

Council Assembly

Wednesday 25 January 2012

7.00 pm

Walworth Academy, 34 - 40 Shorncliffe Road, London SE1 5UJ

Tabled Items

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COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY)****WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012****THE QUEEN'S NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 2012****Order of the British Empire – Dames Commander of the Order of the British Empire**

Miss Sylvia MORRIS

Headteacher, The Cathedral School of St Saviour and St Mary Overy, Southwark, London.

For services to education.

Order of the British Empire – Commanders of the Order of the British Empire

Clive Vivian Leopold JAMES

Author, poet and broadcaster.

For services to literature and the media.

(London, SE1)

Order of the British Empire – Officers of the Order of the British Empire

Willy BAUER

Hotelier. For services to the hospitality/industry.

(London SE21)

Order of the British Empire – Members of the Order of the British Empire

Mrs Jill (Brenda Gillian) ALEXANDER

For services to the community in Dulwich,

London Borough of Southwark.

(London SE21)

Mrs Betty Clara Jessie FOXWELL

Founder member, Dulwich Kidney Patients' Association.

For services to people with kidney disease.

(London SE22)

Ms Andrea HAYNES

Executive officer, Jobcentre Plus, Department for Work and Pensions.

(London, SE1)

Miss Pauline NANDOO

Co-ordinator, Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers.

(London, SE6)

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY)

WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. QUESTION FROM SHIVONNE SMART TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Could the member confirm that all community schools in Southwark have an accessible complaints procedure in operation?

RESPONSE

Yes. The Education Act 2002 requires all governing bodies to have a procedure to deal with complaints relating to aspects of the school and to any community facilities or services that the school provides. The law also requires that the procedure must be publicised. The governor development team has provided a model policy which has been adopted by most schools. Others have adopted their own version of it.

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012**

Including themed debate on the environment

SOME COMMUNITY VIEWS

Resident 1

Please make recycling easier for people who don't have cars, particularly as Manor Place (Reuse and Recycling Centre) is no more. The Old Kent Road is not easy for Camberwell people to reach by public transport. The issue is for the smaller items which can't be recycled and mustn't be put in with the general household waste, and aren't suitable for council pick-up, e.g. eco light bulbs. Large bins for this purpose could be placed where there are already re-cycling bins such as the car park at Butterfly Walk (Camberwell) and Camberwell Green.

Resident 2

With immediate effect, set up a 'Car Free Day' once a month for three months. After the initial three-month period, introduce 'Car Free Sundays' every week. Three months later, introduce 'Car Free Weekends'. Car free days are a regular practice in cities around the world. Pedestrianise large parts of Southwark (non Transport for London roads), reserving them for pedestrian and cycle use only.

Simplify the management of public spaces so that residents wishing to engage in food growing/gardening/management of any one space (park/green and amenity areas around council housing) can do so without wasting years of their time going through council funding programmes and other hoops. We need to minimise the council management of Cleaner Greener Safer projects as they are costly, not terribly efficient, and time consuming.

Produce a clear, egalitarian community asset transfer policy so that the management of buildings - including housing stock - can be made easier to access for local residents and communities.

Establish food recycling facilities in the whole of Southwark.

Resident 3

I would like to see Boris bikes & docking stations east of Tower Bridge Road.

Resident 4

This may seem simplistic but offices that leave lights on all night are a bit of a bugbear for me. I work in an office that has perimeter sensors, so during the night only the perimeter lights come on, maintaining the required effect.

Resident 5

I don't agree with the idea of Car Free Weekends. I barely use my car, but when I do need to use it, I need to use it at the weekends (I'm at work the rest of the week). However, encouraging more sustainable travel needs to start in the schools. On my trip to work in the mornings, I could easily take the No 78 bus from Grange Road to Old Kent Road to switch

on to the No 53, but I don't. I walk, unlike a lot of secondary school students doing the reverse journey from Old Kent Road to Grange Road on the bus. I'm sure that more people would switch from using cars to travelling by bus if their morning bus ride wasn't such a nightmare because the bus is rammed with school kids. And with fewer cars on the road, more people would cycle.

Resident 6

I'm strongly against pedestrianisation. I have severe mobility problems and rely heavily on buses being close at hand, or cabs when I can't walk as far as the bus stop.

More could be done to encourage recycling. Where I live we have one recycling bin, the size of a "Eurobin", to cater for 18 flats. It gets filled up very quickly and stuff gets placed on the ground and thrown around.

Fly-tipping is a big problem, as the bins get full really quickly and then people just dump their rubbish anywhere. I know the council is investigating the particular problem we have.

If I'm well enough I hope to go to the meeting (council assembly) on the 25th. Thanks to Southwark Council for advertising this. It is appreciated!

Resident 7

It's hard to recycle when the provision of recycling bags is so hopeless. It's ten days since we ordered them but environmental services can only undertake to provide them in 10 working days!

Resident 8

I have the opposite problem. If I put out more than one recycling bag I get a roll of 10 bags stuffed in my letter box in return. I have quite a few rolls in a drawer now.

Resident 9

It took me nearly a month to get a second supply of bags and over Christmas it was really tempting to just put all my rubbish out for landfill collection but I am committed to recycling.

Until recently my recycling was collected via blue box etc from the door step, now it's from thin easily torn bags (when you get them) left by a public bin round the corner (I can't have a wheelie bin). That's not what I would call an improvement in collection, and if collection is not good then recycling won't increase.

If you want to increase recycling you must have trouble free regular collections. Recent changes for some do not seem to be for the better. I appreciate that in Southwark one size does not fit all but there does seem to be a lack of communication and organisation.

I'm against the idea of pedestrianising all roads except Transport for London roads. I think this would increase traffic on those roads and lots of people live on them too. I know there's the argument that it can reduce overall traffic, but I think in order for that to happen we need a radical overhaul of traffic policy in more than Southwark.

Better bus services and other forms of public transport need to come first. We also need better cycle lanes (not just coloured tarmac). It needs to be much safer for cyclists if you want to increase the level of cycling.

Resident 10

On the question of promoting energy efficiency - provide an easy to use and easily located 'agency' or office to send complaints or suggestions to for the local area. For example, with buildings that are lit up all night, the 'agency' could contact the building managers on the community's behalf and ask them to consider more energy efficient lighting controls.

How can we further encourage people to recycle? I have a compost bin and a weekly recycling collection and a communal recycling centre on my estate, so I think we're very lucky. We also have our communal general waste bins emptied pretty much every day. What we don't have is communal food waste bins (and we already have rat problems so this would need to be collected regularly) and we also, as far as I know, don't have a garden waste collection.

Many people on the estate who live on the upper floors got fed up with their recycling not being collected and having it hanging around on the balconies until they were told to take it back in (not easy to store for another week in some tiny flats) and have given up – so now it all goes in the landfill bins for many people.

Some form of incentive might help to encourage them again? We used to have tags on the bags so you could potentially win £1,000. I used to do it every week (but never won, sadly)! I also put my plastic recycling out separately into the recycling centre, but there is no incentive for most people to do this and in fact I suspect many don't know you can. It would be simpler if the council took ALL recycling, not just some.

How can we encourage more sustainable travel? Put pedestrians and cyclists first and other vehicles second when designing road layouts. Impose a 20mph speed limit throughout the borough and enforce it. In fact try enforcing current road infringements for a start e.g. speeding, jumping red lights (and you can include cyclists in that too).

How can the council encourage more people to look after their local environment? Start with young people. Most adults know not to trash what has been provided, but some young people see it as 'cool' to drop rubbish, paint graffiti and destroy stuff. Linking schools to green spaces is presumably already being done? Dog owners not picking up the dog mess is a perennial problem and I don't know how you change this attitude. What kind of person doesn't think it's disgusting to leave dog mess on a children's play area!? Our estate cleaners spend a ridiculous proportion of their time cleaning up after people's dogs.

Resident 11

I agree with the idea of a (borough-wide) 20mph speed limit wherever possible. This puts cyclists and pedestrians on a more equal "footing" with motor traffic, and apparently even helps (motor) traffic to run more smoothly.

Extend provision of Boris bikes, ideally to the whole of Southwark, but certainly east of Tower Bridge Road, linking up with the Jubilee and overground line stations.

Make more, ideally all, streets two-way routes for cyclists. Bermondsey Street is a good example how this has an overall civilising effect on traffic speeds. It also helps with making cycling and walking the more convenient option for people. And it's good for local businesses that will profit a lot more from the "footfall" of pedestrians and cyclists.

With all the construction going on, HGV traffic is very pronounced on Southwark streets, and these vehicles are disproportionately often involved in severe or fatal collisions with cyclists and pedestrians. It should be standard for each HGV driver to receive cycle training.

Additionally, each HGV should have a clear "How's my driving?" number on their back, and any reports of bad driving should be followed up seriously. The council could set a good example with its own vehicles (and their drivers), and I imagine it has some leverage over its contractors.

Provide more cycle parking. I've noticed a definite improvement along Bermondsey Street. I think having even one or two 'Sheffield' cycle stands in front of a shop or restaurant really helps those local businesses. Where space allows, they can be dotted along the pavement, though I'd suggest it's also worth considering if one car parking space could be changed into about eight cycle parking spaces (four stands) in some locations.

I like the idea of 'car free days'. I've seen these being a great success in other cities.

In buildings where the council has influence (i.e. their own buildings, or through the planning process), please make sure truly secure cycle parking is provided, and on a generous scale. This will probably look different for each individual case, but a lot can be done. For example, allow council staff to bring bikes into their offices (perhaps dedicate an underused room to cycle parking if it's impractical for bikes to be near their desks). Consider if garages in estates can be re-dedicated as cycle parking. This would probably mean installing secure anchors and/or tougher doors, but it could be done without necessitating major building works.

These are just some ideas, but cyclists in the respective buildings would probably have useful suggestions. I would suggest to systematically ask how cycle parking for each building could be improved, and then to follow through with a plan.

Provide cycle training to schools and consider extending this invitation to the parents, so that families can get into the habit of cycling together.

As for how the council can protect the public realm, there's a real danger that problems escalate if they aren't nipped in the bud. For example, once there's some litter more littering seems to follow. Perhaps (and this may well be outside the council's remit) people found littering, leaving dog mess, destroying park benches etc, could be made to clear rubbish as community service.

I like the idea of schools, clubs, offices, or other groups "adopting" a space, be it a flower bed or a tree or a park. This would need some thinking about in terms of the details, as I am aware that it's not always easy to manage voluntary commitments, but maybe other people have some good ideas or examples of where and how such a scheme has worked in practice.

Resident 12

I thoroughly agree with the training of HGV drivers to look out for cyclists, but as the cyclists are the vulnerable ones the training of all cyclists should become mandatory to prevent more injuries and deaths.

It should be impossible to take a cycle on London streets without a proficiency test of some kind, probably with some form of license or taxation. This combined with the introduction of 20mph for cars AND cycles should do wonders for the death or injury rates.

For some reason it isn't considered PC to talk about this type of thing but Southwark could lead the way in proposing compulsory cycle training at all its schools.

Resident 13

For cycling and walking, please extend the types of road closures and (road) management which the council is currently using around Trinity Square and Brook Drive into the roads in Bermondsey (particularly north of Jamaica Road), and between the New Kent Road and Camberwell, particularly the Portland Street 'rat run'. That would be very much appreciated.

It would also be good to have a bit more bike parking outside pubs (like The Roebuck on Great Dover Street), not because I condone drinking and cycling, but because there are usually a few smokers and drinkers outside who deter thieves whilst I go to other shops.

Resident 14

On the question of promoting energy efficiency, many buildings, retail units, and buildings sites have their lights on well after office and working hours. Using 'More London' as an example, during weekends and evenings there's a lot of unnecessary light and energy pollution. I note the health and safety reasons but I question why so many building sites these days e.g. The Shard have excessive lighting? Surely they could use low cost, movement sensitive lighting if they're worried about security?

As for promoting public transport, current bus services are often very crowded and unreliable during the rush hour and cycling is unsafe on roads in SE1 near building sites. In addition, many cyclists have not received basic road training or understand 'the highway code' and are often putting pedestrians and other road users in danger by non compliance e.g. cycling the wrong way down narrow one way streets.

Also current levels of public transport are not adequate or safe for disabled users. Ramps on buses are often broken, drivers don't help, and many buses or taxis don't stop when I'm with my disabled friend, who has also often been hurt travelling on buses that brake sharply. In addition, the upgrade to the tube system doesn't take into account the needs of disabled passengers. See the recent upgrading of Rotherhithe Station, with no facility for wheelchair access!

I would strongly urge that any reform or restriction in road use takes into account that in many cases wheelchair users are unable to use existing public transport due to prohibitive restrictions and as such need to use a car, not out of luxury, but as means of being able to carry out day to day affairs. Limiting their road use would have a detrimental impact.

