

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

At an **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** of the **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT** held at Brent Town Hall Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex on **Monday, 16th May 2005 at 6.00 pm**

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor C Moloney

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor H Gladbaum

COUNCILLORS:

Arnold	D Long
Bellia	J Long
Beswick	Lorber
R Blackman	Lyon
D Brown	McGovern
V Brown	Moher
R Colwill	Nerva
Coughlin	O'Sullivan
Crane	B M Patel
Cribbin	C J Patel
Davies	H M Patel
Dromey	H B Patel
Farrell	R S Patel
Fernandes	Rands
Fiegel	Sattar-Butt
Fox	Sayers
Freeson	Shah
Gladbaum	Shahzad
Halder	Shaw
Harrod	Singh
John	Steel
Jones	Thomas
Kabir	Thompson
Kagan	Van Colle
Kansagra	Wharton
Lemmon	Zakriya

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Council over which he was presiding.

1. Procedural Motion

Councillor Moher moved a procedural motion on debating the item on the summons.

RESOLVED:

That in respect of Summons item 3, one member of the Liberal Democrat Group who requisitioned the meeting be allowed to speak in support of the motion, after which the Liberal Democrat Group be allowed up to two more speakers and the Labour and Conservative Groups up to three speakers each with all contributions being subject to the normal rules for debate, after which the meeting shall move to the vote.

Seating Plan

It was agreed to amend the seating plan to allow Cllr Harrod to sit in seat number 58 rather than 65.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Duffin and N Colwill and for lateness on behalf of Councillors R Colwill, Sayers and Van Colle.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Mayor declared a personal interest in the item on the summons by virtue of his sister working at St Joseph's Infant School. Councillor Fiegel declared a personal interest in the item on the summons by virtue of being a LEA appointed governor on Wembley High School.

Councillor Thomas declared that his son currently attended Preston Manor High School.

4. Save Wembley from Tower Block Blight

The Council considered the motion as set out in the requisition by Councillors D Brown, V Brown, Chavda, Hughes, Lorber, C J Patel, Ms Shaw and Wharton for an extraordinary meeting. The motion related to the decision of the Planning Committee on 3rd March 2005 to give approval to the redevelopment of Copland Community School. It called on the Council to withdraw the decision notice, pursue government funding for the rebuilding of Copland Community School, remove the tower block from the redevelopment, retain ownership of the two youth and community centres in the area and protect the rights

of the two primary schools who share the use of the playing fields behind Copland Community School. Councillor Lorber felt the decision to grant planning permission had been taken contrary to the Council's planning policies. Whilst accepting the need to rebuild Copland Community School he stated that this should not be used as a reason to over develop the site and lose part of the existing playing fields to the detriment of the two local primary schools.

Councillor Lyon stated that the scheme represented the best option for rebuilding Copland Community School but it was not true that the needs of the two primary schools had not been taken into account. Many meetings had been held and they would share in the use of the new facilities to be provided. The next meeting of the Executive would consider the land transactions and the interests of the two primary schools in the use of the playing fields would be retained. The construction of the site would accord to the proper standards to reduce the effect it would have on the two schools. Finally, the right level of sports provision would be retained.

It was put to the meeting that the issue had been extensively debated at Planning Committee. There was general support for the redevelopment of Copland Community School but mixed views on the building of a 28 storey tower block. Some Members felt that such development of the site would adversely affect the community and put a strain on local public transport. Objection was voiced over the loss of a small part of the existing playing fields. It was suggested that the development was against the Unitary Development Plan and that as a legal document it could not be disregarded when convenient. The view was expressed that the redevelopment of the school would not help address the shortage school places in the area. Members accepted that local residents would be affected by the disruption caused by a major building operation but pointed out that steps could be taken to minimise this.

Whilst there was some concern at the height of the tower block it was pointed out that the alternative might have involved taking more of the playing fields to retain the commercial viability of the scheme. Provision of good education for children was extremely important and the Council was faced with difficult decisions in pursuing the redevelopment of the school. It was pointed out that the Mayor of London's London Plan called for greater density in housing provision and this was of greater significance than the Council's Unitary Development Plan.

It was pointed out that the development had been supported by the majority of public who had responded to the public consultation carried out. The loss of part of the playing fields was only a small area that was currently prone to flooding. At no cost to the taxpayer the community would get a brand new school and two new community facilities. It was said that the only alternative being put forward by

some Members was to ask the Government for the money to build a new school and it was clear that this would not be forthcoming.

The motion in the names of Councillors D Brown, V Brown, Chavda, Hughes, Lorber, CJ Patel, Shaw & Wharton was put to the meeting and declared LOST.

(Councillors D Brown, V Brown, Chavda, Hughes, Lorber, CJ Patel, Shaw & Wharton wished it recorded that they had voted in favour of the above motion).

Councillor John moved an alternative motion deploring the waste of money involved in calling an Extraordinary meeting of the Council to debate an issue that had already been properly considered by the Planning Committee. This was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:-

This Council deplores the waste of public money by the Liberal Democrats in requisitioning unnecessary, politically motivated council meetings which amounts to little more than an attempt to promote the Liberal Democrat group at council taxpayers' expense.

This is particularly the case in this instance given that the issue has been properly debated at the Planning Committee and, as a result of the planning process, it has been the subject of widespread consultation with residents and other stakeholders and it has also been discussed by the Wembley Area Consultative Forum. The planning application has received widespread public support during these processes of consultation and this was demonstrated by the large lobby in support of the application at the Planning Committee on 3 March 2005.

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm

C MOLONEY
Mayor

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