

# COUNCIL MINUTES

(ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY 2008



PRESENT:

The Mayor ( Councillor Minnie Scott Russell )  
Deputy Mayor ( Councillor Andrew Johnson)

Councillors:

Michael Adam  
Colin Aherne  
Mrs Adronie Alford  
Helen Binmore  
Nicholas Botterill  
Paul Bristow  
Victoria Brocklebank-  
Fowler  
Aidan Burley  
Michael Cartwright  
Alex Chalk  
Stephen Cowan  
Gill Dickenson  
Belinda Donovan

Gavin Donovan  
Rachel Ford  
Stephen Greenhalgh  
Steve Hamilton  
Wesley Harcourt  
Lisa Homan  
Robert Iggulden  
Lucy Ivimy  
Donald Johnson  
Alex Karmel  
Jane Law  
Antony Lillis  
Mark Loveday  
Reg McLaughlin

Lisa Nandy  
Ed Owen  
Harry Phibbs  
Dame Sally Powell  
Alexandra Robson  
Greg Smith  
Frances Stainton  
Peter Tobias  
Mercy Umeh  
Rory Vaughan  
Eugenie White

#### **45. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

7.00pm – Councillor Frances Stainton moved, seconded by Councillor Colin Aherne that under Standing Order 15 (E) (ix) the meeting be adjourned to allow Reverend Joe Hawkes, the Mayor’s Chaplain, to say prayers.

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

(the meeting was adjourned until 7.09pm)

#### **46. MINUTES – 21 NOVEMBER 2007**

7.09pm - The minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 21 November 2007 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

#### **47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bentley, Campbell, Ffiske, Gore and Gugen.

#### **48. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor’s Announcements were circulated and tabled at the meeting. (Copy attached as **Appendix 1** to these minutes).

#### **49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting of the council.

#### **50. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (20 MINUTES)**

7.11pm - The Mayor called on those members of the public who had submitted questions to the Leader or to Cabinet Members to ask their questions:

Question No.2 – Ms C Reifen to the Cabinet Member for Residents’ Services (Councillor Paul Bristow)

Question No.3 – Mrs B Allam to the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Mrs Adronie Alford)

Question No.4 – Miss S Shepherd to the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Mrs Adronie Alford)

Question No.5 – Mr A Rowden to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh)

Question No. 6 – Ms E Young-Sandy to the Cabinet Member for Environment Services (Councillor Nicholas Botterill)

Public Question No1 was not asked, and a written reply will be sent to the questioner after the meeting.

[Copies of all public questions submitted and the reply given are attached at Appendix 2 to these minutes.]

## 51. ITEMS FOR DECISION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 7.21pm – Council Tax Base and Collection Rate 2008/09

The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	Unanimous
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0

The report and recommendations were declared **CARRIED.**

### 7.21pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. That the estimated numbers of properties for each Valuation Band as set out in the report be approved;
2. That an estimated Collection rate of 98.0% be approved; and
3. That the Council Tax Base of 78, 768 Band “D” equivalent properties be approved.

### 7.22pm – The Tenth London Local Authorities Bill, London Local Authorities (Shopping Bags) Bill, London Local Authorities and Transport for London (no. 2) Bill

The report and recommendation was formally moved for adoption by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholas Botterill.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	Unanimous
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0

The report and recommendation were declared **CARRIED.**

### 7.22pm - **RESOLVED:**

That the Council agrees to pass the formal (second) resolution set out in Appendix 1 to the officer's report.

## 52. SPECIAL MOTIONS

### **Special Motion No. 1 – Celebration of LBHF’s Heritage**

7.22pm – Councillor Frances Stainton moved, seconded by Councillor Lucy Ivimy, the special motion standing in their names:

“This Council notes the importance of celebrating H&F’s heritage and therefore welcomes the news that the Cecil French Bequest will come to the Borough in May and that an Olympic Dinner will celebrate the anniversary of the 1908 White City Olympics.”

Speeches on the motion were made by the Mayor and Councillors Stainton, Ivimy and Cartwright before being put to the vote.