Resident 15

To promote energy efficiency in properties, concentrate on what you can control i.e. council buildings and the public domain. Private owners will work out the benefits of energy efficiency for themselves over time, through their self-interest. The same goes for recycling.

On the subject of sustainable transport, the 1989 combined tube, bus and rail strikes made me a confirmed commuting cyclist and runner. Reduced public transport = more sustainable travel.

To encourage more residents to look after their local environment, invite Southwark citizens to co-operate with one another in local community projects which require their energy, intelligence, and participation - and which are consistent with lower funding expectations over the long-term.

Resident 16

I'm particularly interested in energy efficiency for the housing stock of my area, East Dulwich, as it is mostly Victorian, and not easy to insulate without going to enormous expense because there are no cavity walls, for example.

Most insulation offered starts with the premise that the housing stock is newish, bizarrely. For example, I have been offered in the past a subsidy on loft insulation to a depth of 8", which I believe is the current recommended depth. Frustratingly, the offer takes no account of the housing stock in this area (and indeed in large swathes of London) because the insulating material rises above the height of our Victorian joists, so without having to put down a whole loft full of new joists to raise the depth, plus a new floor over these, it is not possible to insulate our roofs (unless the loft is empty and unused, which I suspect is very unusual).

Offers on insulating lofts should recognise the range of housing stock and offer a range of solutions. For example, in the case of already in-use Victorian lofts, an insulated floor panel that could lie over the top of the joists and/or the loft floor coverings already in place, would be the answer to poor insulation in much-used lofts.

Regarding the public realm, Southwark could be much more supportive of community events such as the Upland Road Street Party, where the organisers have not only had to pay out unreasonable charges for advertising the closure of a road (which I think is not applied to the Big Lunch road closures), but have also been asked for extra charges of £1,000 for 'commercial use', which was plainly incorrect. If Southwark is really serious about this, they need to let already existing strong communities, of which there are many in Southwark, organise events through a simple, cheap, streamlined, and supportive service.

Regarding care for the more vulnerable in our society - which is clearly part of the community cohesion that Southwark is aiming to improve - what about a central Southwark point for potential volunteers to go to, in order to volunteer in their area? So, get together a list of the charitable and voluntary organisations in distinct areas all over Southwark, set up a small team to liaise with them so that the team knows which organisation needs volunteers, with which skills, where and when, and have a central contact point for all those who wish to offer their time. This could be simple and should be effective. I would use this tomorrow if I could. And it should include opportunities for schoolchildren to volunteer (for their Duke of Edinburgh training, and year 10 work placements) and young people of around 17-21.

Resident 17

I'd like to see a fully signposted cycle network, and bicycles should be exempt from one way street restrictions. Ensure there's plenty of provision for secure cycle parking in all shopping areas, at all doctors' surgeries, key transport hubs, and on Southwark housing estates.

I'd also like to have local maps at all transport hubs, as well as safe cycle routes to all schools. There should be 'vulnerable road user' audits on all transport infrastructure schemes and 'cycle on prescription' schemes at doctors' surgeries.

'Rat-run' roads should be closed to enable filtered permeability to benefit cycle journey times. We also need a programme of road closures for motor vehicles to create 'streets for people' rather than 'streets for driving' through local shopping centre schemes. This would help to promote local shops and local journeys without a car. Trial 'bicycle library' projects in key housing estates.

Resident 18

I think there's a future in the application of solar energy in urban environments, especially in view of recent technical progress. And all new buildings should have secure, covered cycle parking.

Southwark already does quite a good job on recycling, compared to many other authorities. I would like to have some information on the new recycling facility in Mandela Way. Is it really groundbreaking? What exactly happens to all the waste leaving my house? This information would increase my incentive to recycle.

We encourage more sustainable travel by making the walking and cycling environment attractive, safe, direct, and inviting. Southwark has an appalling reputation for fine words followed by total inaction or actual obstruction of cycling facilities. Cyclists should never be forced to share busy road space with motor vehicles unless they choose to (some cyclists are safe and competent at 20mph but most of us are not). Non-cyclists will not take up cycling if they have to share routes with motor vehicles. Sharing with pedestrians is not a solution except in very particular circumstances.

There are lots of examples in Southwark where poor design throws pedestrians and cyclists into conflict. This causes a lot of bad feeling.

Southwark can further protect the public realm by abandoning 20th century transport planning and making walking and cycling the primary transport modes of choice for local journeys. Of all the London boroughs, Southwark is uniquely placed to followed Dutch and Danish success and should set a target of 50% of journeys by bike by 2020. Mass cycling will completely transform the borough for the better and save a huge amount of money. "Regeneration" in Southwark has so far only proved to mean "traffic generation" which causes a lot of problems. People do not respect and care for an environment they drive through.

Resident 19

I have the fortune to live above the Elephant and Castle roundabout, on the eastern side. It's a lovely place to live. But to see that there is doubt over installing an eastern cycle bypass for the roundabout dismays me. I have seen too many near misses, too many accidents, and two deaths from my window. That's two too many.

This is not a case of political move-making or budgetary challenges. This is a matter of life and death. Please put your full weight behind the issue and force Lend Lease (I assume) into adding a dedicated cycling route.

Resident 20

People need space and most local space is run down. The council needs to redevelop these empty spaces. That means open spaces or community halls where young people can meet.

People are talking about more bins and in the right place. Each bus stop should have a bin. Street cleaning is very poor; they say there's litter all around.

If we focus on Peckham Rye's main shopping street, they don't like more cheap shops; they want to see more high street shops. People are fed up of always having to go somewhere else to buy a variety of goods. It makes the community run down.

Global environmental issues that affect people in other countries won't be important unless it's on the news. If you flag it up to the community - the need to recycle - then it can be important to them. But, when they see four horrible bins in front of their doors, it puts them off recycling.

For people to put money into energy efficiency measures in their own homes, we need to see some proof, some very clear facts about how people can save money. Also, some good examples of houses in Southwark where energy efficiency has saved money will help.

Resident 21

I am an environmentalist; you wouldn't believe the amount of things I recycle. Global warming impacts on us here and on people in Africa and in the rest of the world. When sometimes we buy too much stuff, we throw so much of it away that we don't need. So now, I only buy what I need. Still some people buy too much; I see plastic bottles and even perfectly good pairs of shoes being thrown away. It's wrong! The number of things people bin - it's amazing.

I have seen the effects of climate change. I have seen rivers dry up in Sierra Leone, when they never did in previous years (Sierra Leone also suffers from deforestation). So, I think the council assembly is talking about the right sort of things, and I hope people will listen.

Resident 22

We need to address damp problems on our estate. We have double glazing but we don't think it's good enough as we don't think we have cavity insulation on all estates. Also, front doors are not so well fitted and Kingswood House central heating system is old.

Our local recycling service is good, with good collection times. Unsightly recyclable items, including large cardboard boxes, tend to be piled up around blue bins.

We need more cycle lanes to make it safe. There's no provision for storing or parking bikes, so can more space for parking/storing cycles be made available?

The grass behind Kingswood House needs to be re-turfed as a result of people misusing it as a football pitch. Dog mess, caused by people outside Kingswood estate, is a problem, and dog bins tend to overflow, so can something be done about this?

Resident 23

I think the council is doing a lot already to promote energy efficiency, but more can be done. We use a lot of energy that's being wasted, especially in public buildings. Environmental education for all people will help. Utility bills make people more conscious of their energy use.

As for recycling, enforcement by law is what's needed. I've been to Waltham Forest where they have separate recycling bins for composting and normal waste. It's difficult to recycle if you live in a flat.

To encourage more sustainable travel, education is needed, starting with children. We need more cycling lessons for them. Environmental education, especially with the children, goes a long way.

Resident 24

The estate where I live has problems with hot water and heating system, meaning the heater is sometimes left on - even in the summer when they aren't needed. I have to call the council for someone to come and switch the system off or on. It wastes energy and then there's the call out costs.

Southwark has a 'one bag only' policy for recyclable items. Having separate recycling containers for food, paper etc, like Camden Council, will improve the recycling culture.

I work early mornings, leaving my place by car at 4am. The time factor can make it difficult. Making such travel safer will help. It all depends on having a routine.

I know people need education. I've many friends who live in council houses and say, 'It's not my house. I don't own it so I don't care about looking after it'. Kids take rubbish bags to bin areas and smash it, making a mess. Parents need to teach their kids.

Resident 25

On improving energy efficiency in all Southwark properties: promote National Carbon Footprint Day throughout the borough

On promoting recycling: ensure Rachel Carson's book 'A Silent Spring' is on all Southwark Schools reading list's

On encouraging sustainable travel e.g. walking and cycling: create safe cycle routes across the whole of Southwark to enable every child who wants to cycle to school to do so without having to interact with vehicular traffic

On getting communities more involved in looking after our parks and green spaces: deliver better value and protect Southwark's green and open spaces, and increase the Cleaner, Greener, Safer fund and encourage management of projects by local residents and community groups.

Resident 26

Further encouraging people to recycle: I believe that information about this needs to be more accessible - when I used to live in Wandsworth and recycling bags were provided which listed what could and couldn't be put in them. In our building this information is written on the bins in the basement, and therefore not accessible when needed. Also in terms of larger items and electrical items - I could not find any information about recycling of electrical equipment, and as a person without a car simply cannot transport these items to a recycling centre.

Sustainable travel: I am a cyclist - many cycle racks (in many boroughs) are taken up with abandoned bikes - a scheme needs to be in place to remove these, possibly after a warning notice has been attached, as knowing there is somewhere to put your bike when you arrive is very important. In terms of the Barclays cycle hire scheme, I was told by a health worker in the borough that these cost £50 a day! I know that this is mis-information, but if people who work in health don't understand the economy of using Boris bikes I imagine many other people struggle with it, so more info should be provided on this.

On a slightly separate note I believe the outdoor gyms are a great asset and very important and I hope these are maintained - cycle racks near these would be beneficial.

A note on your final question (although I'm sure no-one would support it) encouraging people to respect green spaces needs to start in schools. When I was at school (only 10 years ago) each tutor group had to do litter duty, collecting rubbish in the school grounds. Perhaps local schools could do this in local parks to teach children and young people the consequences of littering and to try and encourage them not to do this.

Resident 27

I think that big increases in the numbers of people cycling can only come from big increases in safety for cyclists. I see two main ways to achieve this --

1: separation of motor traffic from cyclists and pedestrians.

2: much lower traffic speeds -- at least 20mph.

Separation of motor traffic and cyclists means cycle lanes with physical barriers to keep heavy traffic out. It means closing roads to create traffic free or very low speed traffic areas. These closures can be achieved by bollards across the road (see what has been done in Hackney and Tower Hamlets) it does not need to be expensive.

Residential areas can be managed so that they are used by residents only with only one entry and exit point with no through route for motorised traffic. The resulting slow speeds and drastic traffic reduction opens the streets for children to play on again and gives beginners the confidence to start cycling. Telegraph Hill in New Cross is a good example. Council estates have often been given this treatment. It should be extended to areas of private dwellings so that more people can benefit.

The traffic which passes through Southwark is a blight (smelly, polluting and dangerous). It is not beneficial to our borough. We cannot manage that proportion on TfL's trunk roads. However, rat runs should be stopped up and through traffic curbed, blocked and discouraged on roads which are Southwark's responsibility. This would be beneficial to the health and safety of our children and all our citizens.

Resident 28

I am an experienced and confident cyclist, while my wife is the opposite but an enthusiastic convert to commuter cycling of late. We both have very mixed experiences in Southwark, and have been dismayed by various decisions recently made by the council (designs on Peckham Rye, thankfully reversed decision to remove Heygate Street lane, apparent decision to drop cycle lanes).

All the evidence from Southwark and TfL research, and from surveys I've carried out in East Dulwich, points to one overriding barrier to more widespread adoption of the bicycle: fears about safety.

I should like you to look at four steps to address this:

1. Reduce speeds

So long as the council continues to leave, or force, cyclists in the main stream of traffic moving at 30mph, you will fail to get widespread adoption. Confident men (on the whole) such as myself will be happy to do this, but my wife is constantly on the verge of giving up when she tries to overtake parked buses on Rye Lane that then pull out into her.

Southwark has a 20mph policy, which is a great start. The council needs to make sure that all sections of cycle routes are 20mph, and really push TfL hard about nonsense like 30mph through the town centres of Peckham and Camberwell.

2. Give cyclists clear, separate road space

Currently the council is all sixes and sevens on where cyclists should be. For example, here's a one mile stretch of my daily commute:

Heading south from Peckham Library... one minute we're on a contraflow semi-shared space at the top of Rye Lane negotiating our way with pedestrians who don't notice it's a cycle lane because the surface is hard to distinguish and oncoming cyclists who have only this option overtake parked buses, then we move into the stream of traffic on Rye Lane where we all weave around buses and unloading lorries, then we have traffic lights with no Advanced Stop Line, then past Tesco Metro we're off onto another difficult-to-spot semi-shared space with pedestrians, then we come out onto a cycle lane blocked by a bus stop half way down, then we have traffic lights with an ASL, then we're back into the stream of traffic. All in the space of a mile or so.

