



Item 7.1: Questions from Members of the Public

Full Council – 25 November 2019

1. Question from Mr Macsen Brown to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that at projected rates of greenhouse gas emissions we have fewer than 12 years to avert global warming beyond 1.5°C. The IPCC warns that warming of 2°C or more would cause irreversible and severe damage to human society and to the global ecosystem. Under the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK's current target is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 80% of the 1990 levels by 2050. The UN report shows that if current national targets remain unchanged until 2030, there is a risk of warming of over 3°C by 2100. According to a review of recycling in Brent carried out by the Resources and Public Realms Scrutiny Committee in 2018, Brent had a recycling rate of 36.4%. This is 16 percentage points behind the best performing borough in the city and lags far behind the best performing local authority in the country. The UK wide recycling rate is over 45%, showing that we in Brent have work to do.

The current company which holds the contract for waste collection, Veolia, has been accused of mixing recyclable and non-recyclable waste. This contaminates the entire batch, nullifying whatever efforts many of our schools and businesses make to reduce their environmental impact.

Brent council has declared a climate emergency but it must now take serious action. How can it claim to be taking this issue seriously if it continues to build up grey wastelands instead of green community spaces? How can it be taking this seriously if it approves the construction of a 650 student primary school next to one of the most polluted roads in the borough? The Campaign Against Climate Change has a multitude of resources that councils looking to make good on their commitments can use. Can the council show that it is taking the radical steps necessary to ensure that this borough is carbon neutral by 2030 at the very latest?

Response:

We disagree that Veolia mix general waste and recycling. The two materials are collected on separate vehicles and tonnages of both are monitored regularly. In addition, it is more cost effective to recycle waste than send materials to energy from waste, so it serves no economic benefit to send recyclable material to energy from waste facilities. Our environmental focus is to move further up the waste hierarchy and encourage waste minimisation or reduction as well as reuse.

Actions to achieve these objectives will be set out in the Reduction and Recycling Plan due to be submitted to the GLA at the end of this year.

Our current recycling figure is 38% and we are seeking to increase this as part of our drive for waste minimisation and improved education processes to reduce contamination of recycling bins at a household level. Brent has a large amount of flats which are nationally recognised by recycling bodies to be more difficult to achieve high quality recycling from. We are recognised by the GLA as being one of the leading boroughs in offering a wide range of materials that residents can recycle and also are one of the only London Boroughs who offer food waste collections to the majority of their residents; including those who live in flats.

On the issue of green spaces; we are working hard to preserve and improve our green spaces and have fed into the Green Space Commission in terms of providing ideas for linking green spaces across the entire borough as well as on a pan London basis.

Following Brent's "Declaration of a Climate & Ecological Emergency", the council has agreed to a corporate review of council activity on climate change and sustainability, including an independent analysis of Brent's carbon emissions and potential net zero carbon pathways, and to hold a citizen's assembly to seek ideas on how the council and the community in Brent can work together to address the climate emergency.

An 'Interim' Report on Brent's response to the Declaration is to be submitted to Full Council on 25th November, in order to meet the Declaration's requirement for a report to be considered within 6 months.

The 'Brent Climate Assembly' (BCA) is now also up and running.

The report will propose a process that would enable recommendations for action prior to the development of a ten-year borough-wide climate change and sustainability strategy, that would be issued for public consultation in the new year and adopted by Cabinet in May 2020.

2. Question from Ms Gihan Abdulgadir to Councillor Shama Tatler, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Property & Planning

How many homes in the Wembley park development are for social housing; what are the tenancy types and what is the rent set at for the different bedrooms?

Response:

How many homes in the Wembley park development are for social housing?

Approximately 750 Affordable Rented homes have been built or are currently being constructed in the Wembley Park area. Although the definition allows these units to be rented at up to 80% market level, because we use the Registered Provider model with Council rights to nominate from the Council waiting list, rents are set considerably lower than the 80% level.

More have been consented but are not yet on site.

What are the tenancy types and what is the rent set at for the different bedrooms?

Other tenures that fall within the affordable homes definition that have been completed or currently being built within Wembley Park include:

- Approx 720 Shared Ownership homes; these homes are sold at between 25% and 75 % of market value with rent paid on the remaining proportion to the Registered Provider.
- Approx 117 discount rental homes at 65 % market rent and approx 502 discount rental homes at 80 % market rent (the homes are let at the specified percentage of market rent).
- Approx 32 discount rental homes at “London Living Rent” levels - calculated by the GLA at ward level and are based on one third of median household income.

This totals 2,121 homes which fall within the national definition of affordable housing completed or under construction.



Item 7.2: Questions from Brent Youth Parliament

Full Council – 25 November 2019

1. Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment

Brent Youth Parliament were honoured to host the first Brent Council Climate Change Youth Summit on Saturday 26th October. How will we know if the recommendations given from the Youth Summit will be acted upon?

Response:

I was delighted to support and attend Brent Youth Parliament's first Youth Climate Summit.

Young people have the most to gain from climate action and it is vital that their ideas are not only heard, but acted upon. The recommendations from the Youth Climate Summit will be presented by the Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) to the Brent Climate Assembly on 23rd November.

The Assembly will consider these recommendations when preparing its own report to the Council in December. The BYP and Brent Climate Assembly reports will inform the development of Brent's new borough-wide climate emergency strategy, which we will issue for public consultation in the New Year and adopt next May. In the meantime, we will continue to work with the BYP, schools and young people in delivering the Interim Climate Action Plan this Winter.