

COUNCIL MINUTES

(ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 2009



PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Andrew Johnson)
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Alex Karmel)

Councillors:

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

Gavin Donovan
Rachel Ford
Sarah Gore
Stephen Greenhalgh
Steve Hamilton
Wesley Harcourt
Lisa Homan
Robert Iggulden
Lucy Ivimy
Donald Johnson
Jane Law
Antony Lillis
Ali de Lisle

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

30. TRIBUTES

The Mayor announced the deaths of a former Councillor Mrs Josephine (Josie) Wicks on Saturday 17th January 2009 and Mrs Sheila Hayes, a former Mayoress on Wednesday 17th December 2008, in Charing Cross Hospital.

Councillor Josie Wicks was elected Councillor for Coningham Ward in May 1990 and went on to represent Askew Ward from May 2002 until May 2006. She was also the Deputy Chief Whip for the Labour Party. Mrs Hayes was Mayoress of the Metropolitan Borough of Hammersmith in 1959, and married to the late former Mayor of Hammersmith, Mr John Hayes OBE. The Council observed a minute silence in their memory.

Councillors Harcourt, McLaughlin, Cowan, Powell and Aherne for the Opposition and Councillors Stainton, Alford, Lillis and Karmel for Administration paid tributes to former Councillor Mrs Josephine (Josie) Wicks.

31. MINUTES – 17 SEPTEMBER 2008

7.42pm - The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 September 2008 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record subject to the deletion of the voting record in the first paragraph on page 209 of the minutes and replace it with :-

FOR	11
AGAINST	28
ABSTENTION	0

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Will Bethell, Belinda Donovan, Lucy Gugen and Caroline Ffiske.

33. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

He congratulated the following individuals on their awards in the New Year's Honours list:-

- Sir Nigel Graham Knowles, CE and Managing Partner of DLA Piper International LLP (Knighthood);
- Sir John Christopher Powell, Chairman of NESTA (Knighthood);
- (James) Samuel Younger (CBE), former Chairman of Electoral Commission;
- Mrs Victoria Barnsley (OBE), CE of Harper Collins UK;
- Paul Morrell (OBE);
- Thomas James (MBE), Rower; and
- Mrs Katherine Ruth Askey-Wood MBE, Volunteer to Cancer Research UK.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made.

35. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7.45pm - The Mayor called on those members of the public who had submitted questions to the Leader to ask their questions. The Leader or the relevant Cabinet Member responded.

Question No. 1 – Mr Nigel Winkle to the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Nicholas Botterill);

Question No. 3 – Ms Anna Jones to the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lucy Ivimy);

Question No. 4 – Mr Frank Colcord to the Leader (Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh).

Public Question No 2 was not asked, and a written reply would instead 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.]

36. ITEMS FOR DECISION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.06pm – Council Tax Base And Collection Rate 2009/2010

The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Nicholas Botterill.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	23
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	11

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

8.06pm - **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the estimated numbers of properties for each Valuation Band as set out in this report, be approved;**
- 2. That an estimated Collection rate of 98.0% be approved;**
- 3. That the Council Tax Base of 79,179 Band “D” equivalent properties be approved.**

8.07pm – Review Of The Council’s Constitution - Changes To Cabinet Portfolio Responsibilities

The report and recommendation was moved for adoption by the Leader, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, seconded by the Chief Whip, Councillor Frances Stainton.

The report and recommendation was put to the vote:

FOR	Unanimous
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0

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

8.07pm - RESOLVED:

That the changes, amendments and corrections proposed to the Council Constitution, as set out in Annex 1 to the report, be agreed.

8.08pm – Staff Terms And Conditions

The report and recommendation was moved for adoption by the Leader, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, seconded by the Chief Whip, Councillor Frances Stainton.

A speech on the report was made by Councillor Colin Aherne, before being put to the vote:

FOR	27
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	11

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

8.11pm - RESOLVED:

That authority is delegated to the Council’s Chief Executive to exercise the Council’s functions in determining whether to approve and implement new terms and conditions, with or without variation, for staff following the conclusion of the current consultation with staff and the unions.

8.12pm – Children And Young People’s Plan 2008-2011

The report and recommendation was moved for adoption by Councillor Antony Lillis (Cabinet Member for Children and Community Services), seconded by the Chief Whip, Councillor Frances Stainton.