Where does the council want us to go? Where should motorists expect to find us? Often road danger is created when they're confused and we don't behave as they expect, and pedestrians get annoyed for the same reason.

If you look at any city in the world with high cycling figures, they share one feature in common: they give cyclists their *own* road space. Not shared with pedestrians, not a 1m advisory cycle lane that is poorly maintained. A physically separated, protected, wide cycle lane.

I would like to see Southwark adopt this as the option of choice, removing car parking and car lanes, making roads one way and - where they are occasionally wider than they need to be - narrowing pavements to achieve this. Whatever it takes. Other cities do it, why should we suffer?

3. Make it easier and quicker to cycle

Close off roads, or sections, and put in bollards so cyclists can get through while cars can't. Southwark has done this in places, but I'd like to see a strategic approach to making it difficult to drive kids to school, etc. when cycling is potentially such a good option.

Put in cycle contraflow lanes or signage on all one way streets, and take our car parking where it makes this potentially dangerous or confusing as on Bermondsey Street.

All the while make sure that inexperienced cyclists *feel* safe, so it is quicker *and* more pleasant. Cycle south down Bermondsey Street at night with taxis and vans coming at you and tell me it's pleasant!

4. Enforce the rules of the road

Work with the borough commander and safer neighbourhood teams to do as much if not more enforcement to protect cyclists (and pedestrians) as they do to crack down on antisocial and dangerous cycling.

Regular actions by Advanced Stop Lines in places like Tower Bridge Road and Old Kent Road to stop motorists and motorcyclists driving into them, please.

Average speed cameras and occasional speed gun work on cycle route roads like Glengall Road that are supposedly 20mph but with frequent speeding.

All of these concerns have been widely shared on the Southwark Cyclists' e-list, and chime with the London Cycling Campaign members' recent decision to adopt "go Dutch" as their campaign for the 2012 GLA elections. I would encourage you to read their web content: <http://lcc.org.uk/pages/go-dutch>

I don't think any of this is too much to ask, and much of it is just about starting out with different principles whenever the council does any road engineering scheme or policing plan.

I should also like our cabinet to make a bit of noise when TfL block them because of the current Mayor of London's appalling "smoothing traffic flow" policies.

We have also received responses from a number of community groups with a particular interest in environmental issues:

LIVING STREETS

A group of 80 activists 'committed to making life in Southwark better for those on foot'.

Encouraging more sustainable travel: we believe that increased levels of walking can have tremendous benefits for Southwark and its residents.

While conditions for walking have improved enormously in recent years, we believe that more is needed to deliver the potential health, well-being, and economic benefits that walking can offer to Southwark.

We also recommend 20mph speed limits for all town centres. This has the potential to transform the way people feel about the balance between themselves as pedestrians and their relationship with motorists. Although Southwark is nominally a 20mph borough, more needs to be done to make all our town centres genuinely 20mph places.

At present our town centres and main roads are where the greatest dangers and threats exist to pedestrians from motor vehicles. If our town centres become places where vehicles move at a maximum of 20mph, it is a well established fact that there will be significant economic benefits to the local area and a greater proportion of local spending power will remain in the area.

Main roads are now the location of the vast majority of road casualties in Southwark. Serious work is needed to reduce speeds on them and in many places to reduce their capacity (as has been done very successfully on Southwark Park Road).

Roads such as Newington Causeway and Camberwell Road are relics of a totally different era of road and street design. Their capacity needs to be reduced so that people can feel a part of them once again. Roads that are designed for motor vehicles have no pedestrians. Almost nobody walks from the Elephant & Castle to the river, even though it takes just 15 minutes.

Southwark's Transport for London (TfL) roads are of course a major problem. In an urban setting like Southwark they cannot solely play a role to facilitate through traffic; people need to be able to walk to work or shop on them, and also to simply spend time there. They need to function as places as well as transport routes. We notice that even the City of London is now considering 20mph limits on its TfL roads.

'Green routes' and 'play streets' in residential areas: in Southwark, children need places to play; people need to populate the outdoors and streets. Streets should no longer be

corridors for motor vehicles or places where they are parked. We need to get people outside and using their streets more. 'Green Links' is an initiative to link up green and open spaces with largely traffic-free routes. 'Play streets' allow children once again to play in the streets in front of their homes. Getting people outside and taking possession of the streets where they live has all kinds of other benefits including health and exercise, social cohesion and community safety, as far less crime occurs in well-populated places. Such policies go with the grain of declining car ownership and car usage in Southwark and allow the majority - in the form of pedestrians and residents - a far fairer share of the streets we all inhabit.

'Walk-able neighbourhoods': it is vital that we design our borough around walking. Key to this is having shops and services within walking distance. Our local shopping parades should be supported to ensure people have basic goods within walking distance and positive measures taken to encourage walk-ability and encourage the shops on local parades. This offers significant benefits in places with high levels of deprivation and during economically difficult times. If people no longer have to afford the £6,000 per year it currently costs to own and run car, that's a very significant saving.

Submitted on behalf of Living Streets.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF SOUTHWARK

A community group committed to 'networking, information and skills sharing, to promote increased spending and best environmental practices'.

Question 1: How can we promote energy efficiency - not just in buildings owned by the council - but in all properties?

Establish CO2 tariff for all major businesses and retailers, to encourage less vehicle pollution, product packaging waste, out-of-hours energy waste etc. Provide continuous training and support to all local businesses and retailers to cut down their CO2 emissions (to include dedicated cycle access, establishing of distribution centres etc).

Simplify and facilitate installation of wind turbines across all council property and all new builds. Establish district heating systems across the whole of Southwark.

Question 2: How can we further encourage people to recycle?

Establish food and garden composting facilities at all council housing.

Question 3: How can we encourage more sustainable travel, especially cycling and walking?

With immediate effect, set up a 'Car Free Day' once a month for three months. After the initial three-month period introduce 'Car Free Sundays' every week (with access for pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles only). Review after a year of 'Car Free Sundays'. Pedestrianise large parts of Southwark (non-Transport for London roads) for pedestrian/cycle/emergency vehicle use only. Adopt 20mph limit across the whole of Southwark. Limit HGV transit to licensed essential HGV during the day and overnight allow any HGV. Introduce closures of residential roads for play one evening per week.

Establish 'clear way finding' for a network of borough cycling routes, using on road markings to navigate on quieter streets.

Area specific: Insist Heygate Estate is redeveloped as a car-free area (10% maximum provision). Insist on provision of an eastern bypass of the Elephant and Castle through the Heygate redevelopment.

Question 4: Given the huge reductions in the council's budget this year and in the coming years, how can the council further protect the public realm, Southwark's parks and green spaces by encouraging people to respect and care for their local environment?

Simplify public space management procedures so that residents wishing to engage in food growing/gardening/management of any one space (park/green and amenity areas around council housing) can do so without wasting years of their time going through council funding programmes and other hoops. Minimise the council's management of and involvement with Cleaner Greener Safer projects as it is costly, not terribly efficient, and time consuming.

Resist demolition of existing property and instead open up empty properties to community use, to include housing, by providing a clear, transparent, and easy to understand and implement Community Asset Transfer policy, to enable easier access and management by local residents and communities.

Consider lower rents for the first year for community groups using council property. High rents mean many properties are standing empty and costing money for security and repairs.

Submitted on behalf The People's Republic of Southwark.

THE ELEPHANT BY-PASS GROUP

A 51-member local lobby 'whose proposals have been adopted as part of the policy of Southwark Cyclists'.

Firstly, we'd like to raise the urgent need to see a fast, safe, and direct cycling bypass of the Elephant & Castle junction included in its redevelopment plans.

We believe that the developers of the Heygate Estate have been resistant to providing the dedicated cycling route that we see as essential for reducing the horrendous casualty rate for cyclists at the Elephant and Castle. Proposals detailed to me by Transport for London for the redevelopment of the junction do not solve the essential problem of the roundabout being one of the largest real and perceived risks to cycling safety in London.

Southwark can lead the way to resolving this by insisting on a fast, direct and safe off road cycling alternative to the junction - as part of the redevelopment of Heygate Street, and at no cost to the Borough.

On recycling: Southwark's recycling scheme for flats with bin rooms is very good. However, there is a lack of clarity on what I can and cannot recycle and I frequently have arguments with my flatmate about it! This could be made clearer, with guidance on what to do if in doubt. I also note that our recycling bins are black and our waste bins are green. This is totally counter intuitive and we have a problem communicating the correct bins to uninterested neighbours.

On sustainable travel: 'Way-finding' is a huge problem for cycling in Southwark. The LCN (London Cycle Network) routes are not sufficiently clear and are very hard to follow. Some great thinking is being done on this matter and I'd encourage Southwark to lead the way on experimenting with better signage and on-street markings. Many one way roads block desired routes. From my own home, it's impossible to legally cycle from the Cycle Super Highway, due to a 5m section of one way road. Many of these can be converted at minimal cost with 'except cycles' signs.

Children don't see the streets as a place where they belong. This is reinforced by parenting and schools treating 'walking' as a risk. A realistic attitude to any element of risk needs to be

taken, with measures to introduce more 'pedestrian priority' home-zones made easier. Southwark should introduce means to allow one evening per week closures of residential roads for play.

(Follow this link for an example: <http://www.slideshare.net/liveablelondon/movement-for-liveable-london-street-talks-adrian-voce-6th-december-2011>).

One of the major blocks to pleasant cycling and walking in Southwark is on- street parking. The council should seek to reduce this and issue fewer permits, particularly in the constrained central area. On-street parking on the Cycle Superhighway route through Eliot's Row is a good example of a location where parking and single yellow lines should be removed. Another place where parking enforcement is urgently needed is on Southwark Bridge Road, where unnecessary parking ruins an otherwise very good section of cycle route.

Giving local people ownership and input is the best way to encourage respect for the public realm. This needs to be backed up with an effective and responsive environment and streets department so we can resolve problems quickly. I frequently report issues using the 'fixmystreet' website, or by direct email and get no response or else a response and then no action.

Submitted on behalf of The Elephant Bypass Group.

THE SE5 FORUM

'A grassroots, non-political, umbrella organisation that exists to work for the improvement of Camberwell to benefit all members of its diverse community'.

In response to this question: "Given the huge reductions in the council's budget this year and in the coming years, how can the council further protect the public realm, Southwark's parks and green spaces by encouraging people to respect and care for their local environment?"

SE5 Forum for Camberwell has launched The Friends of Camberwell Green (Inaugural General Meeting, 7pm Monday 30 January 2012, St Giles Centre, Camberwell Church St, London SE5 8RB - ALL WELCOME) and would look to the council to support this group in principle and in kind to create a strong, coherent community voice for the betterment of Camberwell Green.

The council could encourage and 'grow' community parks and green spaces involvement through supporting the networking of interested groups. This support could provide opportunities for sharing experience, information and best practice and this, in turn, could lead to strengthened community 'ownership' of our parks and green spaces.

Submitted by the Chair on behalf of the SE5 Forum.

FRIENDS OF BURGESS PARK

The Friends of Burgess Park support Southwark Council's goal to get more communities involved in looking after parks and green spaces. We suggest that one way to do this is to have regular volunteering days in parks and work with Friends groups and other interested organisations to do this. Getting the best out of volunteers requires a programme of work and volunteer co-ordination this would be a good investment for the Council. Further involvement of the community in parks and green spaces will require a partnership approach where responsibilities and commitments are agreed and understood for example between the Friends group and the Council. When we as a Friends group have raised funds

for a project in the park we will need to work in partnership with the Council to deliver this. As a Friends group we are not able - at the moment - to take on long - term responsibilities. We would welcome a partnership approach with the Council which supports Friends groups and others to take on more involvement in the park over the next few years. To take this further the Council need to discuss how they want involvement to develop and what the Council want it to deliver.

Are the Council able to provide park budgets for the next two to three years?

Does the Council want to develop volunteering activity in parks and green spaces?

How can the Council support Friends groups to do more?

How can the Council support social enterprise to deliver services in parks?

Submitted on behalf of Friends of Burgess Park

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY)****WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012****QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME****1. QUESTION FROM ABBY TAUBIN TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING**

Why don't all council homes have loft and cavity wall insulation?

RESPONSE

Many council homes already have loft and cavity wall insulation and in the last 3 years we have carried out works to some 4,500 properties.

Whilst loft and cavity insulation is not included in the council's warm dry and safe investment programme, we already have a separate borough-wide insulation programme. We secured and spent £3.7m of external funding last year and have another £1.5m of external money set aside for further insulation works in this year and next.

However it is also important to note that not all the borough's properties are constructed in a way that allows cavity wall insulation. For example, of the 10,500 street properties included in the recent borough wide insulation programme, only 900 properties were appropriate for cavity insulation. We will have completed works to most of these properties by the end of March 2012.

