

Feedback on queries raised at previous Walworth Community Council meetings

Question	Response
<p>Trees on Redman Green have been cut down, presumably to improve the view of a freestanding billboard. Who agreed to this?</p>	<p>The tree in question is owned by the council and it appears that work has been undertaken. This was not ordered by the tree team nor was it undertaken by the council's contractors. Officers intend to place a sign on the tree highlighting the ownership and explaining that pruning this tree without the council's permission is a criminal offence.</p>
<p>Councillors claim too much in expenses. How much have these gone up in the last year?</p>	<p>The member allowance scheme sets out the expenses which councillors can claim, this has not changed since 2010. Councillors are entitled to claim expenses for a limited number of costs that fall outside their member allowance. Each year the council publishes member expenses on its website, the figures for April 2012-March 2013 will be published shortly.</p>
<p>Some East Street shopkeepers use as much as a third of the public footpath without paying. Can this be looked into?</p>	<p>Officers in the council's markets team work with officers in Highway Licencing in respect of traders coming out onto the Highway. Notices have been issued recently and follow up enforcement action is planned for the end of May/early June. It is hoped that these actions will help alleviate the current problems being faced by residents and shoppers. As a result of these actions, the council have been receiving, and are now processing, street furniture licence applications for East Street.</p>
<p>What will happen to Manor Park Depot. Can details of this be provided?</p>	<p>Officers have agreed terms to dispose of the whole site to Notting Hill Housing, and anticipate that contracts will be completed by Mid-July.</p> <p>Officers are in discussions with Notting Hill Housing Association to seek a short term licence to keep artefacts within the former Manor Baths building, but this is not an ideal situation and positive efforts to secure alternatives are being made.</p> <p>The site has a number of existing buildings which will be retained as they are Grade II listed. Whether Notting Hill will seek to convert these to residential or have some additional cultural or leisure space will depend on their planning application which will not be forthcoming for a number of months.</p> <p>The site will be sold freehold and consequently upon</p>

	<p>completion - expected within two months - it will be Notting Hill Housing Trust who are the freeholders. The council are assumed to offer vacant possession on completion.</p>
<p>Why has the building of the box park gone ahead without planning permission?</p>	<p>Planning permission was granted for the development on Marlborough Playground in December 2012.</p>
<p>Why have the trees in St Mary's churchyard been cut down?</p>	<p>The large London plane was felled due to extensive decay in the trunk of the tree. The height and full canopy of the tree represented a high risk of failure as the structural integrity of the wood was decayed. The smaller trees were felled due to their poor condition which included fruiting bodies decaying the trunk, damage to the sap wood and deadwood.</p>
<p>Can reports (like the one on pages 52-54) be presented in larger print?</p>	<p>This has been fed back to officers who have confirmed that they will use larger print in the appendices to their reports in future.</p>
<p>I would like to raise a question about the recent proliferation of commercial bins in Walworth Road. The four outside the entrance to Liverpool Grove are the most visually oppressive and out of character with the work being done to improve the public realm of this area. Quite why other retail premises which are not selling hot food require these unsightly bins is difficult to understand. The bins for the Red Lion were designed by an artist as part of the planning permission to have them, it is a pity this precedent has not been retained.</p>	<p>The bins on the pavement of Walworth Road at the junction with Liverpool Grove meet the council's current assessment criteria used for the licensing of temporary street furniture. The pavement at this location provides enough space for the bins without encroaching on the safe passage of pedestrians and other highway users. However, it is the council's intention to work with the businesses to ensure all is done to maintain suitable visual aesthetics within the area. Officers realise that [...] on occasions it can look pretty unsightly, but would like to point out that this way the rubbish is contained within a bin as opposed to being placed on the pavement in plastic bags which would be more prone to causing a nuisance.</p>