

Summons Item 8

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT COUNCIL MEETING – 29th NOVEMBER 2004

Items Selected by Non-Executive Members under Standing Order 40

- (a) From Councillor C J Patel

Consultation before closing roads

I ask the Executive to review how Brent consults with residents and communities before taking decisions affecting local areas.

I have in mind the recent decision to close Ealing Road on 12th and 13th November “for religious purposes” over Diwali. This was announced by Road Signs but reversed after objections from the Temple and local traders. No consultation took place beforehand, and ward councillors were not asked.

Consulting better with partners may help the Council get decisions right first time. It will also stop us closing roads “for religious purposes” when this is not what worshippers or traders want.

- (b) From Councillor McGovern

Industrial premises

Following the destruction by fire of the industrial estate in Coles Green Road, local residents are concerned about the future use of that site. They are also concerned in general about the health and safety issues relating to industrial premises and indeed to the fire hazards accompanying any buildings that are left unoccupied for any period. I would ask the Executive to consider referring this issue to Scrutiny to examine.

- (c) From Councillor J Long

Provision of toilets in cafes and restaurants

Currently there is no legal requirement for food businesses, cafes and coffee bars, to provide toilets for customers, only for their staff. There is also no policy in the UDP requiring customer toilets to be provided. This Council should amend its planning policies to require customer's toilets in all new cafes and restaurants. And the Council should lobby the ALG etc for a

change in the law whereby toilets are required in all existing cafes and restaurants. And existing premises which cannot accommodate toilets should make an annual financial contribution towards some locally provided toilets. And toilets must be accessible.