A speech on the report was made by Councillor Reg McLaughlin before being put to the vote:

FOR	Unanimous
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0

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

8.14pm - **RESOLVED**:

To approve the publication of the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11.

37. SPECIAL MOTIONS

Special Motion No. 1 – Vat Charges

8.15pm – Councillor Stephen Cowan moved, seconded by Councillor Michael Cartwright, the special motion standing in their names:

"This Council deplores the decision of the Tory Administration not to pass on the cut in VAT from 17.5% to 15% on charges for parking and sports bookings to residents. This Council calls for the immediate reversal of this mean and dishonest policy."

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan and Michael Cartwright.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e) (vi), Councillor Paul Bristow, seconded by Councillor Rachel Ford, moved an amendment to the motion to delete all words after "this Council' and insert:

"notes that sports pitch booking charges in Hammersmith & Fulham are below the national average; further notes that through the Sport England Active People's survey, Hammersmith & Fulham is recognised as having the 4th highest percentage of adults taking part in physical activity. The Council also welcomes the sports development team's objective to mirror this achievement with young people in an effort to encourage healthy lifestyles; and resolves to put in place a fees and charges policy to complement this objective."

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillors Paul Bristow, Rachel Ford and Nicholas Botterill before it was put to the vote:

FOR	27
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTION	0

The amendment to the motion was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor Cowan made a speech winding up the debate before the substantive motion was put to the vote.:

FOR	26
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTION	0

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

8.49 pm - **RESOLVED**:

That this Council notes that sports pitch booking charges in Hammersmith & Fulham are below the national average; further notes that through the Sport England Active People's survey, Hammersmith & Fulham is recognised as having the 4th highest percentage of adults taking part in physical activity. The Council also welcomes the sports development team's objective to mirror this achievement with young people in an effort to encourage healthy lifestyles; and resolves to put in place a fees and charges policy to complement this objective.

Special Motion No. 2 – Home Care Charging

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

"This Council deplores the Administration's recent introduction of home care charging, contrary to its explicit manifesto commitment not to do so. The £10 per hour charge (with the option to increase it to £12.40) is an unacceptable financial burden on elderly and disabled residents in the borough, and it has left them facing real hardship, as they have the stark choice of either paying for care that is critical to their well being or cutting back on essentials. This Council calls on the Administration to drop this pernicious charge immediately."

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillor Rory Vaughan and Reg McLaughlin.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e) (vi), Councillor Antony Lillis moved, seconded by Councillor Peter Tobias an amendment to the motion to delete all words after "this Council" and insert:

"This Council recognises that Hammersmith and Fulham is one of only 8 London Councils which offer any services to vulnerable residents in the 'Moderate' banding of Fair Access to Care Services.

This Council further recognises that our Home Charge Charging scheme adheres to the Government's guidance and policy on charging and urges cross party engagement in the national debate on the future direction and funding of Adult Social Care."

A speech on the amendment was made by Councillor Antony Lillis before it was put to the vote:

FOR	25
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTIONS	0

The amendment to the motion was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor Rory Vaughan made a speech winding up the debate before the substantive motion was put to the vote:

FOR	25
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTIONS	0

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

9.11 pm - **RESOLVED**:

This Council recognises that Hammersmith and Fulham is one of only 8 London Councils which offer any services to vulnerable residents in the 'Moderate' banding of Fair Access to Care Services.

This Council further recognises that our Home Charge Charging scheme adheres to the Government's guidance and policy on charging and urges cross party engagement in the national debate on the future direction and funding of Adult Social Care.

Special Motion No. 3 – Rubbish Collection

9.12pm – Councillor Nicholas Botterill moved, seconded by Councillor Mark Loveday, the special motion with an amendment standing in their names:

“This Council resolves to:

1. Oppose Government plans for new bin taxes;
2. Write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs rejecting the Government's invitation to participate in these new charges for the collection of household waste; and
3. Call on the Secretary of State to ensure local authorities are properly compensated for new burdens imposed by central government, instead of introducing new taxes.

This Council further notes:

4. That Hammersmith & Fulham Council introduced a garden waste collection scheme in 2003. This scheme was designed around a London Recycling Fund grant which subsequently expired leaving the Council to bear the entire burden of what was a very expensive service taking into account the small overall tonnage collected. Notwithstanding the modest charges introduced 2 years ago, the net costs of collecting garden waste in this way

fall on all Council Tax payers and not just the 5% of residents who use the scheme.

