



## **Item 7.1: Questions from Members of the Public**

### **Full Council – 18 November 2024**

**1. Question from Martin Francis to Councillor Gwen Grahl (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Schools)**

This question regards educational sites in the borough. Can the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools please advise on:

- (1) any progress in finding a new school site for Islamia Primary School, along with the timetable for any move, if applicable.
- (2) future plans for:
  - (a) the Strathcona Site in South Kenton; and
  - (b) the Gwenneth Rickus Building (Leopold Primary) in Brentfield Road.
- (3) progress on delivery of the following with timetable for completion and full opening:
  - (a) North Brent School, Neasden Lane;
  - (b) SEND School, London Road, Wembley Central
  - (c) Post 16 Skills Centre, Welsh Harp
- (4) Recognising that it is not part of the Council's Estate but is restricted to educational use, whether you also have any information or have been engaged on the future of the Swaminarayan School (formerly Sladebook) site in Brentfield Road.

#### **Response:**

The Yusuf Islam Foundation is still considering whether it wishes to proceed with the relocation to the Strathcona site following consultation in autumn 2022. No timescale for the relocation has been agreed. Should this proposed use of the Strathcona site not proceed, the site will be used to develop additional provision for children with SEND. In this event, the local authority would continue to work with the Yusuf Islam Foundation to identify a suitable alternative site for the school.

As set out in the refreshed School Place Planning Strategy 2024-2028, agreed by Cabinet on 12 November 2024, consideration will be given to opportunities to

use any spare capacity within the primary school sector to expand provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, given the increasing need across the borough.

The Gwenneth Rickus site of Leopold Primary School will continue to be used for mainstream primary provision until September 2027 and the Council has not determined the future use of the site, that could also include provision for SEND.

With regards to the other questions:

- The North Brent School moved into its new buildings in Neasden in September 2024.
- Wembley Manor, the new secondary SEND school, opened in temporary accommodation this September and the building work is on target for the school to move to its permanent home on London Road in September 2025.
- The design work of the Post-16 Skills Resource Centre based in Welsh Harp is near completion, with a view to building work being completed in 2027.

The local authority does not have any information on the future use of the former site of the Swaminarayan School on Brentfield Road.

**2. Question from Joy Field to Councillor Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Environment & Enforcement)**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement advise what is being done to address the lack of hedge cutting in Brent.

Can you confirm whether, when the new grounds maintenance contract was awarded, this included a hedge cutting service on housing estates given there has been an increase in charges for gardening services. Some of the hedges on our estate (Elvin Court) and others are completely covering ground floor flat windows. Elsewhere in Kingsbury (Townsend Lane NW9) it is difficult to walk safely on the pavement due to overgrown hedges

**Response:**

I can confirm that hedge cutting within Housing Estates and Parks is included in the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

Hedges are not cut during March to September because of bird nesting season, however, our contractors are now undertaking all shrub and hedge maintenance across all our sites during the winter period and Elvin Court and Townsend Lane will be addressed as part of this annual work programme.

3. **Question from Madeleine Shea to Councillor Krupa Sheth (Cabinet Member for Environment & Enforcement)**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment & Enforcement please advise on the plans in place to address the increasing lack of on street parking provision across Alperton. Having lived in the area since 1980 the problem has become increasingly worse with many of the new developments lacking appropriate parking provision. Whilst fully appreciating that the aim of the council is to encourage more active modes of travel and use of public transport, this is not always possible especially for those such as myself requiring the use of vehicles for work, where public transport is not an option.

The difficulties in being able to find a local parking space in the area I live (Burns Road) are extremely challenging and often involve significant delays at night waiting for a space to become available. I would therefore be grateful if the Cabinet Member could explain how these problems can be resolved.

**Response:**

Alperton is a Growth Area with over 6,000 new homes planned, including a high proportion of affordable homes, as well as creating new jobs and infrastructure, including public realm and transport improvements. As part of these plans, the Council have secured significant S106 developer contributions for introducing Controlled Parking Zones, to reserve parking for local residents, businesses, and their visitors. Parking is limited to the provision of some accessible parking only where developments have a high Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) and residents of these 'car free' properties will not be able to purchase permits to park on-street.

The funding secured will be used to implement new CPZ schemes in the area, where supported at public consultation. A proportion of this funding will provide residents of each property in new CPZs with one free annual permit for a low or standard emission vehicle, while funding remains available. Officers have developed a programme for consultation and delivery of new CPZs, the programme commenced with areas adjacent to Mount Pleasant and Beresford Avenue (North of the Grand Union Canal) with the Carlyon Road and Burns Road areas programmed for consultation in the spring of 2025. If supported, we would envisage implementation of a new CPZ in the Burns Road area in early autumn 2025.



## **Item 7.2: Questions from Brent Youth Parliament**

### **Full Council – 18 November 2024**

1. **Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Gwen Grahl (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Schools)**

As members of Brent Youth Parliament, we are seeking to expand the group to reach more young people and give them a voice in the decision making of the Council. One of the key enablers of this mission would be to have control over our own budget to determine our own spending priorities. Will the Council enable us to have our own budget to ensure all young people have a say in the services that affect them

**Response:**

The Children and Young People's directorate agrees to make a budget available for the use of the BYP steering group to determine, with wider BYP members, how best to determine their spending priorities. Whilst the budget would need to be held ultimately by a Council officer, the intention is that BYP will determine their own priorities for use of the budget. It is anticipated that at the next meeting of the steering group a process can be agreed for budget allocation, with officers confirming, in advance, the amount of resource available.