2. QUESTION FROM DONNACHADH McCARTHY TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING

As Southwark has one of Europe's lowest cycling rates and London's highest serious accident rate, will the council host an urgent summit of all interested parties, including parents and schools, to draw up an action plan to create child-friendly safe Dutch style cycle-lane infrastructure in Southwark within 5 years?

RESPONSE

Southwark ranks 8th out of 33 London boroughs for cycle mode share i.e. we have the 8th highest level of cycling and are in the top quartile. Only a handful of comparable boroughs have a higher mode share (Source TfL).

I am not convinced of the merits of a summit as set out within the parameters that the questioner has described. Nevertheless I am delighted that ongoing work with Southwark Cyclists has been productive and we will be holding a high-level meeting with them very soon to further integrate the views of the cycling community into our work.

There is nowhere in the UK that has retrofitted segregated cycle lanes on the scale proposed and there is no conclusive evidence to demonstrate that cycle lanes would themselves remove all risk. For example most collisions occur at junctions and this would still be an issue as would the transition between segregated and non segregated areas generally.

Cyclists would still need the skills to interact with other traffic which is why we will continue to focus on this aspect of cycle safety.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012****URGENT QUESTION****1. URGENT QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

Given the strength of feeling expressed at recent community council meetings will he look again at the proposed mergers, and abolition of community council planning committees?

RESPONSE

At a time when the government is cutting our budget by tens of millions of pounds every year, when we are having to make tough choices about environment, children's services, adult care and every area of council spending, I think it's absolutely right that we set the target of £344,000 savings from community council meetings. Councillor Al-Samerai and her colleagues had an opportunity to influence how these savings were made through the Democracy Commission, but as a group they only bothered to turn up to a third of the meetings. She and her colleagues had the opportunity to propose an alternative way to make the savings, but unlike the Conservative and Labour representatives, they chose not to do that. Finally, if she and her colleagues did not like the Labour proposal they had the opportunity to vote for that alternative Conservative proposal, but they chose instead to withdraw from the process in a political stunt. Given all of this, I find it difficult to see why we should overrule the democratically agreed recommendations of the Democracy Commission and to take seriously Councillor Al-Samerai's objections.

She might also want to note two further facts:

When the Liberal Democrats proposed community councils in 2003, they did not originally want a separate Bermondsey community council. It was Labour that proposed the community council area.

This year community councils will be given a cleaner, greener, safer revenue fund, giving them power over revenue funding for the first time. This represents a major development in terms of community council powers that her own group could have introduced when they were in power, but chose not to. This demonstrates our commitment as an administration to enhancing community councils, whilst having to find necessary savings, and further goes to show the strangeness of Councillor Al-Samerai's position.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY)
WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012
MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

In view of the tragic death of Mr Frederick Watts do you have confidence in the cabinet members for housing and health and adult social care?

RESPONSE

I have the utmost confidence in both members. They are both acting to ensure that the council fully cooperates with all of the relevant authorities as the inquest into Mr Watts' tragic death is completed.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PATRICK DIAMOND

What efforts has your administration made to consult with local groups on the council's 2012/13 budget?

RESPONSE

Following the comprehensive spending review in 2010 and in light of our commitment to hold the most open budget process in the authority's history, we resolved to hold a fully inclusive budget consultation in advance of setting a three year indicative budget. The 2012/13 budget marks the second year of those three years and therefore has, to a great extent, already been consulted on. In spite of this, over the full course of the 2012/13 budget process:

- cabinet members will have visited each of the community councils to discuss the budget;
- all residents will have an opportunity to bring deputations to 24 January cabinet meeting;
- overview and scrutiny will have scrutinised the budget and interviewed all cabinet meetings about their portfolio areas;
- all residents will have had the opportunity to make comments about the budget using our online form;
- and we will have published our detailed budget proposals for the coming financial year much earlier than under the pre-2010 budget arrangements, increasing transparency and giving more time for comment.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN

How many post offices were closed in Southwark under the previous Labour government?

RESPONSE

2 Post Offices were closed between 1997 and 2002. 17 Post Offices were closed while the Liberal Democrats ran Southwark Council. The Liberal Democrats had the opportunity to follow the lead of Essex County Council to keep the post offices open as I campaigned for at the time, but they chose not to.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

Was he surprised by the comments of the previous Liberal Democrat leader of the council, Councillor Nick Stanton, in the Guardian on 30 December regarding The Shard in which he admitted their had been a “failure of imagination” in terms of his inability to link the project like this to local outcomes?

RESPONSE

The Shard brings a wealth of opportunities for local employment, and the combination of the section 106 (S106) funding agreement and the relationship we have built with the developer offer unprecedented employment opportunities for a development of this kind. Already, the council’s efforts have (as of the end of December) seen 52 unemployed residents getting jobs in the construction of the building, and the remaining build time and fit out is scheduled to deliver 240 jobs for our residents in total over the coming year.

Another quick win is the boost in vocational opportunities for our younger residents provided by the capital investment through the S106 programme in new learning facilities at Southwark College’s Waterloo and Bermondsey campuses. These give a competitive edge to students by providing real working environments in which to gain qualifications in construction, hair and beauty, hospitality and catering and floristry and horticulture – all areas where the Shard and its supply chain will stimulate opportunities and offer entry level jobs. Since their opening in spring 2011, several hundred learners have already used these facilities.

Longer term plans have been laid to boost local employment outcomes through a partnership involving Sellar and the college to access a share of the 10,000 plus jobs (not all of which will be new as established businesses move in) that will come with the Shard and the Place. Through this partnership we are able to access in advance details of job profiles with the early Shard tenants, and co-ordinate plans for the bulk of the S106 funding (to be released late 2012) to make sure it supplies skills and qualifications that exactly match what employers need, by planning with the college and local training and employment support providers to give our learners and unemployed residents the job-readiness and skills they need to compete for these jobs and progress in them.

In physical terms, a number of projects are being delivered to ensure that the Shard connects strongly to the local area and access to the new building and the myriad of opportunities within it are maximised. The council has established a strong partnership with the developer, Transport for London, Guys NHS Trust, and Network Rail, in order to regenerate the public realm and infrastructure around the site across a number of different land holdings, and improve access to the local area.

At concourse level, public transport connections are being upgraded with a new bus station which has 30% larger capacity, and a new train station concourse which has been transformed to provide a large increase in capacity with high

quality materials throughout. A new public plaza in front of the station has an additional connection to the underground to improve the public transport capacity of this key gateway for local people.

At street level, S106 funding is being invested in the revitalisation of St Thomas Street. After a lengthy consultation with the local community and partners, a scheme was designed to increase movement between the Shard and the local communities to the south with a re-balancing of the street in favour of pedestrian and cycle movement. In addition to this, Joiner Street will be pedestrianised, and new materials will be laid along St Thomas Street to the junction of Borough High Street to further enhance the conservation area. A close collaboration with the Guys NHS trust has enabled £4.4m to be invested into the hospital estate, with new connections, entrances and foyers, and the pedestrianisation of Great Maze Pond, the key link through the campus to the local community.

In addition to new materials, lighting, trees and landscaping projects, a new system of legible London signage is also being installed which will further promote movement to and through the local area, and strengthen linkages with the local community.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA

Has Southwark signed up to the Armed Forces Community Covenant?

RESPONSE

An Armed Forces Community Covenant is not something that a local authority or area “signs up to”, but something that it composes and agrees with the armed forces. As such community covenants can appear different from area to area.

The council continues to investigate different ways that we can build on the work we have already done to recognise the contribution that members of the armed forces make to our community. This includes investigation of whether we will follow the four councils who currently have community covenants by agreeing one with the armed forces for Southwark.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN MORRISSEY

The council has rightly been praised for its youth fund, one component of which is the Southwark Scholarship Scheme. What is the council doing to secure sponsorship for Southwark scholars from local businesses and charities?

RESPONSE

I think that all too often in the past the council has believed that it isn't able to do anything about a problem unless it is going to spend money on it directly itself. While we have spent some money on the Southwark Scholarship Scheme as a council our ambition is that it becomes much larger by working with the private and third sector. We have an agreement with Bermondsey and St Olaves United Charity to sponsor a scholarship place in 2012. I will be writing to the borough's major employers to ask them to support the scholarship scheme over the next few weeks.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY

When will the council exercise its option to terminate the Vangent contract and bring the customer service centre operation back in house?

RESPONSE

Following a change in ownership, the council is in detailed discussions with Vangent UK and their new owners, GDIT. These discussions are contractually and commercially confidential and the cabinet are being informed on progress. We are seeking to resolve the position as quickly as practicably possible.

It is particularly important that we reach a conclusion to these deliberations, given the challenging financial situation that the council faces.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD

Can he provide an update on the restructure of the council's top management?

RESPONSE

Members will already have seen that from the end of next week the deputy chief executive, Eleanor Kelly, will be acting up as chief executive from the 1st week in February 2012. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing chief executive again for her service to the borough and wish her well for her future.

All members will have received a consultation document on the proposed restructure and the direction that we will take top management structures in the future. The consultation document is detailed, but in summary: in future Southwark's top management will be smaller and top managers will be more focused on strategic oversight, working in closer partnership with members. It is our intention to take incremental steps towards this future in order to avoid damaging upheaval and unnecessary expenditure. It is my firmly held belief that these changes represent good value for the Southwark council tax-payer as well as ensuring that the council maintains rigorous governance structures and performance management.

Furthermore, it is also my firmly held belief that one of the great successes of this administration will be the steps that we have taken in this time of austerity to ensure that the greatest burden within the council falls on those who are most able to pay. Members must remember that our determination to remove £1 million from top management costs follows on from our decision to suspend performance related pay for a period of two years, cutting spending on consultants and cuts to special responsibility allowances for councillors.

At the same time as we are cutting spending on top management we are standing up for the lowest paid. Southwark was the only council in London and one of only two in the country that awarded a pay increase to our staff on under £21,000 last year and we will give a further pay increase to our lowest paid staff this year. At the same time, this year we will become the first council in London to write our commitment to rolling out the London Living Wage to all of the people who work for us into our budget, meaning that in future all our staff will receive the living wage whether they are directly employed by the council or not.

This is just another area of our work where I believe we have demonstrated our values and commitment to deliver a fairer future.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET

Will the chief executive be replaced, and if so what are the arrangements?

RESPONSE

Members were, in the week beginning 16 January, emailed a consultation document on the future arrangements for the council's top management. This document sets out our current thinking about the future of top management for the council, including the role of the chief executive. The deputy chief executive will be acting up into the role of chief executive from the end of next week on an interim basis. The appointment of a new permanent chief executive will, of course, be subject to the council's human resources processes and the ordinary appointments process for the council's top managers.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH

What will be the impact on Southwark of the Mayor's decision to increase fares on public transport above inflation for a third year in a row?

RESPONSE

The direct impact is twofold.

First, there is the impact felt by our residents. Southwark is a borough that depends, by and large, for public transport on the bus network. The price of a single on the bus in the last three years has gone up from 90p to £1.35: a 45p or 50% increase. The news for those of our residents who use tube, overground or rail services is not much better, with inflation busting increases across the board and a commitment to increase at 2% above inflation every year. Clearly, at a time when many of our residents are struggling with falling real incomes and even the threat of unemployment, then such an increase is hitting them hard.

The second impact for us falls directly on us as a council. Due to the unique way the freedom pass is funded – i.e. by us as individual London councils – the Mayor of London's increase in public transport fares is placing unanticipated pressures of up to £792,000 on our budget. As we are utterly committed to continuing to fund the freedom pass, this means that we have been forced by the fares increases to find that amount from other services

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

How many complaints have been received by Southwark Council over the past year? How many have been responded to within the target timescales? Please provide answers by department.

RESPONSE**Complaints received by department 1 January 2011 to 31 December**

Department	Stage 1	% of total	% answered in time*	Services included
Housing	4,468	61%	88%	Repairs and Maintenance, Major

Department	Stage 1	% of total	% answered in time*	Services included
				Works, Area Management, CHS, Customer Experience
Environment	1,592	22%	89%	Parking, Cleansing, Public Realm and Community Safety
Revenues and Benefits	922	13%	90%	Now part of Finance and Resources
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods	158	2%	53%	Planning, Transport, Properties, Aylesbury
Children's Services (Education)	52	1%	71%	
Communities, Law and Governance	16	0%	50%	
Finance & Resources	13	0%	75%	
Children's Services**	12	0%	56%	
Health and Social Care - Adults Services***	8	0%	100%	
Other service areas	7	0%	90%	
Deputy Chief Executive	4	0%	25%	
Total	7,252			

* Stage 1 target to respond is 15 working days.

** Complaints about children's services are recorded in a separate module in iCasework. These are therefore about matters where the child is not at the centre of the complaint.

