



COUNCIL MEETING – 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- a Councillor Clarke to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs:

As the Council's reading champion I have noticed that Islington libraries do not provide small tables and chairs for very young library users. When I travel around this country and Wales and visit libraries in other towns I notice the children's section in most libraries do have at least one small table and chairs. I think it would be good if Islington would try out using small tables and chairs as librarians in other places say they are popular and well used. I have heard constituents ask for them as their children are not as safe on the bigger tables. Would it be possible to try introducing small tables and small chairs for our youngest library users?

- b Councillor Heather to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

Can you please reassure me that in relation to the installation of electric vehicle chargers in the borough that the council is adequately addressing public concerns regarding:

1. Location and health and safety for users and the general public.
2. Noise generated.
3. Light disturbance.
4. Payment for charging a vehicle.
5. Public and resident consultation.

Finally, what are the actual environmental benefits of using electric vehicles as opposed to petrol or diesel vehicles in terms of the emissions created in each case by the generation of the power sources?

- c Councillor Khondoker to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

Can you please reassure me that in relation to the installation of cycling facilities across the borough that:

1. Location meets the needs of residents and borough users to facilitate cycling e.g. bicycle racks will be available across the borough including residential street properties and estates both internal secure storage and sheltered/cctv/roadside cycle racks outside estates and commercial areas. Harvist Estate is a prime example of lacking outdoor cycle racks near the shops by Citizens House.
2. Security and surveillance has been considered either using council run cameras or in conjunction with commercially owned cameras.
3. Public and resident consultation and/or survey has informed the placement of facilities.

- d Councillor Khondoker to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

Can you reassure me that the recently agreed street cleaning procedure is being conducted as agreed, and the council is adequately addressing public concerns with:

1. Streets do not appear to be cleaned daily; streets are often seen with litter scattered along it.
2. Rubbish dumping and dog fouling are reported via the Clean Islington App but few responses are received to confirm if the issue has been addressed or if the littering still persists.

- e Councillor Nathan to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs:

We're delighted to hear that Islington Council is actively pursuing options to make use of the former Fire Station in Clerkenwell. The short-sighted Tory cuts to the fire service, demonstrably are not in the public's interest, either economically or in terms of public safety. Half a million pounds over four years while an iconic and historically significant fire station lies empty. We support the view of local people who would like to see the site used for a mixture of social housing at council rent and affordable workspace. Could Cllr Shaikh give us an insight into how the site might be integrated into the existing affordable workspaces program and further how we could use such opportunities to provide a stepping stone into the prosperous nearby tech and design clusters for local people in support of the borough's inclusive economy strategy?

- f Councillor Smith to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Can I be provided with an itemised costing of the roof repair of 77-84 Rowstock gardens and a complete list of the agreed schedule of rates that apply to this contractor that it is proposed to provide this work to.

- g Councillor Russell to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety:

How many Islington residents are more than two months in arrears on their council tax?

- h Councillor Russell to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Thank you for your written answer to my question at the last Full Council meeting about how many front doors are non-compliant with fire regulations in council properties, tenanted and leasehold, in each ward.

You sent me a letter and a spreadsheet, but the answer to the question about the overall number of front doors that are not compliant with fire regulations was unclear as you gave numbers for directly managed homes but not for street properties managed by Partners for Islington, where you said you "plan to survey all tenanted flat front doors as part of a recently let contract to install interlinked heat and smoke detection and alarms" which will "take several years to complete".

My question is how many front doors are currently non-compliant with fire regulations in council properties, tenanted and leasehold, both directly managed and managed by Partners, in Islington? I'm looking for four borough level numbers at Full Council with a ward breakdown in writing.

- i Councillor Mackmurdie to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

As a Clerkenwell councillor, I have been approached by a number of residents about the implementation of Quietway 10. It is welcome the Council is encouraging more residents to take advantage of the benefits of cycling, but it is important that cyclists and pedestrians coexist without fear of harm within our transport infrastructure. Can Cllr Webbe therefore please confirm that a full and proper consultation on the implementation of Quietway 10 will be conducted with Clerkenwell residents and the community before any decision is made?

- j Councillor Graham to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

While we all welcome the outstanding exam results achieved by students across Islington we must not forget those in greatest need who may be being left at the wayside and, in my opinion, permanently excluded from our schools in the push for improved Ofsted results. Students, who are subsequently diagnosed as having ADHD or as being on the Autism spectrum, are regularly being permanently excluded from our schools prior to diagnosis, being seen as 'naughty' or 'disruptive'.

There seems a reluctance on behalf of our schools to recognise underlying problems students may have. This can happen despite children demonstrating clear symptoms of autism. Things such as refusal to make eye contact when being spoken to by teachers, covering the head and face and avoiding noise and crowds due to sensory issues. Thankfully, some children are moved to an alternative provision unit that encourage people to get a proper diagnosis and ensure they receive the support they should have got all along and go on to flourish.

However, if schools are more aware of the signs to watch out for, this support could be given sooner and would avoid the devastation exclusion can cause. I have been contacted by several parents going through similar experiences with autism and with ADHD. If signs of these conditions were recognised earlier and school staff were made more aware I believe we could drastically reduce the number of our children going through the trauma and stigma of permanent exclusion. And let's not forget, studies have shown that children who are permanently excluded from mainstream education can be 4 times more likely to wind up in the prison system.

I therefore ask Cllr Caluori to lead the way and push our Islington schools to ensure staff are given the proper training in how to recognise these conditions, so they can be supported earlier and that we avoid more of our kids are not left on the scrapheap. I also call for an investigation into how many Islington students who have been excluded are later diagnosed with autism, ADHD or similar conditions.