

Responses to public questions submitted at the Walworth community council meeting held on 24th January 2011

Question	Response
<p>Before Christmas, on two occasions, asbestos was dumped on the Newington Estate. Will the council now provide tenant, residents and contractors with details of the surveys held on the 'Asbestos Database' in order to prevent asbestos being worked or dumped in a dangerous manner?</p>	<p>Southwark Council manage an asbestos data base which at present is being upgraded. During 2009/10 Southwark instigated a further review of all their communal areas which have now been completed and uploaded into the asbestos data base, along with a further 10% of surveyed properties where no previous information was held.</p> <p>Southwark Council are pro-active in requesting surveys to areas where no information exists, to manage their asbestos in line with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 and Southwark Councils Asbestos Policy.</p> <p>The Housing Act 2004 places responsibilities on local authorities regarding risks in residential properties, ensuring that their undertaking does not put tenants at risk. The legal stance does not extend to a positive duty to disclose the location of asbestos to tenants. Southwark Council complies with their legal obligation by confirming a process for tenants and residents to follow within the Tenants handbook. This confirms that they must contact Southwark prior to any DIY activities commencing, to enable the asbestos data base to be investigated and if required works to be programmed.</p> <p>Southwark Council are advancing this process, by preparing asbestos data to send to all tenants and residents, identifying the locations of known asbestos within their properties from surveys received. The process within the tenants handbook to contact the Council prior to undertaking works within properties must still be adhered too.</p>
<p>On the corner of Morecombe Street and Browning Street, how often is the green space supposed to be cleaned of litter and who is responsible? At the moment it is cleaned less than once a month, could it be attended more frequently?</p>	<p>This site is covered by the Integrated Cleaning Contract but having just spoken to the area supervisor while it is included on the grass cutting schedule it has been omitted from the street cleaning schedule. We will give the site a one-off 'blitz' and put it on the litter picking schedule for thereafter.</p>
<p>Can the community council be supplied with statistics of through traffic gathered in Walworth in recent years, including Heygate, Rodney Road, Browning Street, Stead Street, Thurlow Street and the Western end of East Street?</p>	<p>The level of through traffic cannot be distinguished from local traffic; therefore it is not possible to provide these statistics. It may be possible to provide information on total traffic flows which can be requested from the Transport Planning Team.</p>

Improvements were carried out in 2007 with the aim of improving the public realm and enhancing Walworth Road as a commercially active town centre shopping area. A draft study has been conducted to determine the effect of the improvements in terms of pedestrians, vehicles, bus passengers, cyclists and road safety. One of the key findings recommends that a similar approach to the public realm and road improvements is adopted on major roads and other shopping centres within the surrounding area.

In September 2010 the cabinet office minister and the leader of the House of Commons stated in Parliament that there was no legal requirement to be on the electoral roll. Why does Southwark council insists on registering?

The cabinet office minister was quite correct in stating that there is no legal obligation to be registered to vote.

However there is a legal obligation upon the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for every authority to ensure that they compile and maintain an accurate register of electors. To this end a statutory duty exists under section 10 (1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 for the ERO to conduct an annual canvass each and every year. Further there is a requirement upon each ERO to take certain steps in undertaking the annual canvass, these are listed in full in section 9(a) of the Representations of the People Act 1983. The form of the canvass which must be used (or to like effect) is also prescribed under statutory instrument 2003/1899. To assist an ERO in fulfilling this duty there is a legal requirement upon anybody asked to provide details by an ERO to respond truthfully to that request or they can be fined.

In short you do not have to be on the register of electors but the ERO is under a legal obligation to ask you to sign up (and then chase those that do not respond) and you can then be fined if you fail to respond to them with true and accurate information.

Being on the electoral role ensures that local residents have the right to vote should they so choose to at an election. The electoral register is also used by credit reference agencies to help establish people's credit rating. Proof of residency from the electoral role is also often required by other public sector service providers. The electoral register is further used by the boundary commission for England to calculate the size and shape of constituencies.

Walworth community council may be interested

	<p>to know that the government is currently proposing to move to a system of individual voter registration with no element of compulsion in 2014/15. There remains many questions as to how this will work, particularly in areas like Southwark, which have traditionally had lower registration rates and a higher population churn than much of the country. This is why the ERO in Southwark has applied to the cabinet office to work on a pilot of data matching aimed at improving registration and why the Head of Electoral Services is contributing to the expert panel for individual voter registration ran by the Cabinet Office.</p>
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