5. The nature of collecting odd sacks from every road in the borough and subsequent transportation for processing means that this scheme lamentably fails as a "green" solution to disposing of residents' garden waste.
6. That the recent consultation exercise obtained responses from around half the registered users of the garden waste scheme and that 795 responses were for not continuing the service and that 783 were for introducing higher collection charges on the lines indicated in the consultation document.
7. This Council further resolves to promote home composting as a greener and more sustainable method for disposing of garden waste instead of kerbside collection which will cease".

Speeches on the amended motion were made by Councillor Nicholas Botterill and Councillor Mark Loveday before it was put to the vote:

FOR	25
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	11

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e) (vi), Councillor Stephen Cowan moved, seconded by Councillor Wesley Harcourt , an amendment to the substantive motion as amended, to delete all words after "this Council" and insert:

"the Government has asked local authorities to participate in a waste incentive pilot scheme. This pilot has the objective of providing another tool for local authorities to increase the amount of recycling in their area, cut landfill waste and reduce long term expenditure for each household. However, this Council unanimously declines to take part in this pilot and rejects any measures that will reduce the quality of the refuse collection and recycling services or place any extra cost onto households in the short term. The Council resolves to study the results of any pilots with interest."

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan and Dame Sally Powell (for the Opposition) and Councillors Nicholas Botterill and Mark Loveday (for the Administration) before it was put to the vote:

FOR	13
AGAINST	25
ABSTENTIONS	0

The amendment to the motion was declared **LOST**.

Councillor Stephen Cowan made a speech winding up the debate before the substantive motion was put to the vote:

FOR	25
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTIONS	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED.**

9.45 pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. To oppose Government plans for new bin taxes:
2. To write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs rejecting the Government's invitation to participate in these new charges for the collection of household waste; and
3. To call on the Secretary of State to ensure local authorities are properly compensated for new burdens imposed by central government, instead of introducing new taxes;
4. To note that Hammersmith & Fulham Council introduced a garden waste collection scheme in 2003. This scheme was designed around a London Recycling Fund grant which subsequently expired leaving the Council to bear the entire burden of what was a very expensive service taking into account the small overall tonnage collected. Notwithstanding the modest charges introduced 2 years ago, the net costs of collecting garden waste in this way fall on all Council Tax payers and not just the 5% of residents who use the scheme.
5. To note the nature of collecting odd sacks from every road in the borough and subsequent transportation for processing means that this scheme lamentably fails as a "green" solution to disposing of residents' garden waste.
6. To note that the recent consultation exercise obtained responses from around half the registered users of the garden waste scheme and that 795 responses were for not continuing the service and that 783 were for introducing higher collection charges on the lines indicated in the consultation document.
7. To promote home composting as a greener and more sustainable method for disposing of garden waste instead of kerbside collection which will cease.

Special Motion No. 4 – Sustainable Communities Act

9.47pm – Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh moved, seconded by Councillor Nicholas Botterill, the special motion standing in their names:

“That this Council:

- (i) supports the bottom up process in the Sustainable Communities Act designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive the help that central government gives in reversing community decline and promoting thriving, sustainable communities;
- (ii) notes that the Act gives local authorities the power to;
 - make proposals to government on the action and assistance government must take or give to promote sustainable communities; and that
 - those proposals can be for a transfer of public money and function from central to local control;
- (iii) notes that the Act defines sustainable communities broadly, that definition having the 4 aspects of;
 - the improvement of the local economy;
 - protection of the environment;
 - promotion of social inclusion; and
 - participation in civic and political activity.
- (iv) notes that reasons for a local authority choosing to use the Act include gaining new assistance from government, determining that assistance, being able to argue for transfers of public monies from central to local control and involving citizens in democracy;
- (v) resolves, having been invited to by central government in October 2008, to use the Act by preparing and submitting proposals on how central government can help by 31st July 2009; and
- (vi) further resolves to
 - to inform the local media of this decision;
 - to write to local MPs, informing them of this decision; and
 - to write to Local Works (at Local Works, c/o Unlock Democracy, 6 Cynthia St, London N1 9JF) informing them of this resolution to use the Act.