FOR	Unanimous
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0

The motion was declared CARRIED

7.55pm – **RESOLVED:**

This Council notes the importance of celebrating H&F’s heritage and therefore welcomes the news that the Cecil French Bequest will come to the Borough in May and that an Olympic Dinner will celebrate the anniversary of the 1908 White City Olympics.

### **Special Motion No. 2 – Introduction of ‘Slivers of Time’ to LBHF**

7.55pm – Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh moved, seconded by Councillor Mark Loveday, the special motion standing in their names:

“This Council notes that economic dependence is one of the key pathways to poverty. In H&F 18% of the working age population is on some form of benefit and a staggering 3725 lone parents are on income support. The Council welcomes the introduction of Slivers-of-Time to H&F which will allow greater opportunity for flexible working in the local workplace and demonstrates the Council’s Commitment to making H&F a borough of opportunity.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Greenhalgh and Loveday.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e) (vi), Councillor Stephen Cowan moved, seconded by Councillor Wesley Harcourt, an amendment to the motion to delete all words after “to H&F” and insert:

“...and plans to support the long term unemployed by providing them with skills, knowledge and working conditions that will build their confidence and provide them with new opportunities. This Council believes that the Slivers of Time programme in Hammersmith and Fulham should include an accredited training, mentoring and

development programme. That the people on the scheme should be given the rights of employees with the Minimum Earnings Guarantee and overtime payments and confirms that this Conservative council will not seek to manipulate the Slivers of Time programme in order to replace permanent jobs by using the scheme members as a cheap form of labour.”

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillors Cowan and Harcourt (for the Opposition) and Councillor Loveday (for the Administration) before it was put to the vote:

FOR	12
AGAINST	28
ABSTENTIONS	0

The amendment to the motion was declared LOST.

Councillors Law, Tobias and Greenhalgh (for the Administration) made speeches winding up the debate before the substantive motion was put to the vote:

FOR	28
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	12

The substantive motion was declared **CARRIED.**

8.32 pm - **RESOLVED:**

This Council notes that economic dependence is one of the key pathways to poverty. In H&F 18% of the working age population is on some form of benefit and a staggering 3725 lone parents are on income support. The Council welcomes the introduction of Slivers-of-Time to H&F which will allow greater opportunity for flexible working in the local workplace and demonstrates the Council’s Commitment to making H&F a borough of opportunity.

### **Special Motion No. 3 – Council Tax Proposals**

8.32pm – Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, seconded by Councillor Nicholas Botterill, moved the special motion standing in their names:

“This Council notes the dreadful local government financial settlement. Despite this the Council welcomes the plans to cut Council tax bills for the second year running, with an anticipated saving of nearly £350 off the average Council tax bill in just two years, and looks forward to considering these proposals in detail at the budget meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Cowan, Karmel and Greenhalgh before it being put to the vote:

FOR	28
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	12

The motion was declared **CARRIED.**

8.49 pm - **RESOLVED:**

This Council notes the dreadful local government financial settlement. Despite this the Council welcomes the plans to cut Council tax bills for the second year running, with an anticipated saving of nearly £350 off the average Council tax bill in just two years, and looks forward to considering these proposals in detail at the budget meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

#### **Special Motion No. 4 – Changes to Committee Memberships**

8.49pm – Councillor Frances Stainton, seconded by Councillor Donald Johnson, moved the special motion standing in their names:

“The following changes to the Pensions Fund Investment Panel memberships will be made, effective from the day after the Council meeting:

Cllr. Lucy Gugen - to come off Pensions Fund Investment Panel.

Cllr. Stephen Greenhalgh - be appointed a member of Pensions Fund Investment Panel and as the Chairman of the Panel.

Cllr. Nicholas Botterill - already a member of Pensions Fund Investment Panel, to be appointed as Vice-Chairman.”

The motion was put to the vote.

FOR	Unanimous
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED.**

8.50pm - **RESOLVED:**

The following changes to the Pension Pensions Fund Investment Panel memberships will be made, effective from the day after the Council meeting:

Cllr. Lucy Gugen - to come off Pensions Fund Investment Panel.

Cllr. Stephen Greenhalgh - be appointed a member of Pensions Fund Investment Panel and as the Chairman of the Panel.

Cllr. Nicholas Botterill - already a member of Pensions Fund Investment Panel, to be appointed as Vice-Chairman.

