 'Name, Claim & Shame' campaign where we will be actively encouraging our residents to report persons they see committing environmental offences such as fly tipping, littering, graffiti and dog fouling. This will ensure that we have effective information for the enforcement team to be able to take more positive action and more prosecutions. This will deter the stated activity and should lead to a reduction in the number of offences that should lead to cleaner streets.

Question 4: Voluntary group proposal – Asianos Academy FC

M Keegan (Pearl Road) submitted the following request: “Please confirm in the minutes that Asianos FC is open to all children, not just Asian children

Response: Communication Officer Asianos FC

Asianos Academy, FC is an organisation that is open to all sections of the community, regardless of race, creed or any other social classification. Our website and all official letterheads, documents pro-actively state that we support the FA’s ‘Kick Racism Out of Football’ and we are currently looking at renaming our organisation

Question 5: Funding allocation for whole and ward areas – Spend 2008/09

E Pearle (Ruby Road) submitted the following clarification: “How was the allocation of money decided – i.e. giving £5,000 to the whole area and £10,000 to individual wards. Surely the whole area is likely to attract bigger projects as was the case, it is so beneficial to have money available. Some individual wards had money to spare after agreeing all projects but whole area was vastly over, as money asked for £20,000 approximately when only £5,000 was available in total.”

Response: Claire Witney, Head of Community Engagement

The Community Councils funding was increased in 2008 in order to:

- Enable local people to identify and prioritise the issues that are most important to them locally
- Develop local solutions in response to local problems
- Improve the quality of life for residents in local areas
- Promote cohesive neighbourhoods and celebrate diversity
- Encourage volunteering and community involvement

The new funding aims to enable residents to identify what they would like to see delivered in their immediate neighbourhood and for voluntary and community groups to suggest projects that will respond to very local needs. The majority of the resources were therefore allocated to each ward. However it was recognised that some projects such as festivals have been valued by local residents in the past. These benefit a wider area than the ward they are delivered in and therefore a sum for the whole area needed to be maintained.

The voluntary and community groups that submitted applications were made aware of all the funding that was available. Some chose to submit proposals across a number of wards whilst others submitted applications for the whole area.

Question 6: Issues regarding previous meeting

A **resident** submitted the following comment; "This meeting was a farce and very poorly handled by the Chairs who appeared poorly briefed or prepared and unable to coordinate their ideas or respond to the voice of the people. A shocking and shameful example to young people."

Response: Philip Herlihy, Community Chair:

Some fair comment there. I feel bound to make it clear that it was I who had persuaded Cllr Smith (against his grave misgivings) to accept a last-minute restructuring of the running order of the meeting, and this (inevitably, with hindsight) did create considerable confusion. It was a mistake, a dotty one, and I have to take full responsibility for it. Detailed analysis began the next day, and lessons certainly have been learned.

I would ask residents, though, to bear in mind that what was being premiered on 6th October was something both new and ambitious - we're not aware of anything similar being tried in any other authority, where a substantial budget is being allocated with such "live" involvement of residents. No-one should be shocked when an innovative and challenging initiative produces stumbles, even apparently clumsy ones, provided lessons are actively being learned. Moreover, you won't find anyone in the committed Walthamstow West team who feels "shame" over this - on the contrary, we have a fierce pride in the fact that we are prepared to take real risks rather than make do with the routinely mediocre. We also believe that young people are more likely than any to identify with this spirit.

Response: Dawn Polis, Community Councils Manager

The team's analysis concluded that there were a number of areas that needed to improve. As the numbers attending were greater than that anticipated, we should have provided more room and made the spend procedure simpler.