*** Complaints about adult social care are handled by the NHS Primary Care Trust and not normally logged in iCasework.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Could the leader of the council table the work done by the deputy cabinet members since their appointment? The deputy cabinet member for heritage led Black History Month – what was his substantial contribution?

RESPONSE

I do not understand what the question means by 'table the work'. However, I am more than happy to give a brief account of the benefits that each of our deputy cabinet members has brought to the council and borough in the last eight months.

Councillor Coyle, deputy cabinet member for estate regeneration has been involved in many meetings affecting the regeneration and housing briefs. This has

included meeting with residents in areas most affected by the estate regeneration programme and supporting their involvement in specific issues. He helped, for example, secure an independent expert advisor sought by some residents affected by significant decisions on the future of their homes.

Councillor Coyle has also deputised for cabinet members on occasion, for example meeting Southwark leaseholders on a date the cabinet member was unavailable.

His next meeting in the deputy role will be at the Abbeyfield RSG meeting on 1 February.

Councillor the Right Reverend Oyewole, deputy cabinet member for heritage has been working with parties interested in creating a conservation area and organised a public meeting to discuss the work the council is doing. The results were fed back into the council planning service. With the cabinet member for culture, leisure, sport and the Olympics, Councillor the Right Reverend Oyewole oversaw the council's 2011 Black History Month. This also included jointly writing the introduction of the Black History Month 2011 leaflet and attending over 10 events across the borough.

Councillor the Right Reverend Oyewole has been working to help improve the council's guidance for groups wishing to seek planning permission for faith premises. With the cabinet members for regeneration and corporate strategy and equalities and community engagement he hosted a meeting for the groups to discuss how the existing guidance should be reviewed. He has further been involved in the work that Roehampton University are undertaking about black ethnicity churches in Southwark to help us get a better understanding of the churches in our borough.

Councillor Situ, deputy cabinet member for active citizens has visited and met with the senior management team at the volunteer centre to look at how we can increase the volunteer capacity of our residents. He has supported individuals to start-up voluntary groups and working to build a network of voluntary groups. He has worked with the cabinet member for health and adult social care to support our elderly centres during the transitional period. He plans to continue to visit centres to offer support. Together with Councillors Hargrove and Mohamed, he has also been working to improve cycling and walking within the borough. He has met representatives from Living Street and Southwark Cyclists and continues to work with them.

Councillor Hamvas, deputy cabinet member for families has been working with the cabinet member for children's services on schools admissions, which has included working with the cabinet member and officers on the primary places strategy. As part of this she has also looked at admissions policies in other boroughs and looked at local academy admissions policies. She has been a contact point for parents on admissions issues and visited Goodrich Primary with the school preference advisor, to see the work that the council does to help parents make decisions about applying for secondary schools for their children.

Councillor Hamvas has also been supporting the cabinet member for children's services in looking at the impact that the government's free schools policy will have on the borough and has been engaging with groups that are progressing an application to set up a free school. Finally, she is in the early stages of working with the cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy on worklessness.

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

With Islington becoming the first London 20mph borough, is the leader minded to follow the lead of his Labour colleague and lead Southwark to become the second 20mph London borough?

RESPONSE

Our existing and inherited policy is that all Southwark Council roads should be 20mph. However, we are unable to set the speed limit for Transport for London red routes, which are controlled by City Hall.

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Could you please provide a comparative costing of council assembly meetings prior to the sale of the town hall with the recent nomadic versions? Please provide an itemised breakdown for each school including security guards, public displays, council officer time and transportation.

RESPONSE

On 20 October 2010, council assembly agreed the recommendations of the democracy commission that council assembly be held in venues throughout the borough. In January 2011, the cabinet agreed the democracy commission implementation plan. This plan assessed venues for capacity, layout, transport and location, access requirements, facilities and cost.

The existing town hall chamber was assessed through that process alongside alternative venues. It scored low against capacity (particularly against the public gallery requirement as it only has capacity for 50 members of the public) and access requirements (poor mobility access to the public gallery). The implementation report went on to note that if access to the town hall chamber were retained in sole council use, the facility would need significant refurbishment to bring it to the required access standards and agreed ambitions of the council for better public engagement, undermining the cost effectiveness of this approach.

Furthermore, the decision to begin the process of moving all operations out of the town hall and surrounding buildings and to move to the most expensive part of the borough was a decision of the last administration. Retaining council assembly meetings at the town hall would mean retaining the town hall building almost exclusively for that purpose. In contrast, the disposal of a long lease on the Town Hall will release revenue currently put towards its maintenance and security. The 2011/12 budget for the property is £627,000. It is estimated that not less than £420,000 per year would be required to keep the town hall open as a stand-alone facility, not including the cost of any refurbishment or improvement works that were needed. Revenue costs around £67,000 per year would be needed to maintain the chamber and ancillary facilities alone. This is significantly higher than the costs of the current arrangements for council assembly at a variety of venues across the borough.

In relation to costs attaching to the current arrangements for council assembly happening in other venues these are as follows:

- venue hire - £1,700

- public address and sound system – £2,300.

This does not include staffing and other costs for example transport that are no greater than holding meetings at the town hall. It should also be noted that costs vary slightly depending on the venue.

15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU

Did the leader authorise giving gold coins to a former Labour councillor?

RESPONSE

No. A gift of several gold-coloured (but not gold) coins was given to one of Southwark's ex-mayors by civic visitors to the borough during the tenure of the last administration. The chief executive had the coins valued to ensure that they were of a value commensurate with a personal gift and this was found to be the case.

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON (BERMONDSEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What is the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling doing to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety on Tower Bridge Road? Does he think devolving local budgets would help in addressing local residents' concerns?

RESPONSE

Transport for London (TfL) is the highway authority for Tower Bridge Road.

Southwark will continue to lobby TfL to implement schemes to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists particularly at the junction of Tower Bridge Road and Abbey Street.

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK (ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What progress has been made for improving traffic flows around Rotherhithe gyratory system and Lower Road, and when will it be completed?

RESPONSE

The plan to remove the Lower Road gyratory and revert the roads to two-way working was formulated as part of the Rotherhithe multi-modal transport study as a way of improving the environment for pedestrians and cyclists as well as increasing capacity for road traffic.

Work is currently underway to develop the design and to refine cost estimates. We will be asking Transport for London for some of the funding, and have informed them through the transport plan that we aim to submit a bid in 2012/13 for funding in following years. However, the bulk of funding will come from future developments in the area that will increase pressure on the road system, which we would expect to come forward in the next few years. Subject to consultation on the scheme and approval by the council, implementation would progress once that funding is available.

18. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK (BOROUGH AND BANKSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the member provide a breakdown of the number of tenants attending the mobile housing office and customer satisfaction figures for each individual venue point? Please provide an itemised breakdown of costs including officer hours and vehicle running costs.

RESPONSE

The mobile office has been in operation for approximately three months now and data has been collected on footfall levels since the 1 November 2011. Across the seven sites covered by the mobile office footfall levels were slow at first and have risen in the last six weeks with Rye Hill and Dickens estates showing levels comparable with visits to housing receptions. We do not currently collect satisfaction ratings for the use of the mobile office, but intend to conduct an appraisal of demand levels and options for future use of the mobile office after the first six months of operation.

Estate	Average footfall per session
Rye Hill Estate	5
Dickens Estate	4
Tabard Gardens	2
Lordship Lane	3
Rockingham	2
Crawford Estate	2

The total cost of the mobile office was £23,000 to operate and the weekly running costs total £800 in staffing costs and a small amount for stationery and facilities items. An equivalent measure of a housing reception before last years reorganisation showed that average footfall was equivalent to 12 visits in a session at a cost of £2,560 for staffing.

The mobile office is also in use beyond the surgery activities with the office being used to support rent arrears and revenue benefits collection work focussed on individual estates. The mobile office will also be the focus of the upcoming round of estate action days (10-12 during 2012/13) which will focus on repairs services and leaseholder surgeries through the home ownership unit. Planning is currently taking place around the mobile office supporting activities during the Olympics and promoting the work of departments across the council.

Residents and ward councillors have requested that the mobile office visits additional estates and the operation is being increased to include two further estates with more coming on stream over the course of the first year

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES (PECKHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

The residents of Peckham Community Council were absolutely thrilled to learn that a local florist had donated a Christmas tree to Peckham Square in December 2011

to inject some Christmas spirit to the area and Southwark Council agreed to erect it and decorate it – just one shining example of the council working in collaboration with a local trader. What else is Southwark Council doing to encourage and develop a successful sustainable working partnership with the local business community in Peckham?

RESPONSE

On 13 December 2011, the cabinet agreed in principle to include a £1 million community restoration fund in the council's 2012/13 budget. Subject to the approval of the budget at council assembly, this fund will assist those areas most affected by the August disturbances, with the aim of supporting activities focused on restoring local community pride and delivering longer term solutions to support business and the wider community. Given the particular impact of the August disturbances in Peckham, it will be one of the areas that the council will look to support through this fund. In developing the business element of the fund, I have been meeting with local business leaders and business organisations to discuss with them what the most effective means of support might be. This will include a meeting with traders and business owners in Peckham. These conversations will be important in exploring how the council can work more closely with local businesses to drive economic growth and improve life chances which forms part of the council's commitment to working in partnership with the business community, both in Peckham and across the rest of Southwark. Further details about the community restoration fund will be announced as part of the budget setting process.

The council has also recently secured substantial investment from the Greater London Authority (GLA) Mayor's Regeneration Fund to deliver improvements to the business environment in Peckham. The funding will support a £10.6 million programme of improvements to business space and the public realm around Peckham Rye Station which will deliver an improved retail centre and contribute to attracting private sector investment in Peckham town centre. The outline proposals will be developed and implemented in close consultation with Peckham businesses to ensure benefit is maximised for local traders and to continue to build the capacity of emerging local business networks to engage effectively with the council and other agencies. The council has also submitted proposals to the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore historic building frontages along Rye Lane, which if successful will be developed into detailed proposals over the coming year in consultation with local businesses and traders.

20. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can he provide a breakdown by ward of the proportion of households that are on the electoral register in the Walworth Community Council area?

RESPONSE

The canvass response rate for the three wards in question at 1 December 2011 were:

- East Walworth - 94.48%
- Newington - 92.51%
- Faraday - 95.05%.

This represents the percentage of properties from which a response to the request for registration was received during the annual canvass for the 2012 register of electors (either following 1 of 2 post outs or as a result of door visits to all non-responding properties). It therefore includes responses which confirm/state the property to be empty, occupied only by nationals from non-qualifying countries, properties being used as short term accommodation and second homes etc. It should be noted that this information states that the resident occupies these properties at that moment in the canvass period. The response rate for East Walworth includes the 1,027 properties in the Heygate Estate which are still on the database but have been counted as voids.

Some of the responses replied to the annual canvass stating that they are occupied by non-qualifying nationals only (such as USA, Somali, Chinese, Brazilian, Columbian etc):

- East Walworth - 226 (3.75% of properties)
- Newington - 236 (3.5% of properties)
- Faraday - 233 (4.4% of properties).

The number of properties at which there are 1 or more registered electors as at 1 January 2012 are:

- East Walworth - 4,403 (88.29% of residential properties, excluding the Heygate Estate)
- Newington – 5,967 (88.70%)
- Faraday – 4,707 (88.98%).

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS (NUNHEAD AND PECKHAM RYE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Could the cabinet member provide an update on the Nunhead and East Peckham Renewal Area including the latest details of the resources allocated to the project and the agreement of a detailed implementation programme?

RESPONSE

There is a programme of ongoing improvement works in the Nunhead and East Peckham renewal area of around £3.8 million being undertaken to complement those being delivered as part of the low carbon zone programme and the Improving Local Retail Environments programme. For instance, the council are currently on site in Marmont, Goldsmith and Furley Roads undertaking works to 138 properties of all tenures. These works include new roofs, windows and brick cleaning where required, and new garden walls designed by the residents. This is linked to works being undertaken as part of the low carbon zone which includes the GLA funded (£420,000) solar hot water scheme which will install 60 solar hot water systems. Also 175 homes across the area have also had small energy saving measures installed as part of the RENEW scheme. In addition, works have been completed providing 18 new shop fronts on Meeting House Lane, Nunhead Lane and Queens Road.

As part of the agreed extension of the area renewal programme agreed in July 2011, officers are currently working up proposals to extend the shop front scheme

in Nunhead, improve lighting along Evelina Road (including under the railway bridge) and implement improvements to the area around Queens Road Peckham Station. The public realm team is currently working up proposals for the station area for consultation prior to implementation during 2012/13. The council have also been informed that Network Rail will be putting in lifts making the Queens Road station fully disabled accessible.