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh (for the Administration); Councillors Stephen Cowan and Lisa Homan (for the Opposition). Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh made a speech winding up the debate. The substantive motion was then put to the vote:

FOR	Unanimous
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

9.56 pm - **RESOLVED:**

- (i) To support the bottom up process in the Sustainable Communities Act designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive the help that central government gives in reversing community decline and promoting thriving, sustainable communities;
- (ii) To note that the Act gives local authorities the power to;
 - make proposals to government on the action and assistance government must take or give to promote sustainable communities, and that
 - those proposals can be for a transfer of public money and function from central to local control;
- (iii) To note that the Act defines sustainable communities broadly, that definition having the 4 aspects of;
 - the improvement of the local economy;
 - protection of the environment;
 - promotion of social inclusion; and
 - participation in civic and political activity.
- (iv) To note that reasons for a local authority choosing to use the Act include gaining new assistance from government, determining that assistance, being able to argue for transfers of public monies from central to local control and involving citizens in democracy;
- (vii) Having been invited to by central government in October 2008, to use the Act by preparing and submitting proposals on how central government can help by 31st July 2009; and
- (viii) To further
 - inform the local media of this decision;
 - write to local MPs, informing them of this decision; and
 - write to Local Works (at Local Works, c/o Unlock Democracy, 6 Cynthia St, London N1 9JF) informing them of this resolution to use the Act.

38. INFORMATION REPORTS TO COUNCIL (IF ANY)

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

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

Meeting ended: 9.58 pm. - Wednesday, 28 January 2009.

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MAYOR

APPENDIX 1

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY
THE MAYOR**

1. I am sure everyone shares my sadness to hear of the deaths of a former Councillor Mrs Josephine (Josie) Wicks on Saturday 17th January 2009 and Mrs Sheila Hayes, a former Mayoress on Wednesday 17th December 2008, in Charing Cross Hospital.

Josie Wicks was elected Councillor for Coningham Ward in May 1990 and went on to represent Askew Ward from May 2002 until May 2006. Josie was also Deputy Chief Whip.

Mrs Hayes was Mayoress of the Metropolitan Borough of Hammersmith from 1959 - 1961, and married to the late former Mayor of Hammersmith, Mr John Hayes OBE.

I invite you all to stand for one minute silence in their memory.

2. I would like to congratulate residents of our Borough, who received various honours in the New Years Day Honours list 2009.
Sir Nigel Graham Knowles, CE and Managing Partner of DLA Piper International LLP. Sir John Christopher Powell, Chairman of NESTA, on their knighthood. (James) Samuel Younger CBE, former Chairman of Electoral Commission. Mrs Victoria Barnsley OBE, CE of Harper Collins UK, Paul Morrell OBE. Thomas James MBE, Rower and Mrs Katherine Ruth Askey-Wood MBE, Volunteer to Cancer Research UK.
3. On 18th September 2008, I attended the Mayor of Barnet's charity tour and dinner at Lords Cricket Ground, NW1
4. On 21st September, I attended St Matthew's Church 'Patronal Festival', Fielding Road, W14
5. On 22nd September, I attended St Paul's Church reception evening, Queen Caroline Street, London, W6
6. On 24th September, I attended H&F Borough Commander's Commendation Ceremony, Queens Club, W14
7. On 25th September, I was delighted to attend the official opening of Antonia Restaurant, Hammersmith Broadway, W6
8. On 25th September, I attended Latymer School Prize Giving ceremony, Latymer School, King Street, W6
9. On 28th September, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended the 10th Anniversary celebrations of The London Pearly Kings and Queens

