

**Public questions received at Borough, Bankside & Walworth Community Council
14 March 2016**

Question	Response
<p>“Every year round March, one can tell that budgets are coming to year end, because there’s a new rash of new speed bumps being built. As a cyclist, I hate these because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They don’t slow traffic down, they just make it stop/start more and emit up to 60% more emissions (Transport Research Laboratory Report). 2. They cause drivers to try to get past you between bumps and drive aggressively. 3. They are uncomfortable to ride over at 20mph (the limit), especially with laden panniers. 4. They damage vehicles and buildings. <p>When will speeding priorities change, focusing on: driver education/training, air quality and speed limit enforcement?</p> <p>Building speed bumps in cul-de-sacs (happening on my street) is utterly pointless.”</p>	<p>Council policy is to consider a full range of engineering solutions to traffic calming. One option is to use speed humps, but this is rarely the preferred option.</p> <p>Where speed humps are used, they are built to a sinusoidal profile, which provides a more sympathetic ride for cyclists, and have been for several years.</p> <p>Any scheme to implement new traffic calming measures is subject to full public consultation and formal council decision-making. The only exception to this is where speed cushions are replaced by sinusoidal full width speed humps as part of a road resurfacing project.</p> <p>It is general council policy, because they are considered to be more effective for the full range of road users, to replace cushions with full width sinusoidal humps where possible when resurfacing roads.</p> <p>Whilst the use of road humps is not supported by some people, it is popular with others. The council does not rely solely on engineering measures, council policy includes speed limit reduction and enforcement, and road safety education.</p> <p>It is not true to say that the council introduces more road humps in March because budgets are coming to an end.</p>
<p>“With an increase of private developments, community centres being closed and an increase in housing costs/rents. With the recent changes to housing benefits and caps, how do you expect people to manage knowing you have put everyone in the same category, not taking into account personal, uncontrollable circumstances and events that happen? With the private housing, with some being council owned, how much is the average rent for these council properties for the average household, not those who have bought their property from the offset?”</p>	<p>The rents for the new build homes will be council rents.</p> <p>They will not be adjusted to reflect individual residents ability to pay. Noting that this could be impacted by the outcome of the Housing & Planning Bill and whether local authorities will be required to implement “pay to stay” provisions of the current bill.</p> <p>The rent policy for new council homes was agreed by cabinet on the 9 December 2014 (see also item 8, in the following link: http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=4865&Ver=4)</p>

<p>“Elephant and Castle Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. [For] How much did Southwark Council sell the land? 2. [For] How much did Southwark Council receive via Section 106? 3. Out of all the houses being provided, how many are/will be council and what is the weekly/average rent of these council properties? 4. [For] How much has Southwark council sold the Aylesbury Estate and to who?” 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guaranteed phased land payments of £50m. The regeneration agreement also includes profit and planning overage clauses which may generate additional payments to the council at the end of the project. 2. The total S106 package includes both direct payments [e.g £12m towards the northern line station improvements] and in kind payments e.g a 1-hectare public open space. The total value is circa £50m. In addition the scheme includes 291 affordable homes for rent for which the council has nomination rights which also has a value to the council as it provides opportunities to house residents on our waiting list. 3. Lend Lease have selected London & Quadrant as their affordable housing partner for Elephant Park. There are therefore currently no council homes being built on the site. 4. Awaiting response from officers.
<p>“Parking within Burgess Park / First Place Nursery.</p> <p>There is a current epidemic of parking enforcement within the car park where a specific bay is used to enforce parking fines. Based on my findings, this bay is firstly unmarked and everyone who parks there is fined, however those who contest do not pay, and those who don't [contest] pay. Southwark parking have been making a large profit out of this and yet have done nothing to mark it to inform/make drivers aware of the restriction.</p> <p>Based on the fact that we can now prove that this is a covert operation and unjust, I would like to see this enforcement discontinued and all drivers who have paid in the past to be given a refund for this. I would also like to be informed and evidence of the discontinuing of the enforcement and all those who have paid to be contacted.”</p>	<p>Officers visited the car park in the week commencing 11 April 2016 and found that the particular area/bay in the corner of the car park, was – in their opinion - a car park bay. This is because there is a kerb to one side and a marked white line to the other side. It is, however, a larger space than the other bays, which is due to the total width of the car park. No further fines have been issued for use of the space.</p>
<p>“Walworth Place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On market days in particular we have vans parked up on both sides of the road and very often we have the occasional car in the 	<p>The vans in Walworth Place are generally legally parked but officers have increased the patrols by the traffic wardens to ensure that any vehicle in contravention is given a parking ticket (pcn).</p> <p>Officers are working closely with the</p>

