



CROYDON COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 18 APRIL 2016
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Welcome to a meeting of Croydon Council. Attached are the questions from the public and the replies which will be taken at this meeting.

WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU COLLECT THE PRINTED QUESTIONS/RESPONSES AND THEN MOVE INTO ROOM F4 ON THE FIRST FLOOR, RATHER THAN GO STRAIGHT TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY. A MEMBER OF STAFF WILL REGISTER YOUR NAME WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN THE ROOM SHOULD YOU WISH TO ASK A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION AND THEN ASK YOU TO PROCEED TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY.

Public Question time is usually towards the beginning on the meeting and the process for this item is as follows:

- ◆ The questions will be taken in the order in which they were received by the Council;
- ◆ The question and the reply will be taken as read;
- ◆ The person who asked the question, if present, will then be invited to ask a supplementary question, (if they wish) to clarify a point related to the reply they have been given in the written answer. The **length and detail of such a question should be brief** and at the discretion of the Mayor, allowing for the time available and the number of other questions which need to be dealt with;
- ◆ Public question time is limited strictly to **15 minutes** - if all the questions and answers have not been reached at the end of that time, the other replies will be taken as read and there will be no further opportunity for asking supplementary questions at that meeting; and
- ◆ Questions will not be carried over to the following meeting, but it is of course in order for questioners to ask another question on the same or another topic before the next meeting.

After the public question time you are very welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting

Question Number	Question to Cabinet Member	Question From	Subject
PQ061	Cllr Butler	Mr Alan Corline	Social housing window cleaning
PQ062	Cllr Godfrey	Mr Peter Collier	Fairfield Halls
PQ063	Cllr Woodley	Mrs Ann Greenhead	Meals on Wheels
PQ064	Cllr Butler	Mr Robert Ward	Landlord Licensing Scheme

PQ065	Cllr Watson	Mr John Cartwright	Licensing issues
PQ066	Cllr Watson	Mr Colin Weaving	Licensing issues
PQ067	Cllr Newman	Mr Mark Samuel	Connected Croydon

The attached replies are subject to oral amendment by the Cabinet Member or Committee Chair.

From Mr Alan Corline

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ061-16

Has the council considered that the amount spent on window cleaning to its social housing properties justified considering the cutbacks to other more important services and that most private residents would deem this a luxury that most residents can not afford.

Reply

Tenants and leaseholders pay for any cleaning of windows through their service charges. This service is carried out to ensure that the blocks are cleaned and maintained to a decent and acceptable standard.

From Mr Peter Collier

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport

Question No.

PQ062-16

Can you confirm that when the Fairfield Halls shuts this July for about 2 years that the large plaque and pictures by the entrance to the Arnhem Gallery concerning the raid on Arnhem, will be looked after, and replaced at the same site when it is open again?.

Reply

There are many fixtures and fittings of both cultural and historical significance in the Fairfield Halls buildings that will need to be carefully looked after. The plaque and pictures concerning the raid on Arnhem will certainly be taken care of and restored to the building.

From Ms Ann Greenwood

Councillor Louisa Woodley

Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care

Question No.

PQ063-16

Why has the cost of meals on wheels increased by 38% without any prior notice causing hardship for the elderly?

Reply

The price of meals on wheels increased from £3.61 to £4.99 with effect from the 2nd of February 2016. We wrote to all customers in December 2015 advising them of the reasons for the increase and also to let them know that if they had any concerns about the service or the new prices that they could contact the council where an adviser would be able to assist them.

We offered customers an individual “benefits check” to make sure that they were receiving all their financial entitlements, so that meals could remain affordable. People did not have to come into Bernard Wetherill House if they wished to find out more as the information and support could be given over the telephone. We also had information to give to customers about alternative sources of meals (such as on-line shopping) if they happened to prefer that type of service.

Unlike some other councils that have ceased providing MoW, Croydon council remains committed to providing a hot Meals-on-Wheels service as it recognises the preventative benefits that this can offer to older or other vulnerable citizens. The new price of £4.99 is still lower than the cost of the meal, so the council is continuing to provide a subsidy. The decision to reduce the subsidy element was taken by the council in the light of substantial cuts in Government funding and their impact on many services.

From Mr Robert Ward

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ064-16

It is coming up to six months since the start of the landlord licensing scheme in Croydon. How many properties were registered to the Selective Landlord Licensing scheme at the discount rate and how many in total have now been registered? Is the Council happy with this progress?

Reply

23,661 properties were registered for the scheme during the discounted fee application period, the current total number of applications is 25,682. We are extremely happy with this progress, which represents around 80% of the privately rented properties licenced within the first 6 months of the scheme. The early bird discounted fee period was extraordinarily successful with the number of applications received in just 3 months, and the fact that we've received over 2,000 more since then shows that our publicity campaign and the work of the enforcement team is proving very effective.

From Mr John Cartwright

Councillor Mark Watson

Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice

Question No.

PQ065-16

If the Metropolitan Police do not have the authority to order private business establishments not to play certain types of music, will the Council and its licensing committee tell the Police, extremely abruptly and in no uncertain terms, to mind their own business and to stop their impertinent interference?

Reply

The Police and Council already work very closely on all licensing issues and are clear about the framework in which we work. Any matters of concern relating to Licensed premises can be referred by the police to Licensing Committee, which is an independent body that makes all licensing decisions. These decisions are based on safety and not on a particular type of music. There is no Council or Licensing policy banning any particular kind of music and all parties are aware of this.

From Mr Colin Weaving

Councillor Mark Watson

Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice

Question No.

PQ066-16

When is the council going to realise they are the licensing authority and set policy not the police?

Reply

The Council is already clear that it is the Council as the Licensing Authority that is responsible for setting Licensing Policy in the Borough. Any suggestion that the Police are setting policy is therefore inaccurate.

From Mr Mark Samuel

Councillor Tony Newman

The Leader of the Council

Question No.

PQ067-16

Can the leader please update regarding 'Connected Croydon' currently at;

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/planningandregeneration/regeneration/eastcroydon>

Especially about the location of any replacement Visitor / Tourist Information Office and at;

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/planningandregeneration/regeneration/west-croydon-interchange>

When will buses be picking up passengers within the new interchange?

Reply

The £50m Connected Croydon programme is almost complete with remaining projects scheduled for completion in 2016/17. To date the programme has delivered over 35,000 square metres public realm improvements, planted 40 new trees, and laid over 100 metres of new hedging. Phase 2 works at East Croydon Station will be undertaken in the autumn and Wellesley Road enhancements including improved crossing at Bedford Park and public realm enhancements will be complete in March 2017. Works at West Croydon Interchange are virtually complete with only the passenger shelter on the tram stop still to be installed.

Works to West Croydon Bus Station are being delivered by Transport for London and are scheduled for completion in late summer 2016; busses will begin picking up passengers when the works to the bus station are complete.

Provision of a Visitor / Tourist Information Office will be kept under review.