Costermongers' Harvest Festival, Parade and Service, Guildhall, EC2

10. On 30th September, I attended the Reserve Forces reception to mark the Association's Centenary, Armoury House, City Road, London EC1
11. On 1st October, I attended H&F Citizenship Ceremony, Council Chamber, Fulham Town Hall, SW6
12. On 1st October, I attended the launch of the Old Fire Station restaurant and bar, Shepherds Bush Road, W6
13. On 8th October, I attended Fulham Good Neighbours Society AGM, Rosaline Hall, Fulham, SW6
14. On 9th October, I was honoured to attend the official opening ceremony of Frank Banfield Park, Distillery Road, W6
15. On 9th October, I attended the H&F Historic Buildings Group AGM, BBC Conference Centre, W12
16. On 10th October, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended the Mayor of Merton charity dog night, Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium, SW17
17. On 13th October, I attended H&F European Road Safety Day event, Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College, W6
18. On 13th October, I attended the City of London 'Civic Dinner', Basinghall Suite, Guildhall, EC2
19. On 14th October, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended a dinner reception hosted by the Italian Ambassador and Signora Aragona, Ambassador's Residence, 4 Grosvenor Square W1
20. On 16th October, I attended the 2008 Olympic & Paralympic Heroes Parade, Trafalgar Square,
21. On 16th October, I attended a dinner reception to celebrate the ongoing success of the friendship programme with Johanneum School in Hamburg and Latymer Upper School, Latymer Upper School, King Street, W6
22. On 17th October, I was delighted to attend H&F annual 'Time of Your Life' event, Assembly Hall, HTH
23. On 18th October, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended the London Regimental annual dinner in commemoration of the Battle of Loos, Connaught House, SE5
24. On 19th October, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended the London Mayors' Association annual Civic Service, Westminster Abbey

25. On 25th October, I attended H&F Alzheimer Society's open day event, St. Vincent, 49 Queen Caroline Street, W6
26. On 25th October, I attended Bishop Creighton House annual Autumn Fair', Lillie Road, SW6
27. On 28th October, I was delighted to attend the first of three Hammersmith London BID charity concerts in aid of my chosen charity, the Alzheimer's Society held at St Paul's Church, Hammersmith W6
28. On 30th October, I was delighted to attend the grand opening of Westfield London Shopping Centre, White City, W12
29. On 30th October, I attended a reception in honour of Boris Johnson, Bhavan Centre, Castletown Road, W14
30. On 30th October, I was delighted to host a reception for 1908 Centenary Olympics celebrations, Assembly Hall, HTH
31. On 31st October, I attended the MPH Motor Show, Earls Court, Warwick Road, SW5
32. On 5th November, I attended The Chamber of Commerce, Connect 4 Network Lunch, Deep Restaurant, The Boulevard, Imperial Wharf, SW6
33. On 6th November, I attended the Metropolitan Police 'Ceremony of Remembrance', Peel Centre, Hendon
34. On 6th November, I joined the Air Training Corp Cadets on their Poppy Appeal collection, The Atrium, Westfield London Shopping Centre, W12
35. On 7th November, I attended the annual Service of Remembrance, City Hall, SE1
36. On 7th November, I attended H&F annual Fireworks Display, Bishops Park, SW6
37. On 8th November, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended Lord Mayor's Outward Procession, Mansion House, EC4
38. On 8th November, I attended H&F annual Fireworks Display, Ravenscourt Park, W6
39. On 9th November, accompanied by my Mayoress, I was honoured to take the salute at the Remembrance Day Parade and Service, All Saints Church Fulham, SW6

40. On 11th November, I attended the second H&F Bid charity concert, St Paul's Church, Hammersmith
41. On 13th November, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended the 2009 Boat Race Challenge reception, Portland Gallery, SW1
42. On 13th November, , accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended the Mayor of Sutton's charity dinner evening, Nightingale's Training Restaurant, Carshalton College, Surrey SM5
43. On 14th November, I was delighted to attend and judge the singing competition alongside, Cllr Antony Lillis and Jane West at H&F Shindig charity event, Assembly Hall, HTH
44. On 15th November, I attended Cynthia Hatcher's 7th annual Art Exhibition, Wimbledon Library, Wimbledon, SW19
45. On 19th November, I attended H&F Looked After Children Reception, Mayor's Foyer, HTH
46. On 20th November, I attended the Townmead Youth Club, Open Evening, Townmead Road, SW6
47. On 27th November, I attended a Memorial Service for Damilola Taylor, Southwark Cathedral, SE1
48. On 27th November, I attended the third H&F Bid charity concert, St Paul's Church, Hammersmith
49. On 29th November, I attended the Deputy Mayor of Ealing's Charity Dinner, The Courthouse, Kempinski Hotel, Great Marlborough St W1
50. On 1st December, I attended the London Mayors' Association, Annual Diplomatic Dinner, Westminster City Hall, SW1
51. On 3rd December, I was delighted to attend Hammersmith London Christmas Light Up event, Hope Poles PH, King Street, W6
52. On 3rd December, I attended HAFFTRA Social, Christmas Quiz Night, NYE Bevan Hall, Aspen Gardens Estate, W6
53. On 4th December, I attended 'Only Santa Should Be In The Red Christmas' photo call, Lyric Square, W6
54. On 4th December, I attended the Lighting Up Ceremony, Trafalgar Square, SW1
55. On 5th December, I attended the Mayor of Bexley's Charity Tudor Banquet Dinner, Hall Place, Bexley

