



Brent

Full Council – 11 July 2016

| Questions to members of the Cabinet | Response |
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| <p>To Councillor Butt from Cllr Lesley Jones</p> <p>Have the lead members and officers done an assessment on the impact of Brexit on Brent, and what can be done to ameliorate it?</p> | <p>Leaving the European Union undoubtedly puts our borough at risk – our businesses that export to Europe, the employees that work for them and the families who now face price hikes in the shops.</p> <p>So Councillor Mashari is meeting with businesses to discuss the immediate future, to help us plot our future together. We are also getting the message out our friends and neighbours who are EU nationals that there has been no immediate change to their status, they are still free to remain in the UK, through all our channels. I would appreciate everyone here tonight, if you have a friend who is an EU national to reassure them that there has been no change in status. All members should reassure any of their residents who are worried about this.</p> <p>In a personal capacity, I know everyone on the Labour side supported the Labour MP Yvette Cooper’s motion in parliament to rule out any deportation of EU nationals currently resident in the UK. It was very sad that the Conservatives could not support it.</p> <p>But I have to say my Plan A for Brent about what to do after the Referendum was to stay in the EU. There is complete confusion from the government and the leave campaign on what</p> |

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| | <p>our post-EU world will look like. All through the campaign, the Leave campaign lied about the UK being able to reduce immigration while still having access to the single market. They lied about £350 million a week for the NHS.</p> <p>Theresa May says "Brexit means Brexit" – but what does that mean when it Brexit was built on a pack of lies? We need clarity from the government as soon as possible, so we can put together a comprehensive plan. Unfortunately, they appear to be more interested in discussing whether they want to repeal the foxhunting ban or gay marriage, as oppose to run the country. Until we have proper certainty from government, we simply cannot be too rigid in our plans.</p> |
| <p>To Councillor Southwood from Cllr Shama Tatler</p> <p>Recycling rates across London have, in the last couple of years, ceased to make the progress we had previously seen. What are we doing to kick-start improvement in Brent?</p> | <p>Like many London Boroughs, our recycling rates remain static and we are keen to do what we can to increase them, alongside reducing the amount of waste generally and that goes to landfill. The key is education and we have an ongoing programme of Communication and education activity in place to encourage better environmental behaviour, (including recycling) which has recently been brought under the Love Where You Live banner. The Love Where you Live campaign is having a positive impact on raising the profile of important messages for keeping our streets clean and I hope that this will also help increase understanding of recycling.</p> <p>Coincidentally, last week was 'recycling week' and, as part of this, we launched of 'Recycleopedia' app. The app helps people work out what can be recycled and again I hope will raise awareness.</p> <p>The other focus of our work is on flats, where recycling rates are generally low. Officers and Veolia are working with landlords and tenants to ensure recycling provision is appropriate, and that residents are encouraged and supported to do the right thing; in the hope that we can increase recycling rates, and reduce the levels of contamination.</p> |
| <p>To Councillor Southwood Cllr Neil Nerva</p> | <p>I'm proud that we're a Borough who separates food from other recycling. Messages about recycling, including food recycling, now come under our Love Where you Live campaign</p> |

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| <p>How can we encourage greater uptake of foodbins, especially since the waste they hold can create more pollution proportionately than wheelie bins?</p> | <p>and I hope this will increase understanding.</p> <p>However, I know take up is lower than we'd like in some areas and this question is timely. We are working on a trial with Resource London, where we are assessing the impact of a combination of 'No Food Waste' stickers on residual bins, information leaflets, and the provision of free caddy liners on participation and tonnage collected. If these interventions have the desired impact, we will be looking to roll it out more widely in due course.</p> |
| <p>To Councillor Southwood from Cllr Lia Colacicco</p> <p>Does the Council have any plans to ban the herbicide Glycacatis?</p> | <p>The Council uses Amenity Glyphosate for weed control across its sites, and has no current plans to ban its use. However, I appreciate that there are public concerns about this and will continue to keep this policy under review. Whilst studies have concluded that "under present and expected conditions of new use, there is no potential for it to pose a health risk to humans, I'm aware of more recent work that links contact with humans to a type of cancer. Clearly, this is to b taken very seriously.</p> <p>proper application techniques are vital for keeping people working with it free from harm. Our contract with Veolia includes an ongoing commitment from them to review herbicide application in accordance with EU recommendations and our own environmental policies. This will be achieved by constantly seeking new and improved herbicides and more efficient methods of application whenever these might become available. We work closely with them to ensure that all latest guidance in terms of safe working practices is being followed and have reiterated the importance of this to them in light of public concerns.</p> |
| <p>To Councillor Southwood from Cllr Neil Nerva</p> <p>Brent is mid-table in London boroughs when it comes to flytipping. How can we push ahead to top of the table?</p> | <p>We take a 0 tolerance approach to illegal dumping in the Borough and have recently stepped up our activity around this. Like lots of Boroughs, our increasing population and large number of transient residents means that, sadly, illegal dumping is a very real challenge for us. Our current Love Where you Live campaign is helping to raise awareness of legal ways to dispose of waste and the team is working more closely with the Private Housing team to ensure that HMO's are properly licenced and managed, and that waste management issues are central to those licences.</p> |