**Special Motion No. 5 – Cuts in Discretionary Grants to Families on Low Incomes**

8.50pm – Councillor Reg McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Lisa Nandy, moved the special motion standing in their names:

“This Council notes that part of this year’s budget cuts contains the decision by Children’s Services to phase out the discretionary grants for music and dance to families on low incomes.

The discretionary grant to parents on low incomes for school uniforms is to be reduced so that a grant will only be made on two occasions, once when the child starts primary school and once when they start secondary school.

This Council agrees that this is an unacceptable attack on families on low incomes and calls on the Cabinet to reject these cuts.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors McLaughlin, Nandy and Lillis. In response, Councillor Lillis stated that the discretionary grants for music and dance which was a non-means tested grant but based on talent would be phased out with nobody in receipt of the grant being affected. The discretionary grant to parents on low incomes for school uniforms would now be retained. He called on Councillors McLaughlin and Nandy to withdraw the motion accordingly. The motion not being withdrawn, it was put to the vote:

FOR	11
AGAINST	27
ABSTENTIONS	0

9.07pm - The motion was declared **LOST**.

**Special Motion No. 6 – Rules of Debate at Council**

9.08pm – In reference to the special motion which had been moved by Councillor Colin Aherne and seconded by Councillor Michael Cartwright, the Leader stated that current standing orders did not need any amendments as they were sufficient to allow the Council to operate.

However, in line with the existing convention, he agreed that at meetings of the Budget Council, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition may speak on the budget proposals without a time limit being imposed with up to three other members of each group on the Council also making speeches not exceeding five minutes.

With the consent of the Council, the motion was withdrawn by the mover and seconder.



### **Special Motion No. 7 – Shepherd’s Bush Tube Station Closure**

9.10pm – Councillor Lisa Homan, seconded by Councillor Rory Vaughan, moved the special motion standing in their names:

“This Council resolves to support the campaign of Andrew Slaughter MP to make TfL change their plans to close Shepherd’s Bush Tube Station and instead come up with a refurbishment programme that would better accommodate residents’ travel needs”.

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Homan and Vaughan.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e) (vi), Councillor Nicholas Botterill moved, seconded by Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, an amendment to the motion to delete all words after “This Council” and insert:

“notes that a peremptory decree was made shortly before Christmas to close the important Shepherds Bush Central Line station for a period of 8 months from February 2008 by Transport for London (TfL) giving residents no say and virtually no notice in the decision to close such a vital transport link. The closure of such a vital transport link will have a significant negative impact on the lives of the many borough residents who use this station to get to work and in their daily lives.

This Council further notes that the closure is to facilitate the construction of new ground level booking offices plus carry out replacement of both of the troublesome escalators and that the replacement of the escalators cannot be carried out in a manner which would allow continued operation of the station. The alternative would be for the reconstruction of the booking hall to take place from February 2009 with the station continuing to operate in a restricted way and for full closure to take place sometime in the near future in order to replace the escalators. As full closure would still be required sometime in the near future, this Council reluctantly concedes that it is better to have this now rather than risk a much longer period of disruption including the inevitable full closure.

This Council therefore agrees to join with all interested parties in order to lobby TfL (chaired by the current Mayor of London Mr Kenneth Livingstone) to ensure that:

1. All the works are carried out in a period as short as possible (i.e. less than 8 months);
2. A comprehensive bus replacement programme is agreed with H&F officers and put in place for the duration of the station closure;
3. A lift, as was originally set out in the planning permission, is included in the works;
4. Common sense is applied to resolve this fiasco with the new West London Line station at Shepherds Bush and to stop the bickering about the platforms (which are deemed a mere 18” too narrow) so as to open this station now to passengers.

Finally the Council calls on senior managers at TfL to attend a transport summit called by H&F Council in order to resolve these issues and to commit never again to treat residents of H&F in such a cavalier manner.”