56. On 8th December, I attended the BBC Outreach Christmas Reception, BBC, 6th Floor TV Centre, Wood Lane, W12
57. On 9th December, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended the Mayor of Richmond Charity Christmas Concert, Clarendon Hall, York House, Richmond
58. On 10th December, I attended Hammersmith London Christmas Partnership Celebration Dinner, Bianco Nero Restaurant, Hammersmith Road W6
59. On 10th December, I attended the Fulham Society's, Christmas Carol Service, Fulham Palace Chapel, SW6
60. On 11th December, I attended the Heritage Lottery Fund Event, Fulham Palace, SW6
61. On 12th December, I attended George Irvin of Irvin Leisure reception evening, Shepherds Bush Green, W12
62. On 13th December, I attended the Mayor of Brent's Charity Christmas Dinner, Brent Town Hall
63. On 14th December, I attended Paul's Church, Christmas Carol Service, Hammersmith Broadway, W6
64. On 15th December, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended HM Wormwood Scrubs Prison, Christmas Carol Concert, Du Cane Road, W12
65. On 16th December, I attended All Saints Church Carol Service, Fulham, SW6
66. On 18th December, I attended the Mayor of Waltham Forest charity performance of Sleeping Beauty on Ice, Lee Valley Ice Centre, E10
67. On 18th December, I attended a Carol Concert Hammersmith London, St Paul's Church, Hammersmith
68. On 18th December, I attended the Mayor of Ealing's Charity Christmas Party, Victoria Hall, Ealing Town Hall, W5
69. On 19th December, I attended the Horse of the Year Show, Olympia, W14
70. On 21st December, I attended the Community Carol Service, St Andrews, Church, Fulham London W14
71. On 1st January 2009, I attended the New Year's Day Parade, 1 Whitehall Place, SW1. Albert & Friends represented the borough. Congratulations to them on winning third place.
72. On 8th January, I attended the London Government Dinner held at the Mansion House EC4.

73. On 15th January, at the invitation of the Lord Mayor of Westminster, I attended a reception on board HMS Westminster, Royal Victoria Dock, E16
74. On 12th January, I hosted a reception for the Linford Christie Trust, Mayor's Parlour, W6
75. On 22nd January, I welcomed HE Ruth Elizabeth Rouse, High Commissioner for Grenada, to the Mayor's Parlour, HTH, W6
76. On 23rd January, I attended Wormholt School class assembly, W12
77. On 26th January, I hosted a cheque presentation to Steve Hughes, Community Fundraising Manager, NSPCC by George Irvin, Mayor's Parlour, HTH
78. On 27th January, I attended River Café lunch time promotion with some of the proceeds going to the Mayor's Charity, the Alzheimer's Society H & F branch.
79. On 27th January, I accepted on behalf of the borough the Challenge Cup which was presented in 1903 to the First City of London Royal Garrison Artillery Regiment. The cup has been in the possession of the Old Comrades Association however as the association members dwindle the surviving relatives (Mrs Brand and Mrs Marshall) have decided to donate the cup to the borough to be displayed in the Mayor's Parlour.
80. On 27th January, I attended the 'Friends of South Park' inaugural AGM, Thomas's School, Hugon Road, SW6.

No. 1

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL MEETING – 28 JANUARY 2009

Question by: Nigel Winkle

To the: The Leader

QUESTION

PPS has submitted a 'consultation report' as part of the documentation supporting the controversial, speculative development of the Goldhawk Industrial Estate by Londonewcastle. Despite claims to the contrary, neither I nor any neighbours I have spoken with were informed of the exhibition until after it had closed. As a result, people who live in the area that will be directly affected were given no opportunity to comment on the development before the planning application was made. Given the lack of genuine consultation, as acknowledged by councillors at the recent meeting of over 150 concerned people at Brackenbury School, and given that the application for planning permission for this development was made (either by design or by coincidence) just before the Christmas/New Year closedown so that it was very difficult for local people to contact relevant expert consultants, will the Council agree to a significant delay in the consideration of planning permission so that fully independent assessments can be made into all aspects of the application by Londonewcastle in conformity with Council policy of fostering local democracy?