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| | <p>The Envirocrime Team is working increasingly closely with colleagues from across the Council to tackle long-standing fly-tipping hotspots through a combination of education and enforcement. In addition to officers and Veolia searching for evidence and taking this through to prosecution, we have been using a new Fly tipping Fixed Penalty Notice that came in in May that allows us to fine people caught dumping smaller quantities of waste without going to court. And in June we introduced our pilot with Kingdom Security, which provides a visible presence in our town centres and enables us to fine people on the spot for littering offences.</p> <p>This is a high priority for residents and we will continue to improve the way we work internally and with Veolia to tackle the situation.</p> |
| <p>To Councillor Southwood from Cllr John Duffy</p> <p>Why have the Labour Cabinet fail to deal with the 300 tree stumps that are have not been remove from from our streets and are becoming an eyesore to our environment for over 18 months. What do the cabinet intend to do and how much extra will it cost Ratepayers because they failed to included the clearance in both the Trees contract and pavement replace contract?</p> | <p>Handling tree stump removal is currently managed through 2 contracts - our trees contract and our contract for reinstating the pavement. I agree that it is far from ideal to have stumps left following tree removal. However, the removal of stumps must be managed within a fixed budget and therefore around 300 remain across the Borough. Officers are looking at options for including all of this work within one contract and I hope this will be a more efficient solution for the future.</p> |
| <p>To Councillor Southwood from Cllr Reg Colwill</p> <p>When will this Council begin to repair the thousands of dangerous</p> | <p>Like all Council's, Brent's roads and pavements are in need of considerable investment. In order to bring them up to scratch it would cost around £100m. Whilst this level of investment is beyond us, we're working hard to find ways to start to address the issue.</p> |

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| <p>potholes which are all around the Borough? The old fashioned saying is "a stitch in time saves nine". By leaving them in the end they are going to cost the Council double or triple the amount and in addition the Council is leaving itself open to legal challenges for compensation.</p> | <p>Towards the end of the last financial year £200k was identified through savings and invested to bring forward carriageway patching and repairs to approximately 1200 potholes that had been identified over the previous 6 months. This work will be substantially completed by the end of July and has been running in parallel to scheduled and reactive inspections and repairs.</p> <p>In addition, Cabinet recently approved the investment of a further 2m in our planned maintenance programme to move to a more proactive approach; prevention is better than cure. It includes an area patching programme to address locations considered too big for reactive repairs but requiring early intervention to prevent the road deteriorating further. Through this work we can pick up locations with multiple potholes, cracking, rutting etc. Officers are currently working with the contractor to identify locations and priority and welcome nominations from members that can be considered as part of the process.</p> <p>The key is putting in place processes that will make the work we do more sustainable in future. We are investing in an asset management tool as part of our drive towards an intelligent evidenced based approach to asset management. The tool will enable officers to identify the most appropriate time for planned intervention of specific roads and optimise the benefit to be achieved from varying levels of funding. The tool will be used to produce a multi-year programme and set out investment requirements to achieve varying levels of condition improvement. This approach will, over time, enable us to move away from reliance on reactive repair to maintenance and provide long term planning and visibility of programmes. It will also mean that residents will have better information about when work is programmed and greater transparency about why and how decisions are being made.</p> |
| <p>To Councillor Pavey From Cllr Shaw</p> | <p>Hate Crime is utterly abhorrent. It has no place in this world - and least of all in Brent.</p> |

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| <p>We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. We, Brent Council, condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable. Brent Council will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have support and resources needed to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia.</p> <p>We reassure all people living in Brent that they are valued members of our community.”</p> <p>I would also like you to publically condemn any such [hate] attacks and make it clear what steps the council will take to tackle this racist, xenophobic and criminal behaviour.</p> | <p>I'm grateful to Cllr Shaw for the opportunity to state in the clearest possible terms that all communities are welcome in Brent and that we will not tolerate Hate Crime in our Borough. I would like to go further and to thank all of our communities for making Brent such a diverse and such a harmonious place.</p> <p>Brent Council was already working hard to prevent the rise of Hate Crime and we have doubled our efforts in recent weeks.</p> <p>We are working very closely with the Police and are actively encouraging all victims of Hate Crime to report it to the Police. We have also briefed all our contractors to record incidents of Hate Crime.</p> <p>In response to recent events, this month we will be undertaking a big push on raising awareness of the unacceptability of Hate Crime.</p> <p>We will host a dedicated Hate Crime conference in the Civic Centre on 21st July and will build up to this with a media and social media campaign. Each Brent Connects Forum will receive a report on Hate Crime and there will be an extensive leafleting campaign.</p> <p>We are also hopeful of securing Home Office funding for a dedicated Hate Crime prevention officer.</p> <p>It is important to emphasise that Hate Crime is comparatively low in Brent. Typically Hate Crime in Brent is concentrated on Wembley Stadium match days and involves white male football fans from outside the Borough abusing black officials. Hate Crime based on Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, homophobia or hatred based on disability is much rarer.</p> <p>We are absolutely determined to ensure that this remains the case.</p> <p>In these extremely difficult times we will not allow our diverse communities to become scapegoats. Not only will we not tolerate Hate Crime in Brent, we will work to make Brent a shining beacon of diversity and tolerance.</p> |
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