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillors Botterill, Owen and Greenhalgh before it was put to the vote:

FOR	28
AGAINST	11
ABSTENTIONS	0

The amendment was declared **CARRIED.**

Councillor Homan made a speech winding up the debate before the substantive motion (as amended) was put to the vote:

FOR	28
AGAINST	12
ABSTENTIONS	0

The substantive motion (as amended) was declared **CARRIED.**

9.39pm - **RESOLVED:**

This Council notes that a peremptory decree was made shortly before Christmas to close the important Shepherds Bush Central Line station for a period of 8 months from February 2008 by Transport for London (TfL) giving residents no say and virtually no notice in the decision to close such a vital transport link. The closure of such a vital transport link will have a significant negative impact on the lives of the many borough residents who use this station to get to work and in their daily lives.

This Council further notes that the closure is to facilitate the construction of new ground level booking offices plus carry out replacement of both of the troublesome escalators and that the replacement of the escalators cannot be carried out in a manner which would allow continued operation of the station. The alternative would be for the reconstruction of the booking hall to take place from February 2009 with the station continuing to operate in a restricted way and for full closure to take place sometime in the near future in order to replace the escalators. As full closure would still be required sometime in the near future, this Council reluctantly concedes that it is better to have this now rather than risk a much longer period of disruption including the inevitable full closure.

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1. All the works are carried out in a period as short as possible (i.e. less than 8 months);
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3. A lift, as was originally set out in the planning permission, is included in the works;
4. Common sense is applied to resolve this fiasco with the new West London Line station at Shepherds Bush and to stop the bickering about the platforms (which are deemed a mere 18" too narrow) so as to open this station now to passengers.

Finally the Council calls on senior managers at TfL to attend a transport summit called by H&F Council in order to resolve these issues and to commit never again to treat residents of H&F in such a cavalier manner.

**53. INFORMATION REPORTS TO COUNCIL (IF ANY)**

There were no information reports to this meeting of the Council.

\* \* \* \* \* CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS \* \* \* \* \*

Meeting ended: 9.40p.m. - Wednesday, 30 January 2008.

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MAYOR

APPENDIX 1

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY  
THE MAYOR**

1. On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007, I attended Mary Seacole House, extra care scheme for the elderly, Invermead Close, W6
2. On 24<sup>th</sup> November, I attended the Mayoress of Harrow's Charity Ball, Elliott Hall, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End
3. On 27<sup>th</sup> November, I attended a Charity Launch For "Fresh 02", The Wyndham Grand London, Chelsea Harbour SW10
4. On 29<sup>th</sup> November, I attended the final workshop of "A Cloven Pine" by Ian McHugh, The Bush Theatre, Bush Futures, Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College, Gliddon Road, W6
5. On 29<sup>th</sup> November, accompanied by my consort, I attended The Mayor of Kensington & Chelsea's Dinner reception, Town Hall, Horton Street W8
6. On 31<sup>st</sup> November, I attended and switched on the Christmas Lights, Fulham Broadway Shopping centre, SW6
7. On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, I attended the Pre School Learning Alliance AGM, The Polish Centre, King Street W6
8. On 6<sup>th</sup> December, I attended Age Concern Christmas Party 105 Greyhound Road W6
9. On 7<sup>th</sup> December, I attended Wendell Park School Winter Fair, Wendell Park, W12
10. On 7<sup>th</sup> December, I attended a performance of Beauty and the Beast, Lyric Theatre, W6
11. On 12<sup>th</sup> December, I attended the University Trial V111's, Vesta Rowing Club, Putney Bridge Pier, SW15
12. On 12<sup>th</sup> December, I read a lesson at the Fulham Society Annual Carol Service, Fulham Chapel, Fulham Palace, SW6
13. On 13<sup>th</sup> December, accompanied by the Chairman of the PCT, I attended Mend Graduation Evening, held in the Johnny Haynes Lounge, FFC
14. On 13<sup>th</sup> December, I attended the Mayhew Centre Celebrity Christmas Evening, St Mary Abbots Church, Vicarage Gate, W8
15. On 13<sup>th</sup> December, I read a lesson at St Saviours Church, Cobbold Road, W12