I am pleased that we also heard on 16 January from the GLA, that the council was successful in our Outer London Fund bid for further improvements to the Nunhead area for £438,000 of additional funding. Nunhead is one of London's best kept secrets, a great traditional British high street with a butchers, fishmongers, bakers, florists, deli, greengrocers, hairdressers and more - but like many shopping areas it has been having a tough time in recent years. The £438,000 from the Mayor will be added to the council's £515,000 and be spent on improvements to Nunhead's shopping area, shop fronts, lighting, and improvements around Nunhead Green, all of which have a "village" theme. The funding will also help promote Nunhead as a destination by supporting the arts and music festivals, and assist traders with promotional and business support.

In consultation with local stakeholders, the frameworks and implementation and economic development teams will develop lighting designs, a festival business plan, scope out carbon reduction initiatives, provide training and business support, and develop the shop front design brief by March 2012. Works will commence on site by May for completion by March 2014.

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR THE RIGHT REVEREND EMMANUEL OYEWOLE

Can she provide an update on the council's preparations for the 2012 Olympic Games?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council is working in partnership with key local organisations, including Volunteer Centre Southwark, Southbank and Bankside Cultural Quarter, Southwark Arts Forum, London Southbank University, Better Bankside and Team London Bridge among many others, to deliver its Olympic and Paralympic vision.

Some of the achievements so far are:

Engaging young people (EYP)

- 3 'mini' Olympic events held in 2011 and well attended
- 1 borough wide event held in July 2011
- Get Set London - 88% of schools signed up to the London 2012 education programme
- Over 100 new youth volunteers signed up and ready for placements (85% target achieved)
- Get Set Schools Newsletters produced specifically for schools on a monthly basis to compliment the Get Set newsletter produced by communications
- 'Whatever' website updated to include London 2012 information, and links to youth volunteering

- Working with our cultural partners to create opportunities for young people to get involved in cultural programmes such as 'Big Dance' and 'Olympic Readathon'
- Development of channels to promote cultural, volunteering, and sporting opportunities for young people in Southwark related to London 2012.

Southwark Experience working group (SEWG)

- On target to complete £2.6m Thames Riverside Walkway accessibility project
- On target to complete Legible London project: Ensuring that Southwark way signage is clear for visitors
- Look and feel 'Southwark Experience Zone' completed and forwarded to the GLA
- Look and Feel 'Your 2012' - mapping the dressing of the commercial districts of the borough completed. Next step is installation
- Continue developing programmes with cultural partners: Big Dance, Shakespeare's plays at the Globe theatre
- 160 Tooley Street – Olympic art exhibition installed
- Working in partnership with central London boroughs to develop a street art programme for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Health and wellbeing

- A successful Health Factor Challenge – delivered in the summer of 2011
- A new action plan agreed following the Health Factor Challenge, based on using the Olympic and Paralympic Games as momentum to push existing public health campaigns and contribute to a healthier Southwark in and after 2012
- Funding identified to help meet the new objectives of the group.

Public Service Operations

- A cross-departmental, cross-organisation working group established
- Operational planning structures in place
- Control room and intelligence cell structures in place
- Council front line service resilience issues identified and currently being addressed
- Front line service additional cost projection completed
- Further funding bid accepted by GLA
- Operational planning testing exercise completed and outcomes/ recommendations agreed by the corporate management team
- Engaged with and continue to work in partnership with local landowners to manage mutual service demands in the north of the borough during games time
- Engaged with local emergency services
- HR advice for managers and staff distributed. Has been revised for 2012.
- Road networks and transport issues identified and addressed
- Road network contractor embargos agreed at member level
- Issues related to Olympic Route Network and Alternative route network identified and understood
- Local transport hub congestion issues identified with Transport for London (TFL) and GLA

- Engaged with local business to explore distribution of information related to deliveries and supply chain
- Southbank London 2012 market proposals at advanced stage.

Volunteering and employment

- Volunteering strategy described and accepted at member level.
- Southwark 2012 volunteering portal funded, created and published on the Volunteer Centre Southwark website
- Content for volunteering portal increased
- Third party 'volunteering toolkit' produced as an aide for organisations willing to offer placements for Southwark volunteers
- London 2012 volunteer case studies completed (profiles of Southwark based volunteers) and in used to promote volunteering and achieve a volunteering legacy
- A second round of London 2012 volunteer case studies commissioned
- Business's in Southwark applying for London 2012 related contracts supported by the economic development team
- Southwark Young Volunteer of Year 2010, representing Southwark Council at the London 2012 torch relay selection event.

Olympic capital legacy

- Capital legacy group established and composed of senior members of staff from the local business community, a local MP, chief officers from the council and members of Southwark cabinet
- 1st round criteria written and agreed
- Submission process agreed
- Website pages created and produced
- Marketing of capital legacy fund application process completed
- 40 unique submissions received for stage one
- 2nd round application from written and agreed
- 17 projects invited back to stage two of funding process
- 10 projects chosen for funding and decision approved at member level
- Funding agreement written and agreed
- All successful projects invited in for award
- Implementation stage now underway.

Marketing and communications

- Communications strategy/plan produced and agreed
- Designed and produced the 'Get Set Southwark' brand for improved and consistent marketing
- Established the Get Set Newsletter: This is now delivered on a monthly basis
- Communications team members assigned to each of the work streams, each with their own set of objectives
- Website content created and managed
- London 2012 visitor information channels explored and soon to be agreed.

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS BROWN

Following the opening of Canada Water library, has there been much interest from local people or voluntary groups?

RESPONSE

“Much interest” is an understatement.

The new library opened on 28 November 2011. The response from local people has been overwhelmingly positive. The statistics speak for themselves:

Between 28 November and 8 January:

- 50,374 visits have been made to the library, averaging 1,399 per day
- 36,631 books, CDs and DVDS have been borrowed, averaging 1,017 per day
- 81% of transactions have been made using self service technology
- 2,524 new members have been enrolled
- 3,537 hours of wi-fi time were used during December (the next highest use being at John Harvard Library – 2,095 hours).

All local schools have visited the library with classes from Bacon, Albion, Alfred Salter, Riverside, Peter Hills and St. Joseph’s visiting on 6 December for a special schools launch in the culture space in the presence of the Mayor.

Peter Hills and Albion School also attended a session with author Margaret Bateson-Hill during the first week of opening at the library. More author sessions with local schools are programmed for January and February.

Other activities in the culture space have included 120 local people coming to hear Ben Fogle talking about his latest book; 48 people coming to hear a panel of women writers at an event called “Girls Night In” and two sell out performances (150 people each night) of “Blackbirds” by the Bubble Theatre who also staged their annual conference there.

The adult and family learning programme commenced on 9 January and a range of courses are being delivered including English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), arts and crafts for families, courses to help parents to help their children with study and homework as well as a range of one to one introductory ICT sessions.

A volunteering day is planned for 31 January and local people will have the opportunity to find out about how they can volunteer for the library service generally.

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

Has the council considered linking its three “events” in 2012 to London’s Olympic celebrations?

RESPONSE

The Elephant and the Nun will celebrate the Olympic and Paralympic values with events across central Southwark at the beginning of September on the opening weekend of the Paralympics. In 2011, twenty venues and four public spaces

brought together over 8000 people and we hope to increase this for the celebrations in 2012. We are working closely with partners and details will be available in the next couple of months.

We are also currently developing plans with partners on the south of the borough event. However, all involved would like to see London 2012 and its values as a theme to the event. Details for these plans should be available in the coming months.

Bermondsey Carnival, set to take place in June this year will celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This large scale family event will take place alongside street parties, civic celebrations and the Diamond Jubilee river pageant.

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

What are the current plans for the Livesey Museum building?

RESPONSE

Officers were instructed to begin a formal call for new expressions of interest in June last year. A formal brief was prepared and agreed in July and submissions were received by 30 September. The call for submissions was sent out to cultural and community networks, locally, regionally and nationally. All organisations who had previously expressed an interest in the building, or who had viewed it were circulated the brief and the details of how to submit a proposal.

The key criteria were as for previous calls:

- a use that is in keeping with the charitable objectives of the trust and that actively benefits communities in Peckham and Camberwell (original parish of Camberwell) and contributes to the social and cultural development of the area
- financially sustainable proposals with revenue and capital funding identified.

Three submissions have been received and assessed and two have been deemed appropriate for further consideration. Both have a good track record of delivering services to communities either in or similar to Southwark.

Cabinet will receive a report at its February meeting, which will recommend that officers be instructed to progress negotiations with a preferred user for the building based on the objects of the trust and based on further detailed and robust financial checks on both organisations. Cabinet will need to receive a further report following this work before taking a final decision.

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THORNTON

Will there be enough space at Seven Islands for the replacement squash courts that will be lost from Elephant and Castle? Will this sufficiently service the 9,000 existing uses?

RESPONSE

During 2010 there were 4,279 visits to the squash courts at the Elephant and Castle leisure centre and a further 4,607 in 2011. This totals 8,886 visits over two years. It is important to note that these figures do not represent unique individuals as the figures include repeat visits from more regular users.

Plans for refurbishing Seven Islands are not yet developed. There is £8 million of funding in the capital programme for the centre in years 2013/14 and 2014/15 and there will be full public consultation on how the funding will be used to upgrade the centre.

In the meantime, officers are looking for other solutions to providing access to squash courts, including discussions with potential alternative organisations and providers.

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

How will the 50 Olympic tickets that Southwark has bought be allocated?

RESPONSE

The council, like all other London boroughs, was given a unique opportunity to acquire tickets for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games which we have taken up. We want to use them to ensure a real legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games by inspiring younger residents to be the best and to aim high for themselves and their peers.

We intend to distribute our ticket allocation to young people from across the borough so they can experience for themselves some of the best of the Olympic events. We simply don't believe that with the incredible demand for tickets, young people would ever be able to get to see some of these blue riband events. We don't think that is fair and would mean local youngsters missing out on this once in a lifetime opportunity.

We have just received confirmation in the last week that the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games has given permission for the council to use the Olympic tickets it has acquired to recognise our young people. The details of how they will be distributed are now being worked on.

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

Due to the fact that Southwark Park athletic track astro turf pitch has been condemned, can arrangements be made to allow Red Lions Boys Club the use of the football pitches in the evening after Southwark Park has officially closed? (If official access is granted pitch lighting could be managed by Fusion staff at Seven Islands Leisure Centre as normal).

RESPONSE

Throughout the year we, like the vast majority of other local authorities, close our parks after dark and this is not new practice. We would be happy to meet with this club to discuss what other alternatives we can offer, such as using the park before closing time, or finding an alternative floodlit venue to play in.

Unfortunately the solution suggested would not comply with health and safety regulations. Up until recently we have supported the Red Lion Boys Club with generous subsidies to enable them to use the nearby Astro turf pitches in Southwark Park.

These pitches are currently out of use, but we are actively seeking funding to bring them back into community use.

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

What are the improvement works and what is the timescale for upgrading the Southwark Park athletics track and astro turf pitch? Will these be completed in time for the Olympics?

RESPONSE

We are proposing to upgrade the athletics track, reinstate the inner astro-pitch, and refurbish the existing building. We are currently investigating and applying for funding for the project, and so we are unable to give definitive timescales.

£370,000 has already been secured from the council's capital legacy fund and our application for funding from the Mayor of London's Facility Fund has progressed to consideration at stage two. This application is for a further £250,000 and a decision is expected in June this year.

Other bids include to the London Marathon Trust and to Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund and these will be progressed when the funds open in the new financial year.

Every effort is being made to get all the funding necessary in place before the Olympics.

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON

Can the cabinet member please tell me what the implications are for Southwark residents of the Alternative Olympic Route Network which I believe is proposed along parts or all of - Borough High Street, Bricklayers Arms roundabout, Camberwell Road, Elephant & Castle, Lower Road, Newington Butts, New Kent Road, Peckham Road, Southwark Street, Stamford Street, Tooley Street, Tower Bridge Road?

RESPONSE

As part of the traffic management planning for the Olympics, Transport for London (TfL) have designated a number of roads in Southwark as either the Alternative Route Network (ARN) or the Road Event Olympic Route Network (REORN).

The ARN in Southwark, comprises of two corridors, a northern route which includes Stamford Street, Southwark Street, Tooley Street, Tower Bridge Road, Lower Road, Borough High Street, Lower Road, Newington Butts and a southern route which includes Elephant & Castle, Bricklayers Arms roundabout, Peckham High Road, Queens Road and Camberwell Road.

The ARN will only come in to use in the event of an incident on the actual Olympic Route Network (ORN). To date TfL have given the council assurances that in the event that the ARN becomes active no physical measures will be put in place. However, they are considering whether some restriction of parking and loading arrangements may be necessary on TfL roads. We are awaiting final confirmation on this. No changes are being planned in relation to any borough roads on the route.

The ARN in Southwark (Elephant & Castle, New Kent Road and Tower Bridge Road) will be used as REORN on two days, Sunday 5 August and Sunday 12 August. These are the marathon days when the REORN in Southwark will be used as Core ORN to overcome the loss of the ORN on the marathon route.

