



Item 8.1: Questions from Members of the Public

Full Council – 26 November 2018

1. Question from Mr Jean Bernard Paul to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment

Why is it so hard to speak to someone about concerns relating to parking anywhere in the Wembley area? Brent Council should look at the issues concerning parking in terms of the effect on families and not just money or profits. We pay the council so they should support us and the Businesses by making it easier to park. This will set the standards among other councils

Response:

In recognition of an increase in public demand for parking management changes in the borough and with the aim of introducing on- street parking controls that meet local needs and benefit our residents and businesses, Cabinet approved the approach to reviewing on street parking management on 15th November 2016.

Residents and businesses can now contact us through our website to request changes to parking controls in their area. For changes to controlled parking zones or new controlled parking zones, we ask that residents submit a petition and we prioritise schemes where there is a high level of community support and evidence of parking pressures. We also have a programme for short sections of waiting restrictions and consult on these following an assessment. Residents should email highways&infrastructure@brent.gov.uk or telephone 020 8937 5600 if they have parking difficulties.

In relation to Parking services, information on our provision can be found on the Council's website: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/parking/>. Telephone enquiries about the current parking service can be directed to the Parking contact centre on 020 8290 8300, Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, except Bank Holidays. Recent call monitoring has shown that over 97% of calls to the contact centre are answered, with an average waiting time of less than 40 seconds.

We are also more than happy to meet with any residents or businesses in person to discuss any concerns they have around parking in the borough.

2. Question from Mr Jose Baladron to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Lead Member for Environment

Why are we letting textile banks been removed and clothing going into landfill?

Response:

We understand that there is concern regarding recent requests for removal of some high yield TRAIID banks from Brent's streets. We have always worked in partnership with TRAIID and fully support the on street banks and home collection service. We will only request for the removal of banks where collections have been increased by TRAIID to the maximum possible number in a given week and fly tipping still perpetuates. Officers who have made recent requests for the removal of banks are now being asked to consider relocation of banks rather than their removal; so that the public can continue to use the banks currently available.

A meeting has also been arranged between senior council officers and TRAIID on the 13th November to discuss the service going forward.



Item 8.2: Questions from Brent Youth Parliament

Full Council – 26 November 2018

1. Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Amer Agha, Lead Member for Schools, Employment and Skills

What is the Council doing to provide effective work experience for young people and to promote existing schemes such as internships and apprenticeships?

Response:

The Council's statutory role in delivering work related learning, including work experience, was removed in 2011. In March 2011, the Young People's Learning Agency wrote to all local authorities in England to inform them that the grant funding (which subsidised work-related learning in Brent) would cease from April 2011.

At that time, Brent Council consulted schools on whether Brent Council would continue to deliver a work-related learning service at full cost. Brent schools decided to develop their own arrangements and the council therefore closed its education business service on 31 August 2012. Brent young people should therefore access work experience opportunities through their school or college.

Brent Council as an employer is a strong champion of apprenticeship opportunities. Data provided by London Councils this financial year suggests that Brent has the 4th highest number of council apprentices. 75% of apprentices in Brent are young people aged between 16 and 24.

Brent Works provides an apprenticeship and recruitment service to local employers, helping them to create apprenticeship opportunities and to recruit them locally in the borough. The team also provides support for young people who are applying, such as CV writing and interview skills. The service also promotes apprenticeships that are available further afield in London, such as those on the National Apprenticeship Service website.

Brent Council also encourages companies who contract with the council to provide more opportunities for Brent residents including young people, particularly in construction.

Brent Council supports young people aged 16-19 to remain in employment, education and training through a contract with Prospects and through Brent Council Personal Advisors. Working closely with schools, Prospects and Personal Advisors support young people by providing information, advice and guidance about

employment opportunities including apprenticeships and advice on how to make the most of these opportunities.

2. Question from Brent Youth Parliament to Councillor Mili Patel, Lead Member for Children’s Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care:

What has the Council put in place for young people in response to the severe cuts to Youth Services?

Response:

Since 2015 the focus of services for young people has been in the voluntary sector through the Young Brent Foundation. However the Council continues to run regular universal youth activities from the Roundwood Youth Centre in Harlesden. Alongside this the site provides education, employment and training support for young people through Connexions services.

To help enable all young people in Brent to connect with other providers of youth activities and services the Council has recently launched the ‘Brent Youth Zone’, a new, distinctive and mobile friendly website. A ‘search’ facility is a major feature of the website, together with information pages about health, ‘things to do’, personal safety, and employment advice. Many of the activities and services are inclusive, welcoming young people with SEND. Young people have been included in the development of the website. The logo was inspired by designs from a young person who entered a Brent-wide competition to brand the Brent Youth Zone. The website can be found at: www.brentyouthzone.org.uk

The Council as a whole must take further difficult decisions as part of the next phase of budget planning for the 2019/20 – 2020/21 financial years. In Children and Young People’s Services there are a limited number of services that could be considered for future savings and our continuing youth offer is an area therefore where consideration of resource savings need to be made.

There are proposals to change the use of the Roundwood Youth Centre that will build on the current arrangements. If agreed, the site would be used during school term time for an Alternative Provision school setting, with evening and weekend youth activities being provided by the voluntary sector. This will help meet the need in the borough for local places and preventing permanent school exclusions. Currently a number of young people temporarily excluded from their secondary school setting attend alternative provision out of borough and this will be one solution to this issue.

We are working with the voluntary sector through the Young Brent Foundation to make sure that services to young people continue from the Roundwood site and also that the broader Youth Offer across the borough is comprehensive, updated and secures charitable funding.