

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY  
(ORDINARY)**

**WENDESDAY DECEMBER 6 2006**

**URGENT QUESTION TO THE LEADER**

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS**

With the executive member for culture, leisure and sports being asked to make a decision about DDA compliance at Newington reference library, has the council received any comments from the borough's disablement association with regard to this issue.

**RESPONSE**

Southwark Disablement Association have expressed support for the proposal to relocate the reference library to the ground floor at Newington, stating that they believe this is a "reasonable adjustment" under the terms of the legislation and that it will mean the service is accessible to all local people. SDA also suggests that the reference and information service eventually be relocated to a new purpose built library as part of the regeneration of Elephant and Castle. This support has been given in discussions with officers, at a public meeting held on November 6 and in writing to the local press.

**SUPPLEMENTAL – COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS**

Thank you Mr. Mayor. I am grateful to the leader of the council for his answer. I wanted to ask the leader of the council as to whether he was aware of the comments from Mr. Patrick Horan of SDA in terms of the proposals regarding Newington Reference Library.

**RESPONSE – THE LEADER**

Absolutely Mr. Mayor. I think it is very important that we listen to the views of Southwark's Disablement Association about this and many other issues and I think that their support for this proposal and their opposition to the rather extra-ordinary suggestion that DDA compliance issues at the library could be solved by putting in a stair lift are very welcome.

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN**

It is reported that a council vehicle has been involved in a tragically fatal incident this week. Can the leader please give council an update or some further information on this incident?

**RESPONSE**

Regrettably a tragic fatal accident did occur on Monday 4/12/06 in Peckham Rye at the junction with Rye Lane SE15. I can confirm that this did not involve any council vehicles, a fact that has also been confirmed by the police. Initially the police were not fully aware of exactly what vehicle was involved in the accident and acted on a vague description that it was possible that it was a refuse collection vehicle.

The police visited the council's waste depot at Manor Place on Monday morning and met with the council's fleet manager to follow up the report but were quickly able to rule out involvement of any council refuse collection vehicles by checking tracker information as all vehicles are fitted with GPS trackers.

The council has provided the police with CCTV footage of the area where the accident occurred for the time it occurred and investigations are ongoing. It is believed that the vehicle involved in the accident was an articulated lorry and a man has been arrested and bailed in connection with the incident pending further enquiries.