

EALING COUNCIL
WRITTEN COUNCIL QUESTIONS: TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2022

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1. QUESTIONS TO – DEPUTY LEADER AND MEMBER FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
1	Malcolm	<p>Given the problems (huge delays in traffic to buses and cars) observed on South Parade and Acton Lane, W4 due to the combined closure of Fishers Lane and works to the A4, will the portfolio holder look to make changes so that when there are planned maintenance works affecting those roads, that Fishers Lane can be reopened up to reduce the delays seen in the area when maintenance works take place?</p> <p>Delays to traffic on South Parade are likely to have been caused by essential roadworks that are being carried out by Transport for London on the A4 in the London Borough of Hounslow, which affected the wider area.</p> <p>As part of our £35m investment in resurfacing roads and pavements, Ealing Council had planned to undertake resurfacing works in the area in the autumn. However, in recognition of the impact of the A4 works we have taken the decision to delay the resurfacing until December 2022, by which time works on the A4 are expected to be complete and traffic levels should be returning to normal. Gully repairs are also required and will include temporary traffic lights; it may be possible for these works to proceed whilst the A4 works are winding down but this is still being assessed.</p> <p>Fishers Lane is a great example of what can be done to create safer cycle and walking routes that also improve public transport connectivity and help us encourage residents to do their bit to fight the climate crisis by ditching the car for shorter unnecessary journeys. Substantial data evidencing the positive impact of the scheme is available on the council website, but we will of course continue to monitor it.</p>	Tony Singh
2	Malcolm	<p>With the increase in vehicles delivering meals and other items to people’s homes it is relatively common to see such riders using pavements or the paths in our parks without slowing down. Will the Council meet with the companies (Zoom, Just Eat, Gorilla, to name a few I saw recently) of those who offer these services to ensure that their riders do so safely?</p>	Tony Singh

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		<p>Unfortunately, the Council has no powers to enforce speed limits as this is a police power. In light of stretched police resources and competing priorities in terms of crime, I have written to the Secretary of State for Transport asking that the power to enforce speeding is given to local authorities. Disappointingly, I received a reply from the government where they have made clear they will not agree to this, despite refusing to fund the police adequately so that they could do the job.</p> <p>However, I have not given up and we continue to lobby central government via London Councils to amend the Transport Bill to permit local authorities to enforce for speeding in the borough. We are having regular meetings with London Councils along with representatives from other local authorities. We are also liaising with our legal team on whether there might be the possibility of a speed enforcement trial using the current legislation.</p> <p>It is illegal to use a motorised vehicle (scooter or motor bike) on the footways including footpaths within parks unless authorised, although I am not aware of any location where this is allowed. However, similar to speeding, this is not something the Council can enforce as it is also a police enforcement matter and the council has no powers in this regard. However, there are some ways in which the council can take action, such as considering introducing bollards or railings to deter this behaviour. However, this needs to be considered carefully so that there is no obstruction for pedestrians, and it may not be possible in many locations. We will continue to monitor locations where we have had reports with a view to taking appropriate action such as signage to allow camera enforcement.</p> <p>In addition, we have been in touch with a number of delivery companies and have raised issues with their riders parking illegally. One company is currently working positively with us to ensure they jointly work towards solving the issue and we are closely monitoring this. We will continue to make contact with Chief Executives of other companies to change their rider behaviour</p>	
3	Zissimos	<p>Has the Council considered allowing residents that live on Connell Crescent Hanger Hill Ward, the ability to enter their street from Park Royal tube end of the street, whilst the restrictive entry into their street is in operation. If not, why not, and would it consider changing this in the future.</p>	Tony Singh