16. On 16<sup>th</sup> December, I read a lesson at the Carol Service of St Andrews Church, Star Road W14
17. On 17<sup>th</sup> December, I attended the Altera Gallery and Pro Art & Co viewing, St James Piccadilly Church Hall, 197 Piccadilly
18. On 18<sup>th</sup> December, I read a lesson and co hosted the third Fulham Community Carol Service, All Saints Church
19. On 20<sup>th</sup> December, I attended Shepherd Bush Ice skating rink, photo call, Shepherds Bush Common, W12
20. On 20<sup>th</sup> December, I attended the Old Oak Tenants and Residents' Assoc. Christmas Party, Old Oak Community Centre, 76 Braybrook Street W12
21. On 21<sup>st</sup> December, accompanied by Cllr Rachel Ford, Deputy Mayoress, and other Councillors, I attended and took the salute at the Annual London International Horse Show event, Olympia
22. On 25<sup>th</sup> December, I joined Councillor Adronie Alford, Councillor Mark Loveday and his son at the Pensioners Christmas Day Party, Assembly Hall, HTH
23. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008, I was delighted to attend the New Year's Day Parade. Albert & Friends Instant Circus won a special award in the parade.
24. On 5<sup>th</sup> January, accompanied by my two nieces, I attended the Mansion House Children's Fancy Dress party, Mansion House, EC4
25. On 10<sup>th</sup> January, I attended The London Government Dinner, Mansion House, EC4
26. On 17<sup>th</sup> January, I attended a farewell reception for Bhavan's UK Patron, The High Commissioner for India and Commonwealth Secretary General (Designate) His Excellency Sri Kamalesh Sharma, Bhavan Centre, W14
27. On 29<sup>th</sup> January, I attended the Private guided tour of China's Terracotta Army, British Museum, Great Russell Street WC1
28. On 29<sup>th</sup> January, I attended a viewing of the plans for Shepherds Bush Common, W12 Shopping Centre

**APPENDIX 2**

**No. 1**

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2008**

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Question by: Miss Meher Oliaji, 5 Chaucer Mansions, Queens Club Gardens W14 9RF

To the: Leader of the Council

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**QUESTION**

According to a recent newspaper report between 5 and 20 percent of all household recycle-able waste collected using commingled collections (such as Hammersmith and Fulham's Orange Bag scheme) actually ends up as landfill because it is of too poor quality to be recycled.

What assurance can you give that the stuff we put out for recycling is actually being re-used, rather than being dumped, either here or in China?

**RESPONSE**

- Hammersmith & Fulham distributes a great deal of publicity about its recycling schemes in its newspaper (H&F News) on the website and via other types of communication campaigns (local press, posters and handouts etc.) aimed at informing people which materials can and cannot be recycled.
- Monitoring and Enforcement activities are also employed to better inform residents about what they should and should not be placing in their orange sacks and recycling banks;
- However despite this and because not everything residents ultimately place in their orange sacks etc. for recycling is actually recyclable, the co-mingled materials we collect for recycling always includes a certain amount of “residual” waste.
- Having been removed during the sorting process that all of our recyclables go through, this residual element of waste will ultimately have to be disposed of via landfill or incineration in the UK.

- Within Hammersmith & Fulham however the percentage of such residuals is very much smaller than the range of between 5 and 20% quoted in the Question above. For example, during 2006/07 the average “residual” excluded from the total tonnage of material delivered to the sorting plant for the purposes of recycling, was **1.84%** and the average to-date during 2007/08 is **1.04%**.
- To put this in context, during 2006/07, some **14,356** tonnes of co-mingled materials were collected, of which only **264** tonnes were removed by the sorting plant for disposal as “residual” waste. The remainder was all recycled.
- Separated “clean” materials produced by the sorting plant are ultimately baled and sold back into industry either in the UK or abroad, for use as raw materials in the manufacture of new goods.
- Following a large number of UK reprocessing plant closures in recent years, there is no longer sufficient capacity in the UK to reprocess a large proportion of the recyclable material now being collected by local authorities. However owing to the manufacturing boom in the Far East and elsewhere, there is a stable and growing demand for secondary materials abroad.
- The company employed to sort recyclables collected from Hammersmith & Fulham (Grosvenor Waste Management Ltd) therefore routinely sends sorted recyclables to China and elsewhere abroad for reprocessing. This activity is however subject to regulation under the “*Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 1994*”, which are rigorously enforced by the Environment Agency.
- To further ensure that no materials outside of the agreed specifications (and therefore unsuitable for recycling) are exported to Chinese reprocessors (with whom contracts are held by Grosvenor), officials from the Peoples republic of China maintain a permanent presence on-site at the Grosvenor plant with the sole purpose of monitoring the quality of material being containerised there for export back to China.
- Materials exported to China and elsewhere internationally are typically transported on large container ships that have initially been used to transport newly manufactured goods to the UK and would otherwise have been returning empty. The environmental impact of exporting our recyclables for reprocessing abroad is therefore mitigated to some extent and the continuing existence of these foreign markets for our recyclable materials obviates the need to dispose of them within the UK in a less sustainable way.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2008**