<p>middle of it all.</p> <p>2. Rubbish is always spilled out onto the road, every single day of the week. This is unacceptable. These are on-going issues. What is the council going to do to improve these issues.”</p>	<p>environmental enforcement team and CCTV management to monitor the fly-tipping in Walworth Place.</p> <p>Officers suspect the shops are the main culprits on a Monday evening when the market does not operate. The compactor that is the attraction for this illegal dumping will soon be removed which will highlight the culprits.</p> <p>Officers are currently working with their colleagues in cleansing and are hoping to have a new system in place by September. In the meantime, officers will continue to try to successfully prosecute any offenders.</p>
<p>“On the newly installed, galvanised steel trunking that runs parallel to the balconies on the underside at Comus House, Congreve Street, London SE17 1TG:</p> <p>Why is it that some of the trunking runs have no end caps at end of their runs?</p> <p>Designed to stop the ingress of foreign matter. Does not comply to IP3X or IP4X. IP index of protection.”</p>	<p>Awaiting response from officers.</p>
<p>“Could there be a multi-storey car park at Elephant Park to help support East Street market and the surrounding areas and also generate income for Southwark Council?”</p> <p>“Is it possible to build a multi-storey car park in the Heygate area (Elephant Park)? Such a scheme could generate income for Southwark council, as well as boost the mood of the community in Southwark.”</p>	<p>The council overall approach is to reduce the dependency on private vehicles and provide better walking, cycling and public transport facilities. It is not a policy of the council to provide separate publicly funded car parks above those that are already in place.</p> <p>The masterplan for the Heygate estate (Elephant Park) was approved in 2013. This approval laid down the land uses for the entire area and the different plots and layout of roads. It also included any parking locations and densities. All parking is associated with the developments land use and is in accord with council policy, which is to reduce car parking density in areas with high public transport accessibility, as well as reducing the impact a development has on the surrounding network of roads by restricting car use and managing deliveries and servicing. Therefore there are no plans to include car parking for uses not associated with the Heygate development.</p>
<p>“What are the annual sales of East Street?”</p>	<p>Officers calculate that total income is around £475,000: Permanent traders £390,000 Temporary traders £85,000.</p>

<p>“Who is the owner of the Town [Hall]?”</p>	<p>Southwark Council.</p>
<p>“Why is it that Southwark residents are not able to enter new training/job career schemes, unless [they] are out of work and claiming benefits?”</p>	<p>There are numerous training and employment support programmes running in Southwark, these programmes are delivered by a range of organisations and are either open to all residents, or to specific groups.</p> <p>The GLA, City of London, further education colleges and private and voluntary organisations all offer employability support to people in work (information about support from these organisations can be found on their websites or by conducting web searches).</p> <p>Employment support funded by Southwark Council specifically targets unemployed Southwark residents who are unemployed or underemployed (work less than 8 hours per week), and fall in into one of the priority groups below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people (aged 18-24) • Long term unemployed, including those aged 50-plus • People with mental health problems • People with health conditions (including learning difficulties and physical and learning disabilities) • Lone parents • People in need of ESOL provision • Offenders and ex-offenders • People with substance abuse problems • Homeless people (or at risk of homelessness) • People in a gang or at risk of being in a gang <p>Following a review of the employment support offer in Southwark in 2014, the Council identified these priority groups as needing specific employment support, as they either experience high levels of unemployment or underemployment, or in many cases experience multiple barriers to employment. These groups also experience gaps in provision, meaning that there is a lack of tailored employment support available to them.</p> <p>If an organisation cannot provide direct support to a Southwark resident because they do not meet the programmes eligibility requirements, they will be signposted to a programme that may be more suitable for them.</p>

“What is being done to address the new housing bill being proposed?”

The Council has provided responses to the Government’s consultations on parts of the Housing and Planning Bill including starter homes and pay to stay. Southwark, as a member of London Councils and Central London Forward continues to contribute evidence, and lobby, as appropriate, on the issues in the Bill and forthcoming regulations. The Council responded to a request for detail about possible impacts from Helen Hayes MP (Committee member in the Commons). In November, Overview and Scrutiny published a report into the right to buy for housing associations, and the forced sale of Local Authority properties. Cabinet set out its response on the 15 March 2016.

<http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s60404/Report%20Response%20to%20OSC%20-%20Right%20to%20Buy.pdf>

The council has been raising resident’s awareness of the changes. Area housing forums were provided with detailed briefings on the Bill and the council has discussed this with Tenant Council and the Future Steering Board. The annual rent statement letter, which went to all council tenants, included an insert with a summary of the key changes. Residents will be kept informed of the details of the government’s housing policies and how they affect them as they become available through Southwark Life Housing News Magazine and on the council’s website.

We are in the process of organising a public meeting. We have also sent factual information to Chairs of TRAs, Area Housing Forums, Tenants and Leaseholder Council on what we know so far on the housing & planning bill and its implications. Tenants Council has also been discussing the bill and its implications and SGTO (independent of the council) are providing information to tenants and campaigning on issues in the bill.