There will be no re-construction works such as removal of traffic islands/build-out on the REORN during the games. The only physical measures to be implemented on the REORN in Southwark are restricted solely to the extension of weekday parking plus loading and waiting restrictions, which will cover the weekends, but only for the two weekends of the marathon event. (5 and 12 August). The extended restrictions will include stopping restrictions adjusted to 6am-midnight, waiting restrictions adjusted to 'No Stopping at any time' or 'No Stopping 6am-midnight'. There will also be traffic signal timing changes to support the journey of the Games Family through the borough on the REORN.

Network Performance within Transport for London, are currently undertaking traffic modelling of the REORN which is anticipated to be completed by the end of February. We are currently waiting for the results of this process, however, we do have an indication of the maximum traffic flow whilst the road events are in play. The Games Family Demand model predicts that the maximum Games Family flow per hour is to be expected on Sunday 5 August (which is the more busy of the two days). This is expected to be less than 300 vehicles p/hour on the westbound REORN in Southwark and less than 250 vehicles p/hour in the eastbound direction.

31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

In light of the fact that nine out of the 10 projects for the capital legacy fund are in the centre and south of the borough, what reassurances can the cabinet member give that residents in Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, Borough and Walworth will have increased access and participation to sport and physical activity?

RESPONSE

The capital legacy funding offered opportunity for applications to be made for part of the £2 million for projects that would provide an increased sporting offer and create a lasting Olympic legacy. Forty applications were received for a slice of the funding and eleven of these were from postcodes that included the north (applications from the north included postcodes in SE1 and SE16). Many of the projects, including the Velodrome and the proposed BMX track are unique and will serve all residents in Southwark. Pitches at Peckham Rye are also used by young people from all parts of the borough.

We are continuing to invest in leisure facilities across the borough. Detailed consultation is being carried out on plans for a brand new £20 million leisure centre for Elephant and Castle. This will give local access to a swimming pool for the first

time in many years as well as bringing improved gym, sports hall and changing facilities at the heart of the regeneration area. Community provision at Geraldine Mary Harmsworth park is being maintained and developed and is well used by local people.

Funding has also been identified in the council's capital programme to upgrade Seven Islands Leisure Centre, with £8 million being identified for spending in 2013/14 and 2014/15. Again, detailed consultation will take place before proposals are drawn up, but this amount will significantly improve the leisure centre, complementing the £2.39 million of investment already made to upgrade Surrey Docks Water Sports Centre and the hugely popular and successful new Canada Water Library. These two leisure facilities and the library will mean that the north of the borough will have an excellent range of leisure provision in the widest sense.

Officers are also working on plans to secure funding to bring the Southwark Park athletics track back into use. Funding bids have been made to a number of sources including to the Mayor's legacy fund to complement the £370,000 secured from the council's own capital legacy fund for this project.

Burgess Park is also being upgraded to the value of £6 million.

Tabard Gardens AstroTurf in Borough was upgraded within the last two years, is well maintained and used. Similarly, Mellish Fields at Bacon's College is also well used and maintained after its upgrade of a few years ago, again complementing the investment in facilities in the north of the borough.

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

Please confirm where in the borough the GLA grant for dressing for the Olympics will be located, how much of the total pot will be spent in each ward and when will it be completed and on view to the public?

RESPONSE

The Greater London Authority (GLA) is leading the London's 'Look and Feel' programme with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the 2012 Games organisers. The £32 million budget for the programme is part of a public sector funding package for the games and is managed by the GLA. The programme addresses how London will be dressed for the 2012 games.

The direct allocation of funding Southwark has received for 'Look and Feel' is £50,000 and Southwark is considering supplementing this with its own contribution. As the detailed Olympic torch relay route is not yet known, final decisions have not been made in relation the specific roads to be dressed.. Materials have been ordered but their location will be determined when the torch route is made public.

In addition to the grant funded column banners there will also be 'Look and Feel' dressing in the South Bank area of the borough. This again will contain column dressing but will also include installations such as building wraps, vinyl wall, floor and window de-cals, lighting installations and fence banners. The exact costs and the budgets for these works are unknown as they are being managed directly by the GLA. However we are able to estimate from indicative costs and agreed works that it will be in excess of £240,000.

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR KEVIN AHERN

Is she pleased that after eight years of dither and delay from the previous administration, we are finally seeing some progress on Camberwell Library and can she provide an update?

RESPONSE

Not even “dither and delay”. As I understand it no work was done to create a new library for Camberwell until a new administration took over.

The current library is well used but space is very restricted and the range of activity available is limited because of this. There is a high level of need and demand in Camberwell for a better library, and after extensive consultation and taking into account the conclusions of the library review, the business case for the re-provision of library has been approved by the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety. The project is now proceeding into planning. The new library will provide excellent facilities for all users including much needed improvements in accessibility and sustainability and a much improved children’s library. Alongside a modern library service, the expectation is that the site will provide an extended customer offer to residents along with community facilities.

As members may be aware, initial proposals to provide the new library by re-using a demountable structure currently located at another site were found not to fully meet the council’s aspirations for the library and increased risks to the project. The proposals which are now going forward to planning are for the construction of a new building on the site in front of the Magistrates Court at Camberwell Green. The siting of this building and associated local plans for public realm improvement will help to open up this corner of Camberwell Green and contribute to overall area improvements.

The development of the building design is progressing and the project team have met with the planning authority for their comments on the proposals. Further consultation will be taking place with members and key stakeholders before submitting the planning application in the spring. The council is committed to opening the new library by 2014.

34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

What action is the council taking to address complaints regarding the taxicard service?

RESPONSE

The taxicard scheme is managed by London Councils on behalf of Southwark Council and the other London boroughs that use the service. They manage the performance of the scheme including complaints.

For the financial year 2011/12, complaints across all boroughs regarding the scheme equate to 0.34% of all journeys taken to the end of November 2011. In Southwark, the figure is slightly lower – 0.25% - with a total of 149 complaints from 59,163 journeys to the end of November 2011. The main areas of complaint have

been issues with the driver (24% of all Southwark complaints); query over the fare (19%); no taxi available (17%) and booking error (17%).

As part of its recent consultation over proposed changes to the operation of the scheme in Southwark, I have held two public meetings. At both, it became clear that there are concerns with many members about the operation of the scheme which may not be being reported to London Councils under the complaints process. In response to this, I will be holding a public meeting on 1 February to discuss performance issues. Representatives of London Councils and Computer Cabs who operate the scheme will be at this meeting to respond to concerns.

35. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

Following the demise of the Aylesbury Resource Centre, what alternative offer is being made to people with disabilities in the Aylesbury area?

RESPONSE

Phase 1a of the Aylesbury estate regeneration saw the demolition of the Aylesbury Day Centre, and the opening of the new Southwark Resource Centre for Independent Living in June 2010. The formal opening ceremony for the new centre will take place on 21 February.

The former day centre and outreach teams for adults with physical disabilities and sensory impairment have been combined into a new independent living team, based at the centre, providing services for disabled adults with eligible social care needs. As part of their social care support plan, each disabled person has identified goals to aid them in remaining in their own homes and accessing mainstream employment, education, leisure and social activities. Service users are supported individually and via group activities, in the building, out in the community, and in their own homes.

The new building design provides state of the art facilities for disabled adults, including Changing Places Gold Standard facilities (a nationally recognised standard), which means any disabled adult living or working in the borough, can drop in to use fully accessible toilets with hoists, bathing and changing facilities, thus enabling them to maintain their personal dignity when other local shops and buildings do not meet their needs.

Southwark Disablement Association are based at the new centre, providing information, advice, support and advocacy, and there are talks underway with other community organisations with a view to offering a broader range of activities for disabled people both at and coordinated from the centre. The resource centre cafe is operated by volunteers from the charity Stroke Care, providing work opportunities for disabled adults and offering drinks and snacks to service users, carers and visitors to the centre. A user led group meets at the centre on a regular basis to work on fund raising and other initiatives that support the aim of disabled adults leading fulfilling lives in their local community.

36. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

When will Southwark's health and wellbeing board be established?

RESPONSE

The government have set out a timetable for all areas to have established health and wellbeing boards, with full statutory powers, by April 2013.

The cabinet will be making a decision on the establishment of a shadow health and wellbeing board in Southwark at its meeting on the 17 April. This is in line with our commitment as part of the national early implementers network to have established the shadow board in April 2012.

That said, over one year on after being introduced in parliament, the Health and Social Care Bill - which includes the provision for the set up of the new boards - has not as yet been signed into law. It is challenging to be certain about exact timings prior to the legislation entering the statute book.

37. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MARK WILLIAMS

The well-publicised demise of Southern Cross is extremely concerning for Southwark's care home residents. What work has she been doing with care home providers in Southwark to ensure care home residents have certainty about their accommodation for the future?

RESPONSE

The council continues to work closely with all care home providers in the borough to ensure that residents can be certain about the future of their accommodation. In line with the council's wider approach to managing risk, regular checks are made on the financial health of key providers in Southwark in order to identify any early signs of potential financial problems or business failure.

Most importantly though, the focus of the council's effort and ongoing joint work, particularly with the providers who took over the operation of the former Southern Cross Homes, is on quality of care that residents receive. This is being done through working in partnership with the regulators, the Care Quality Commission, joint working with health colleagues in Southwark Business Support Unit - care home support team and through joint working between commissioning and operational teams in relation to residents care and support needs and how these can be met in a more personalised and dignified way.

38. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS

The council's wardens service is vitally important to Southwark residents who live in sheltered accommodation, some of whom are extremely vulnerable. What is she doing to improve the council's warden service in light of the fact it was cut back by the previous administration?

RESPONSE

The council is about to launch a review of the funding options and service model for the council's sheltered housing service. This review will involve consulting with sheltered housing residents on a number of potential options for the future of the service. Taking into account residents' views a set of recommendations will be implemented by April 2013 to ensure the sheltered housing service can deliver the

very best quality service that ensures that the most vulnerable residents can access the support they need to remain independent and active members of their community.

39. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the cabinet member for health and adult care confirm whether she supports having a majority of elected councillors on the health and wellbeing board to address the longstanding "democratic deficit" in health?

RESPONSE

As I set out in my answer to question 36, the cabinet will be making a decision on the establishment of the shadow board on 17 April. The Health and Social Care Bill - which includes the provision for the set up of health and wellbeing boards - has not as yet been signed into law. It is challenging to be certain about the exact configuration of the board prior to legislation entering the statute book.

What matters most is delivering on the health and wellbeing priorities of the people of Southwark and engaging with the right people in the borough to do this.

40. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

Can the cabinet member for health and adult social care confirm how many quality alerts there have been for the financial years 2008/09 to date broken down for 1) homecare and 2) day centres/services?

RESPONSE

There is no formal quality alert for day centres (as there is for home care). Quality or service concerns in relation to day centres can be raised in a range of ways by users, family members and carers. Concerns raised are then investigated with the relevant provider either by the social worker or lead commissioner or jointly as is most appropriate.

For home care the number of quality alerts raised for the years requested are as follows:

- 2008/09 - 166
- 2009/10 - 135
- 2010/11 - 123
- 2011/12 to 31 December 2011 - 87

As the figures show there has been a steady reduction in the number of quality alerts for home care over the past 4 years.

41. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

In light of the fact that the cabinet member for health and adult social care was removed from the Kings College Board of Governors for non-attendance, can she provide her attendance record (meetings attended out of total number of meetings held) for all meetings of the Supporting People Commissioning Body; South London and Maudsley Members' Council; and Guy's and St Thomas' Council of Governors since May 2010?

RESPONSE

Attending meetings relevant to my portfolio is and remains a priority. At a time of great change in the health service I make it a priority to engage formally and informally with senior managers and wider stakeholders to ensure I am able to influence outcomes and get a well-rounded perspective of health issues in Southwark. This includes attending other acute trust meetings, such as joint meetings of the Kings Health Partners and the open part of the board of director's meetings which are not formally recorded, however these still provide an avenue for me to engage with senior and expert opinion formers.

In addition there are a myriad of different ways to engage with people and issues to do with health in Southwark such as the LINK, GP commissioners, and the Southwark business support unit etc and I am doing my best to engage with all these forums.

As you will understand, meetings can unfortunately clash with my portfolio and ward councillor duties and where these occur apologies are sent in advance.

Since I have been in post, I have attended two of six Guy's and St Thomas' Council of Governors meetings, one of seven South London and Maudsley Members' Council meetings and also the joint meeting of SLaM Members Council and the Board of Directors. I do not attend meetings of the Supporting People Commissioning Body as this is made up of officer representatives, though I am regularly briefed on issues considered at the meeting.

42. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK

Can the cabinet member confirm the current number of eligible service users who currently hold a personal budget and will this meet the target of 60% by the end of March 2012?

RESPONSE

The latest monthly figures (as at end of December) show that 1,936 eligible service users have self directed support via a personal budget or direct payment. This equates to around 50% of eligible services users. It is projected that the 60% target will be met by March 2012

43. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL

Would the cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy please advise the average compensation paid, in each of the years ended 31 December 2009, 31 December 2010 and 31 December 2011, for surrender of leases on the

Heygate estate, in categories by size of accommodation, either square footage or number of bedrooms, whichever is the more practicable, for each of the years?