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Question by: Ms Catherine Reifen, 23 Radipole Road, London SW6 5DN

To the: Cabinet Member for Residents Services

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**QUESTION**

What action is being taken by the Council to increase the provision of public allotment sites in the borough?

**RESPONSE**

There are currently two public allotment sites in the borough, at Fulham Palace Meadows (409 plots) and at Emlyn Gardens Estate (86 plots). Both are on council land and are run on the council's behalf by community associations. Although both sites have full waiting lists and waiting times can be up to one and a half years, there are at present no plans to create further allotments.

In order for the council to increase the provision of public allotments in the borough, we would either need to reuse some existing open space as allotments or to create allotments on new open space that is provided as part of major developments, such as the new park at Imperial Wharf.

As H&F does not have that much open space per person, we would need to decide whether we should increase the amount of space used for allotments at the expense of other uses of open space, such as informal recreation, children's play areas, sports provision, nature conservation, community gardens etc.



**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2008**

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Question by: Mrs B Allam, 10 Kelmscott Gardens, Askew Road, London W12 9DB

To the: Leader of the Council

**QUESTION**

“Could you please tell me why residents of Kelmscott Gardens are still waiting for their Kitchens and Bathrooms to be finished off as there are many that are not completed?”

**RESPONSE**

The work to renew kitchens and bathrooms across the estate was carried out in 2006. However the original contract was problematic; the kitchen units supplied and fitted did not meet our quality standards and some of the other work completed was of a poor standard.

The contract was terminated and the properties that had not had work carried out yet were completed by another contractor who also replaced the kitchen units and carried out other remedial works to the properties that had been within the original contract.

The majority of properties had the work completed during the contract period, but some residents refused the work or did not want additional remedial work completed at the time and therefore from time to time additional work will be identified either when a property becomes empty or if a resident decides that they wish to have remedial work completed that they had previously refused.

We are aware of 3 properties where work has been requested. These properties have been inspected and we have agreed to renew the kitchen units in two of these homes and renew vinyl flooring in the bathroom to the third home.

Discussions are being held with Lovells who are carrying out similar work in the area to add this work to their contract and enable it to be completed. We do not yet have a proposed start date for the work but we let the residents affected know as soon as possible.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2008**

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Question by: Miss S Shepherd, 32 Kelmscott Gardens, Askew Road, W12 9DB

To the: Leader of the Council

**QUESTION**

“Why have you never listened to the residents of Kelmscott gardens, of Blocks 1-35, about replacing 2 trees as when they are fully grown we will have to start putting on our lights through the day. Because of the lack of light and considering we are meant to be conserving energy we do not want these trees replaced at a cost to housing.”

**RESPONSE:**

Kelmscott Gardens Tenants & Residents Association applied for and were granted funding under the Housing Estates Improvement Programme for improvements to the garden at the rear of nos 1-35. Residents worked with Groundwork worked with the TRA to draw up a scheme for the area which included the removal of a very large sycamore tree and two smaller self-sown sycamores (although these were still around three storeys high), the council Arboricultural Officer agreed only to the removal of the smaller trees and felt the magnolia trees chosen by residents would not be suitable replacements for the trees being removed. Ashchurch Grove residents were concerned about the removal of the two sycamores as they provided some screening and therefore privacy.