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		<p>Connell Crescent was a resident backed scheme that was paid for through the community agreed ward forum budget for Hanger Hill and as such was also backed by local Councillors. It was designed to stop traffic on the A40 avoiding any queues on the approach to the Hanger Lane gyratory. The restriction which applies between 3pm and 7pm Mondays to Fridays was implemented in July 2015 and has been in place for seven years and in that time has worked well with no significant concerns from residents that I am aware of. The restriction is in line with the council's Active Travel Policy which is about fighting the climate crisis by persuading people to use other forms of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport wherever possible.</p> <p>The scheme was amended slightly (in December 2020) to allow access to the new hotel. However, I am not aware that residents have specifically requested entry from the Hanger Green end as access is always available from the Ritz Parade end.</p> <p>We are not considering any changes to this restriction as it was a residents backed scheme and we would also encourage people to use active travel modes. The restriction is for motor vehicles and does not apply for cyclists.</p>	
4	Gallant	<p>Would the portfolio holder describe precisely which measures are being taken to enforce traffic regulations in the centre of Ealing and in particular to prevent delivery motorcycles parking on double yellow lines?</p> <p>We continue to enforce motorbikes parking on the double yellow lines. We carried out a late night patrol on 21/10/2022 in Ealing where 7 PCNs were issued to motorbikes parking on double yellow lines. We will continue to visit throughout the day and night until compliance is raised. Late night patrols do sometimes tend to be with the Police as well, which helps with any antisocial behaviour and ensures the safety of our Civil Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>We have been in touch with a number of delivery companies and have raised issues with their riders parking illegally. One company is currently working positively with us to ensure they jointly work towards solving the issue and we are closely monitoring this. We will continue to make contact with Chief</p>	Tony Singh

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		Executives of other companies to change the rider behaviour. We will ensure a zero tolerance approach is being applied to motorbikes parking on the footway and in contravention of other restrictions.	
5	Gallant	<p>How many new electric charging points have been installed across the Borough since the administration was elected in May 2022?</p> <p>Since May 2022 we have rolled out 111 additional charging points as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 fast charger sockets have been installed and are fully operational/live • 52 new lamp column sockets have been installed and are fully operational. Six more will be installed in the coming weeks. • 44 more fast charger sockets have been installed and will be operational in the coming weeks <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 188 fast charger sockets have been consulted on and responses are now being reviewed. • 216 further sites have been identified to be consulted on early 2023. <p>If all sites are taken forward, this would mean 400 charging points delivered next year. We are therefore well on our way to delivering on our manifesto promise of 2,000 charging points by 2026.</p>	Chris Cole

2. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR DECENT LIVING INCOMES

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
6	Malcolm	<p>Although housing officers do not expect homeless applicants or rough sleepers to have a fixed address the absence of an address can be an issue for some residents when accessing other services not delivered by the Council like banking or accessing benefits. With respect to banking services, could you please outline for this calendar year how many people the Council’s contracted service providers have via working with HSBC helped them open a bank account when needed?</p>	<p>Alison Reynolds</p>
		<p>Our commissioned services have supported around 50 rough sleepers to open bank accounts through the HSBC homeless service this year.</p>	
7	Gallant	<p>Given the general goodwill expressed at the Launch of the Ealing Inward Investment Brand, will the portfolio holder describe precisely measures the Council proposes to implement to directly assist SME?</p>	<p>Conor McDonagh</p>
		<p>The new inward investment brand and model, called Good for Ealing, will help to promote and amplify the key role of SMEs in Ealing’s local economy and give them a platform to promote their work and products.</p> <p>This will include creating SME business networks in each of the seven towns, with GFE acting as the framework to coordinate this. This will enable SMEs to strengthen existing and build new ‘business to business’ relationships and with other stakeholders and investors including local landowners, developers and community organisations. GFE will also showcase the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of Ealing’s SMEs at borough, regional and national events. This will be further supported by a range of GFE Business Sector Forums for SMEs to engage with, starting with the construction sector forum on the 30 November.</p>	

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		<p>Other practical and tangible GFE priorities include, supporting the creation of affordable workspaces; working with Ealing’s High Street Taskforce and landlords to occupy vacant units; setting up a business brokerage function so businesses can better understand the availability of existing vacant and pipeline commercial floorspace; activation projects for example festive lights and trees, markets and new public art installations to increase footfall and spend.</p> <p>Good for Ealing will also actively support and participate in partner events including recruitment fairs, London Living Wage campaigns and Business Expos.</p>	

3. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR GENUINELY AFFORDABLE HOMES

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
8.	Steed	<p>How much Housing has been provided for Key Workers over the past three years. Does Ealing have targets for providing Housing for Key Workers for the next three years?</p> <p>Key workers definition covers a broad category of occupations GLA Housing Policy Practice Note - Allocating Intermediate Homes to London's Key Workers. However, intermediate housing; meaning shared ownership, London living rent, discount market rent and sale, are generally considered within the income reach of some key workers.</p>	<p>Darren Henaghan</p>