RESPONSE

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the planning application for the redevelopment of the Goldhawk Industrial Estate by Londonewcastle which was received by the Council on 3rd December 2008. I understand that prior to submitting the application, PPS, on behalf of Londonewcastle undertook a public exhibition on 7th and 8th November in Committee Room 3 of Hammersmith Town Hall outlining the development. Although PPS have indicated that 1500 leaflets were delivered to local residents prior to the exhibition inviting them to attend, it appears that a number of local residents, including you, did not receive the invitation.

The Council has undertaken its own extensive consultation since receiving the application, with over 3900 letters being sent out as well as site notices and advertisements in the local press. However I understand that owing to the timing of the

planning submission a number of local residents have been unable to make representation.

As such although the statutory target date for making a decision on the application is 4th March, as there is significant local interest in the development and the scheme is still under consideration by officers, I agree that there should be sufficient time allowed for all the planning issues to be considered before the application is put to the Planning Applications Committee. I understand that officers intend to set up a planning forum meeting and will invite key representatives from the community to address the developers directly with their concerns. In order to ensure that the representatives of local groups and residents have the opportunity to participate, a letter will be sent in advance of the meeting setting out the procedures and date for the forum meeting. It is likely to take place in the latter part of February.

No. 2

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL MEETING – 28 JANUARY 2009

Question by: John O’Callaghan-Williamson

To the: The Leader

QUESTION

This relates to the Decent Homes Programme on the Arthur Henderson and other estates.

Why has the Decent Homes Project currently underway on Arthur Henderson Estate been changed from “Decent Homes Plus” to the basic delivery of “Decent Homes”?

- When did this change happen?
- Why are the front doors on Arthur Henderson Estate, that were to be changed as a mandatory act under “Decent Homes”, as the Council told us it had to comply with building & fire regulations, now no longer being replaced?
- Are overhauled doors going to comply with the regulations that were the reason for their replacement in the first place?
- Why are Council tenants who’s estate is undergoing current “Decent Homes” work, no longer being communicated with especially when changes happen as aforementioned? Why has tenant participation stopped?
- Does this not demonstrate the published findings that the Council is unable to properly manage and deliver on this project and continues to fail to raise from its poor standing thus far?
- Where is the money that was originally set aside for our costed “Decent Homes’ upgrade been spent? As the project has been downgraded.

RESPONSE

When did this change happen?

We have not changed our standard. We continue to carry out work to a Decent Homes Plus standard. All aspects of our enhanced standard remain part of our policies and procedures.

In addition to the basic Decent Homes standard which we follow diligently we have developed our own local enhancements which result in the Decent Homes Plus standard referred to. The Government promotes the “plus” standard but does not require it. Many Local Authorities cannot afford to carry out an enhanced standard. Through the efficient use of resources we have been able to maintain the Decent Homes Plus standard.

Examples of our enhanced standard include:

Disabled adaptations
Over bath showers
Wet floor level access bathrooms in sheltered housing
Controlled access
Digital integrated TV aerial systems

Why are the front doors on Arthur Henderson Estate, that were to be changed as a mandatory act under “Decent Homes”, as the council told us it had to comply with building & fire regulations, now no longer being replaced?

We are replacing the doors. The contract includes financial provision for replacing the doors. When the contract was approved by HF Homes they approved the scope of the contract which included replacing the doors. Nothing has changed. We recently re-surveyed the condition of the doors but this should not be misinterpreted as a change of decision. The survey confirmed that doors needed replacing. Replacing doors for leaseholders will be optional.

Are overhauled doors going to comply with the regulations that were the reason for there replacement in the first place?

It is perfectly acceptable to overhaul doors if their age and condition makes this option more cost effective. Overhauled doors can meet all required regulations; however this issue is hypothetical in relation to Arthur Henderson Estate since we have undertaken to replace the doors.

Why are council tenants who's estate is undergoing current “Decent Homes” work no longer being communicated with especially when changes happen as aforementioned? Why has tenant participation stopped?