It was recognised that Kelmscott Gardens residents wanted to see the garden area improved with the self sown sycamores removed and Ashchurch Grove residents were concerned at the proposed loss of screening, in addition the views of the Arboricultural Officer needed to be taken into account; it was therefore agreed at a meeting with the Leader, Ward Councillors and Cabinet member for Housing, that the garden improvements would be progressed but with semi-mature trees of at least 5 metres replacing the self-sown sycamores. All residents of Kelmscott Gardens were sent a letter by their local ward councillors which included photographs of the four trees suggested by the Arboricultural Officer and a voting form in June 2007, the species of tree voted for was the Robina Black Locust. Therefore, residents of Kelmscott Gardens were therefore consulted on the choice of trees for the garden at the rear of block 1-35 and their choice was planted in early November 2007. Unfortunately, in early January the trees were cut down by persons unknown and this has been reported to the police. In conjunction with Ward Councillors, it has been decided that the trees will be replaced and a budget is currently being identified.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2008**

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Question by: Alan Rowden, 103 Ashcroft Square, London W6 0YL

To the: Leader of the Council

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**QUESTION**

“I have been informed that the Council has been in discussion with key stakeholders about demolishing Kings Mall and that this may also include part or all of Ashcroft Square.

Will the Leader of the Council clarify exactly what is being considered, who has been informed so far and at what stage the plans have reached? Can he also tell me why some organisations have been privy to this information and yet the tenants and their associations have not?”

**RESPONSE:**

There are no firm redevelopment plans for Ashcroft Square. However, in response to the council's public consultation in 2007 on the Local Development Framework (LDF) site allocations preferred options consultation the owners of the site, St Martins, responded requesting a site policy for the whole of their land holdings in King Street including the multi storey car park and Ashcroft Square. St Martins stated that the site "is likely to be the subject of proposals for redevelopment and renewal during the plan period" (15 years).

As a result of their request, council officers have met with them to ascertain the extent of any proposals that may come forward to ensure residents' interests are protected and that any scheme is integrated into wider King Street regeneration. However, there are no clear proposals at this stage, and none are likely in the near future. As a result, discussions have not taken place with any stakeholder interest groups.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2008**

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Question by: Elizabeth Young-Sandy, 1 Rowberry Close, London SW6 6PQ

To the: Leader of the Council

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**QUESTION**

“There is a dangerous section of wall between lamps 26 and 29 on the Thames Path. Can you tell me what is the legislation that regulates issues like this? Whether the Council has considered if the wall is within the legislation and on top of that whether the Council is satisfied with the safety of this area of the river path wall?

Please also detail what actions have been taken to make this area safer since this issue was first raised by local residents in 2006.”

**RESPONSE**

The riverwalk or Thames Path has varying widths, paving, railings, walls and ownerships in the borough. The section known as Rosebank Wharf, midway between Hammersmith Bridge and Fulham Football Club is privately owned by Rosebank Estate Wharf Ltd. The section between lamp columns 26 and 29 was dedicated as a walkway under the Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1969 in an agreement dated 1982 between the borough and riparian landowner. Under this agreement the council has no powers to carry out any improvements; only to pave, repair, drain, clean and light.

Along this stretch of riverwalk is a low wall to protect against flooding. The agreement does not include this wall and as such the council has no powers to amend its height or erect any railings.

On 26 August 2006 a 92 year old woman died from injuries sustained after falling into the river Thames, while the tide was out. Her mobility scooter was found on the riverwalk however the details of what happened are unclear. There was a coroner’s inquest on 14 December 2006 that concluded that the cause of death was a fall from a height and that the local authority was not deemed to be an ‘interested party’. The inquest notes that ‘her state of mind and exact circumstances could not be ascertained’.

Following this incident council officers have been in extensive and prolonged negotiations with the riparian owner and have requested that they erect railings on the low wall. This is in keeping with the majority of the riverwalk and with the council's own strategic aspirations for improving the riverwalk for all users, as detailed in our streetsmart design guide.

The riparian owner has failed to respond to many correspondences and has dragged negotiations on for many months. Towards the end of 2007, a year since the first meeting with council officers, the riparian owner stated that they do not propose to erect railings along their stretch of riverwalk.

The council is reluctant to risk serving notice on the riparian owner as the matter could end up in the magistrate's court and a lengthy and costly appeal process could ensue. Despite the unfortunate incident at this site there are many British waterways that do not have any form of pedestrian protection and as such the likelihood of the council being successful in any ensuing appeal is limited.