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background																				
		<p data-bbox="439 264 1637 300">Please see table below showing intermediate housing delivery over the past 3 years.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="439 336 1402 868"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="439 336 685 560">Intermediate homes completed between April 2019-March 2022</th> <th data-bbox="685 336 920 560"></th> <th data-bbox="920 336 1167 560">Intermediate homes currently on site as at September 2022</th> <th data-bbox="1167 336 1402 560"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="439 560 685 639">Shared ownership</td> <td data-bbox="685 560 920 639">931</td> <td data-bbox="920 560 1167 639">Shared ownership</td> <td data-bbox="1167 560 1402 639">1132</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="439 639 685 719">London living rent</td> <td data-bbox="685 639 920 719">63</td> <td data-bbox="920 639 1167 719">London living rent</td> <td data-bbox="1167 639 1402 719">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="439 719 685 799">Discount market rent</td> <td data-bbox="685 719 920 799">0</td> <td data-bbox="920 719 1167 799">Discount market rent</td> <td data-bbox="1167 719 1402 799">643</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="439 799 685 868">Discount market sale</td> <td data-bbox="685 799 920 868">0</td> <td data-bbox="920 799 1167 868">Discount market sale</td> <td data-bbox="1167 799 1402 868">0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="439 911 1845 1015">Ealing has committed to set out its approach to intermediate housing by developing and implementing an intermediate housing policy which will help to target housing to key workers. It should also noted, that key workers may also access social housing because of their housing need.</p>	Intermediate homes completed between April 2019-March 2022		Intermediate homes currently on site as at September 2022		Shared ownership	931	Shared ownership	1132	London living rent	63	London living rent	10	Discount market rent	0	Discount market rent	643	Discount market sale	0	Discount market sale	0	
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Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background										
9.	Busuttill	<p data-bbox="436 322 1825 395">How many 1, 2 & 3+ bedroom dwellings needed to clear Ealing's Council's Housing waiting list?</p> <p data-bbox="436 466 1758 507">Please find below a summary of the Ealing Housing Waiting List by Minimum Bedroom Need.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="436 539 869 805"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="445 545 741 619">By No. of Bedrooms</th> <th data-bbox="741 545 860 619">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="445 619 741 657">1 bedroom</td> <td data-bbox="741 619 860 657">5,090</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="445 657 741 695">2 bedrooms</td> <td data-bbox="741 657 860 695">3,526</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="445 695 741 734">3+ bedrooms</td> <td data-bbox="741 695 860 734">4,032</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="445 734 741 772">Total</td> <td data-bbox="741 734 860 772">12,648</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	By No. of Bedrooms	Total	1 bedroom	5,090	2 bedrooms	3,526	3+ bedrooms	4,032	Total	12,648	<p data-bbox="1892 338 2049 411">Darren Henaghan</p>
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4. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
10.	Ball	<p>What proportion of flats in Dickens Yard are in the various council tax categories eg occupied, short-term empty, long-term empty?</p> <p>Dickens Yard currently has 536 Council Tax Properties banded by the Valuation Office Agency.</p> <p>We have no long-term empties or exempt dwellings. There are 10 properties currently registered as unoccupied (1.86%) but these are still paying full council tax.</p> <p>All 536 properties have now been let or sold.</p>	Nick Rowe
Q No.		Question	
11.	Ball	<p>What proportion of flats in Filmworks are in the various council tax categories eg occupied, short-term empty, long-term empty?</p> <p>Filmworks currently has 174 Council Tax Properties banded by the Valuation Office Agency.</p> <p>We have no long-term empties or exempt dwellings. There are 6 properties currently registered as unoccupied (3.44%) and a further 5 properties which have not yet been let or sold and are still registered for council tax with the developer (2.87%). These 11 properties are currently being charged full council tax.</p>	Nick Rowe

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
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12.	Kumar	Will the portfolio holder confirm that the Council will extend the provisions of the Business and Planning Act 2020 until September 2023, as per government instructions, in order to allow businesses to continue to benefit from inexpensive pavement licenses?	Earl McKenzie
		Yes. Relevant businesses will shortly receive confirmation of the continuation of the discounted scheme	

5. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Q No.		Question	Background
13.	Gallant	Will the portfolio holder update on the accommodation of Ukrainian refugees with Ealing families, six months after Homes for Ukraine commenced?	Alison Reynolds
		<p>We can provide what we reported to DLUHC in terms of our grant claim for the first 6 months, but this is only for the Homes for Ukraine and does not include those arriving on that scheme who moved out of the borough quickly or went back to eastern Europe or the Ukraine.</p> <p>Additionally, we have no records of those who arrived on the Family Visa scheme, or the Visa Extension scheme other than the ones who approached homeless services.</p> <p>With the caveats above the number is 352 individuals.</p>	