We continue to communicate with residents. We have had three separate meetings on the proposed works at Arthur Henderson Estate and numerous letters have been sent. Most recently a letter was sent in early January informing residents that work was about to start. We are also planning to send update newsletters to residents as work proceeds.

Does this not demonstrate the published findings that the council is unable to properly manage and deliver on this project and continues to fail to raise from its poor standing thus far?

It is testament to our ability to manage effectively that we are able to continue with the Decent Homes Plus standard. This Administration inherited a moribund programme which we have managed to turn around. We are confident that we will complete the programme within resources and to an enhanced standard. We have strong project management systems and procedures in place and all work undertaken is thoroughly vetted to ensure that it is reasonable and necessary. We diligently apply the government's criteria regarding the age and condition of components before recommending replacement.

Where is the money that was originally set aside for our costed "Decent Homes' upgrade been spent? As the project has been downgraded.

All money that was set aside for the programme is being spent on the programme. The project has not been downgraded.

No. 3

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL MEETING – 28 JANUARY 2009

Question by: Jerry Beere and Anna Jones

To the: The Leader

QUESTION

Could the Council Leader please confirm what the current official target for new housing in the borough is and how much of it should be affordable?

RESPONSE

The current official target for new housing in the borough is the Local Area Agreement target that has been negotiated with the Government Office for London measuring the net additional homes provided in the borough over 3 years from April 2008. The agreement is that 500 new units of accommodation are supplied in the borough each year over this period. In terms of an affordable housing target the borough was not required to set such a target by the Government Office for London given the pipeline of completions of such units.

In 2008/09 we are anticipating that there will be 619 units of accommodation provided. 382 of these units will be affordable with 245 of these units being social rented and 137 being shared ownership housing.

The GLA London Plan has set a target for Hammersmith & Fulham to deliver 450 net units of accommodation which we will obviously exceed both this year and over the next 2 years.

In respect to an affordable housing target, I assume that the question might refer to the London Mayors request that boroughs support him in meeting the target of delivering 50K new affordable homes over the next 3 years (incl 08/09) across London? In this respect Council officers are due to meet with the GLA early in February to determine what is an achievable target given the current economic conditions which have effected development in the borough.

Could I also just say that our priority in developing affordable housing is to develop housing that builds in opportunity. A key priority for the Council in this respect is to

significantly increase the stock of low cost homeownership housing available to low to middle income working households given this type of housing makes up little more than 1% of the total stock in the borough. Social rented housing has a part to play in meeting acute housing demands however it must never predominate a neighbourhood and must be a launch pad for improvement and progression – which at the moment it all too often is not.

No. 4

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL MEETING – 28 JANUARY 2009

Question by: Frank Colcord

To the: The Leader

QUESTION

Given the current economic conditions, on which planning guidelines are the council focusing on to ensure that local employment and small business are encouraged rather than threatened.

RESPONSE

The planning guidelines used by the council are those within the Unitary Development Plan as amended in September 2007 and the London Plan. Together these documents seek to protect land supply for a range of workspaces of different types and sizes to meet the needs of different sectors of the economy.

A similar policy approach will be included in our emerging Local Development Framework documents.

Early indications show that the downturn in the economy is already raising local unemployment levels and making economic conditions difficult for businesses in the borough, but it is a priority of ours to support local economic development and regeneration and we will ensure that an adequate supply of employment land and premises remains.

The council's Regeneration team continues to deliver a range of services to the borough's businesses through its business support service, Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) and its town centre managers in Fulham and Shepherds Bush. Specifically in response to the downturn we have promoted the availability of advice and support for small businesses. and we are currently considering further tailored initiatives aimed at town centres and small businesses.

A recent report on Local Shopping Areas, discussed at Cleaner & Greener Scrutiny Committee on the 22 January, looked at the success of the Council's Askew Road regeneration project. Members very much supported the model which concentrated

council activities on trying to address the rising number of small business closures and the decline in local footfall. The Askew road Action Plan included identifying a single officer to lead the Council's response; the production of a local shopping guide distributed to local residents and an assessment of parking charges, street furniture, local crime and community safety issues etc in order to consider how the Council could play a role in supporting local trade. Officers are now looking at how this model can be expanded to other areas in the borough, where feasible.