RESPONSE

The estate comprises high rise blocks of one and two bedroom flats and low rise blocks of two, three and four bedroom maisonettes. Therefore two bedroom properties can be found in both high and low rise blocks.

Prices quoted below exclude disturbance and home loss that depend on personal circumstances rather than the physical attributes of the properties.

Year	Properties acquired	Average purchase price	Average 1 bedroom unit	Average 2 bedroom unit	Average 3 bedroom unit	Average 4 bedroom unit
2009	34	£140,000	£101,500	£127,500	£165,500	£188,000
2010	19	£123,000	£100,000	£122,500	£172,500	£190,000
2011	4*	£147,500	£135,000	£112,500	N/A	£230,000

*Only four properties were acquired in this year so the averages produced must be treated with caution as the properties purchased were not typical of classification groups.

The amount paid to individual leaseholders reflects the accommodation provided by the property, its floorspace, condition, whether it has a garden, its attractiveness to prospective purchasers and its mortgageability. Prices paid follow the housing market in general so fluctuate according to the time the purchase is completed. The rise in prices paid last year reflects the general increase in prices seen in the Elephant and Castle area. Prices paid are agreed with leaseholders who are generally advised by a chartered surveyor chosen by the leaseholder.

44. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON

What was the start and finish date of the road improvements in Grange Road and Southwark Park Road, what was the cost, and why did remedial works to the junction with Dunton Road have to be undertaken?

RESPONSE

Southwark Park Road (2010- 2011 Programme)

Location: St James's Road – Galleywall Road

Budget: £406,000

Duration on site: July 2010 – March 2011

Grange Road (2010-2011 Programme)

Location: Spa Road – Alscot Road & St. James's Road – Macks Road

Budget: £314,000

Duration on site: November 2010 – March 2011

Southwark Park Road (2011 – 2012 Programme)

Location: Dunton Road - Alma Grove

Budget: £312,000

Duration on site: April 2011 – December 2011

All of the above schemes were local implementation plan funded (through Transport for London) as part of a holistic corridor improvement programme to enhance pedestrian safety and accessibility, reduce traffic speeds and provide a better streetscape for local residents.

All elements of the schemes received strong local support from residents and stakeholders, with the Southwark Park Road scheme between Dunton Road and Alma Grove being highly commended at the Association for Commuter Transport Travelwise Mobility Week Awards (2011).

No works, remedial or otherwise have taken place at the junction of Dunton Road with Southwark Park Road/Grange Road as part of the above schemes.

45. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

How many pot holes have been fixed in Borough and Bankside over the past year?

RESPONSE

In the financial year to date, Southwark have carried out 157 'pot hole' repairs to carriageways in the Borough and Bankside Community Council area.

46. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON

What has the council done about rat running through Cherry Gardens Estate and Millpond Estate to Cathy Street and Jamaica Road?

RESPONSE

On 16 August 2011 I was copied into an email from an irate South Bermondsey ward councillor to public realm officers about the removal of width restrictions on Rolls Road in his ward. Officers informed him that it was result of a planning decision made on 27 July 2008. Following the member's subsequent complaints to planning, he was informed that prior to implementing the scheme officers wrote on 26 May to all community council members outlining the proposals and the resources for it. The officer confirmed that no responses were received from councillors to this email.

Prior to all this on 5 August I wrote to a senior Liberal Democrat member to inform them that I had found money from the Mayor's discretionary funding to fund measures to tackle rat-running north of Jamaica Road. I was made aware of this problem after I'd asked transport planning officers if there were any traffic problems that I might be able to help with. So I was very pleased to be able to offer my support to local councillors in this area.

However, I was also aware of the considerable anger in South Bermondsey Ward about the situation on Rolls Road. So I thought I'd give the senior Liberal Democrat member – whose party represents both areas – the option of switching funding from the Jamaica Road area to the Rolls Road area. After initially declining this

offer on 26 August, on 28 August a public realm officer was informed that they had decided to switch funding from Rotherhithe to South Bermondsey.

However, and in spite of this change of heart, I am pleased to inform Councillor Nelson and her colleagues that we are holding a budget of £100,000 to progress work on rat-running in Rotherhithe in the 2012/13 financial year.

47. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON

The Energy Savings Trust have recently produced a study about using LED lighting in 35 social housing sites where they concluded LED lighting is smaller, cheaper to run and brighter than current lighting. Residents on the Lytcott Grove Estate have been requesting the lights be changed to LED and motion detectors be installed in their community garden and on the street properties. What plans does the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management have to exploit this technology across Southwark housing, reducing CO2 emissions and saving tenants money?

RESPONSE

The council has taken great interest in the Energy Savings Trust report and its findings are complementary to the Energy and Carbon Reduction Strategy (ECRS) agreed by cabinet in September 2011. The ECRS recommended that the council undertake work to measure the performance of different types of LED retrofits and in turn assess whether there is a business case to refit LED lighting in communal areas across the borough. Since the strategy was agreed the housing services department has undertaken pilots of LED lighting to four blocks in the borough: St Stephens House, St Johns House, St Marks House in Walworth and Holme House in Peckham. Holme House and St Johns House were fitted with new LED fittings and the other two blocks were retrofitted with LED bulbs retaining the existing light housing.

Initial data shows significant savings of energy consumption of between 35-48%. However, the price difference between LED and standard 2D fittings is still substantial. LED fittings can cost six times as much as normal fittings. Given present costs, the council estimate payback is considerably longer than those published in the Energy Savings Trust report, (the average being 9 years in phase 1 and 3 years in phase 2). The council estimate that payback on current costs will be at least a decade.

LED lights are a new technology and there is newly emerging, but still limited, data on the longevity and reliability of the system. The council proposes to continue to gather data from the pilots and monitor material costs before any long-term decisions are made. At the end of the pilot a report will be considered by officers in July 2012 recommending the next steps and the Lytcott Grove Estate along with other estates will be considered should the programme be rolled out.

48. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

In light of the increase in major works administrative charges to the legal maximum of 10%, which in effect has more than doubled the administrative charges for

leaseholders at Crystal Court, can he outline under what circumstances he might exercise his delegated powers to vary the charges?

RESPONSE

Leaseholders are expected to pay their fair share of costs. The Southwark lease allows the council, as freeholder and landlord, to charge both management and administration costs. The administration costs are limited to 10% of the service charge, both major works and revenue.

In April 2002 the council's executive made the decision to charge administration fees with respect to major works service charges on a sliding scale in accordance with the cost of the individual contract. This in effect meant that Southwark charged 4 to 4½% administration costs for each major works service charge due to the size of the contracts which frequently included non-service chargeable internal decent homes work. Inherent in the decision of April 2002 was the requirement to review the fees and bring a further report and recommendation to executive in 2004.

However, this never happened due to time constraints, although the previous executive member for housing asked for a review of the costs to be carried out in 2009, and the proposal to amend the administration fee was due to be included in the partnering strategy report in the same year by officers dealing with the procurement of the partnering contracts, but this was omitted in error.

49. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

Noting that the government announced on 5 January 2012 as follows:

"The government is consulting on new draft statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England. The new guidance is intended to assist authorities to take advantage of the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 which give back to local authorities the freedom to manage their own waiting lists, and make it easier for them to move existing social tenants to more suitable accommodation. It also encourages authorities to make use of the existing flexibilities within the allocation legislation to ensure that social homes go to people who need and deserve them the most."

Would the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management please confirm that the forthcoming new flexibilities are welcomed by the council and indicate the steps he is considering for implementation once the final guidance is issued?

RESPONSE

The council welcomes the proposed flexibilities and freedoms contained in the Localism Act, which builds on the existing flexibilities as set out in the previous government's 2009 lettings guidance, 'Fair and Flexible'. The council will be providing a response to the government's consultation on the new draft statutory guidance on lettings. The new housing commission will also be considering allocations policy as a key area for debate.

We consider it to be timely to examine Southwark's housing lettings policy taking into account these freedoms, and the housing needs of our communities. To this effect, a cross-party lettings review group has been established, tasked with developing proposals which will ensure that our lettings policy remains fit for purpose.

The group will also include representation from tenants, the voluntary sector, and council officers from a range of services. We welcome the Conservative group's participation in the lettings review group. It is anticipated that a report will be brought to cabinet around December 2012 to approve the final proposals for implementation from 2013.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY)****WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012****QUESTIONS ON REPORT****ITEM 5.1: BADMINTON HOUSE, QUORN ROAD, SE22 – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST****1. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA**

Given the shortage of family sized housing in the borough why is the cabinet intending to sell off a block that mainly consists of 3 and 4 bedroom units?

RESPONSE

As you will be aware, the considerations behind this decision were set out in the report considered by cabinet on 31 May 2011.

The regeneration of the East Dulwich Estate was part of the Southwark Estates Initiative (SEI) agreed back in 1998. One of the principles of SEI was that a contribution to the budget for the programme would be made through sales of land and buildings on the estates that were part of the programme as part of a self-financing approach.

In April 2005, the then executive of the council agreed a revision to this programme for the East Dulwich Estate. This included a commitment to internal refurbishment of tenanted dwellings and the disposal of some voids and land occupied by former residential blocks to assist with finances. The anticipated budget of £25m would be met from £9.9m from receipts on the estate and £15.1m from capital resources centrally held by the council.

There were significant project cost overruns for East Dulwich Estate built up under the previous administration. By early 2009 the total cost was £30m: £5m over budget.

All but one resident of Badminton House had moved out by 2009. The final tenant moved in May 2011.

Selling Badminton House to recoup some of the cost of the massive over-run built up under the previous administration has therefore become unavoidable. That recouping will ensure that there is money to carry out much-needed improvement to our housing stock elsewhere in the borough now that the work on the rest of the East Dulwich Estate is largely complete.

2. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Why are the cabinet abandoning the commitments made to the residents of the East Dulwich Estate that only 1 and 2 bed units would be sold off?

RESPONSE

As stated in my previous answer, this is regrettable but necessary to ensure that some of the massive over-run on the costs for the work can be recouped. As the cabinet report from May states, the emptying of Badminton House mainly took place under the previous administration.

Units larger than 2 bed are only being considered for disposal in Badminton House. General disposals have been limited to 1 and 2 bedroom properties on the rest of the estate. The case of Badminton House is exceptional in other ways. Although it contains family sized units, it is a relatively small block of 11 residential units, situated in the corner of the estate. Also, when the contract was curtailed, Badminton House was the only block that had not been refurbished.

3. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR

Is it true that the administration told residents of the East Dulwich Estate they would use commuted sums from Bankside to pay for any overrun on their estate?

RESPONSE

Our administration has made no such suggestion.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY)****WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012****QUESTION ON REPORT****ITEM 6.1: COUNCIL TAX BASE 2012/13****1. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY**

Would the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety please advise why the collection fund is expected to be in deficit (paragraph 25 of the report) when the projected final collection levels for all years since 2007/08 onwards (Appendix C) are equal to or in excess of collection rates used for tax setting (Appendix B)?

RESPONSE

The reason why the collection fund is expected to be in deficit when the final projected collection levels are equal to or in excess of collection rates used for council tax setting is due primarily to:

- a) Differences between the estimated collection fund balance made in January each year compared to the actual balance at year-end
- b) The basis on which income from council tax papers is recognised in the collection fund account.

Differences between the estimated and actual collection fund balance

By 15 January each year (or the next working day), the council is required by law to make an estimate of the collection fund surplus or deficit for that year. This estimate is used when setting the council tax base. The estimate for 2010/11 was a deficit of £87,260 and the actual deficit was £142,383. The difference between the actual and estimated deficit will be a contributory factor because the council would have needed to plan to collect an additional £55,123 to break-even.

Basis on which income from council tax papers is recognised in the collection fund account

For accounting purposes, income from council tax payers is the amount billed rather than the amount collected. Therefore, the balance on the collection fund is determined by the income due from council tax payers rather than the income collected. There are many reasons why the actual income due for the year will differ from the amount estimated when the council tax is set, but will be due mainly to changes in:

- the number of properties to be billed
- the number of exemptions and discounts awarded to council tax payers.

A reduction in the number of properties billed or an increase in exemptions or discounts awarded will both result in a reduction in income due to the collection fund.

The collection levels will have an indirect impact on the collection fund balance through changes to the level of impairment for council tax arrears. An improvement in collection performance over time is likely to reduce the level of impairment required and therefore reduce collection fund expenditure for the year. For 2011/12, income due from council tax payers is forecast to be approximately £1.9m less than budgeted and this is due largely to an increase in exemptions awarded against budget. The impact of this reduction in forecast income on the collection fund balance is mostly offset by the forecast increase in the level of impairment for council tax arrears being less than budgeted, which is due to the improved collection performance.