

COUNCIL MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2025



PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Sharon Holder
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Daryl Brown

Councillors:

Jose Afonso	Adam Peter Lang	Lucy Richardson
Aliya Afzal-Khan	Amanda Lloyd-Harris	Helen Rowbottom
Adronie Alford	Ross Melton	Alex Sanderson
Florian Chevoppe-Verdier	Omid Miri	Max Schmid
Stephen Cowan	Nimmo	Asif Siddique
Jacolyn Daly	Genevieve Nwaogbe	Nikos Souslous
Downer-Sanderson	Adrian Pascu-Tulbure	Dominic Stanton
Wesley Harcourt	Ashok Patel	Sally Taylor
Rebecca Harvey	Paynter	Nicole Trehly
Lisa Homan	Natalia Perez	Frances Umeh
Laura Janes	Zarar Qayyum	Rory Vaughan
Andrew Jones	Rowan Ree	Patrick Walsh

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mercy Umeh, Stala Antoniades, Ann Rosenberg, Paul Alexander, Patricia Quigley, Bora Kwon, Alex Karmel, Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler, Jackie Borland, Trey Campbell-Simon, Liz Collins, and David Morton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

7.13pm – RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Death of former Councillor Frances Stainton

The Mayor informed the Council that Frances Stainton passed away on 22 August 2025. Speeches of remembrance were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan, Jose Afonso, Adrian Pascu-Tulbure, Dominic Stanton, Amanda Lloyd-Harris, Aliya Afzal-Khan and Liam Downer-Sanderson.

Death of Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent

The Mayor informed the Council that Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent passed away on 4 September 2025. Speeches of remembrance were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan and Jose Afonso.

Death of former Councillor Iain Coleman

The Mayor informed the Council that Iain Coleman passed away on 20 September 2025. Speeches of remembrance were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan, Jose Afonso, Wesley Harcourt, Adronie Alford, and Amanda Lloyd-Harris.

The Mayor then led the Council in a minute of silence in memory of Frances Stainton, Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent, and Iain Coleman.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (20 MINUTES)

The Mayor thanked the residents who submitted questions. Questions 1, 2, 4, and 5 were taken in the meeting. The responses to all questions can be found in Appendix 1.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Youth Justice Plan 2025-26

8.14pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by Councillor Alex Sanderson.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Alex Sanderson and Rebecca Harvey (for the Administration) – and Councillor Aliya Afzal-Khan (for the Opposition).

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The recommendations were **CARRIED**.

8.29pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council approved the H&F Youth Justice Plan 2025-26 attached as Appendix 1 of the report.

6.2 Disability Confident Leader

8.30pm – The report and recommendations were moved for noting by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform, Councillor Rowan Ree.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Rowan Ree, Natalia Perez, and Rory Vaughan (for the Administration) – and Councillor Amanda Lloyd-Harris (for the Opposition).

8.46pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council noted that H&F had officially been recognised as a Disability Confident Leader – the highest level of accreditation within the UK Government's Disability Confident scheme.

6.3 Transformation of Playgrounds and Other Play Facilities

8.46pm – The report and recommendations were moved for noting by the Cabinet Member for Public Realm, Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, Frances Umeh, and Ross Melton (for the Administration) – and Councillor Amanda Lloyd-Harris (for the Opposition).

9.01pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council noted the investment of £8.3 million into a three-year programme of improvement works to deliver an enhanced high-quality playground offer across LBHF, including developing exemplar playgrounds in our major parks of Ravenscourt Park and Bishops Park. Working with the Housing Department to make sure the play offers in both Housing and Parks is coordinated.
2. That Full Council noted the establishment of a Play Forum to advise on the proposed changes and priorities, ensuring the programme is co-produced with local communities and there is a coordinated approach with schools, housing, and other providers of play in LBHF.

6.4 Digital Inclusion Strategy Launch Event Update

9.01pm – The report and recommendations were moved for noting by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform, Councillor Rowan Ree.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Rowan Ree, Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, and Lydia Paynter (for the Administration) – and Councillor Adrian Pascu-Tulbure (for the Opposition)

9.18pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council noted the event launch and the ongoing initiatives that arose as part of the Digital Inclusion Strategy.

6.5 Allocation of Seats and Proportionality on Committees

9.18pm – The report and recommendations were moved for noting and were unanimously agreed.

9.18pm – RESOLVED

1. That the allocation of seats set out in Appendix 1 of the report was noted.

6.6 Review of the Constitution

9.19pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

9.19pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council noted the changes to party appointments detailed in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report.
2. That Full Council noted and approved the committee membership changes detailed in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report.
3. That Full Council noted the creation of a new Lead Member for Libraries role, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, and the appointment of Councillor Patricia Quigley to it.
4. That Full Council approved the updates to the Departmental Registers of Authorities, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.
5. That Full Council approved the revised Functions and Procedure Rules for the West London Economic Prosperity Board, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.

6.7 Members' Allowances Scheme Review 2025/26

9.19pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	29
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	7

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

9.20pm – RESOLVED

1. That the Members' Allowances Scheme 2025/26 as set out in the report and attached as Appendix 1 of the report, was approved.
2. To note from 1st April the Members' basic allowance rate was increased in line with the average basic allowance paid across London for the previous year and the special responsibility allowance uplifted in line with the national local government pay settlement for employees.
3. To note the review and implementation of some of the recommendations of the 2023 Report of the Independent Panel on "The Remuneration of Councillors in London.
4. To note the Government's announcement that Councillors will be able to join the LGPS soon.

7. SPECIAL MOTIONS

7.1 Special Motion 1 - Supporting H&F's Primary Schools

9.20pm – Councillor Alex Sanderson moved, seconded by Councillor Callum Nimmo, the special motion in their names.

"This Council notes recent data from the Department for Education showing that Hammersmith & Fulham's primary schools achieved the best Key Stage 2 results in the country across maths, reading, and writing. This represents another example of the exemplary performance of the borough's primary schools, all of which are rated either Outstanding or Good by Ofsted.

This Council congratulates the borough's teachers, support staff, officers, parents, governors, and students for their collective efforts in achieving these outstanding results.

This Council resolves to continue supporting better primary school facilities across the borough, such as the fantastic new Ark White City facility, to provide students and teachers with the modern, high-quality learning environments they deserve."

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Alex Sanderson, Callum Nimmo, and Adam Peter Lang (for the Administration) – and Councillor Aliya Afzal-Khan (for the Opposition).

Councillor Sanderson made a speech winding up the debate before the motion was put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

9.38pm – RESOLVED

This Council notes recent data from the Department for Education showing that Hammersmith & Fulham's primary schools achieved the best Key Stage 2 results in the country across maths, reading, and writing. This represents another example of the exemplary performance of the borough's primary schools, all of which are rated either Outstanding or Good by Ofsted.

This Council congratulates the borough's teachers, support staff, officers, parents, governors, and students for their collective efforts in achieving these outstanding results.

This Council resolves to continue supporting better primary school facilities across the borough, such as the fantastic new Ark White City facility, to provide students and teachers with the modern, high-quality learning environments they deserve.

7.2 Special Motion 2 - Strengthening Public Safety through Investment in CCTV

9.38pm – Councillor Rebecca Harvey moved, seconded by Councillor Nikos Souslous, the special motion in their names.

"This Council notes:

- 1. That H&F has one of the densest CCTV systems in the country, with over 2,000 cameras in operation.*
- 2. That Hammersmith & Fulham Council is investing £3.2 million in upgraded CCTV and surveillance technology to support the Met Police in fighting crime and protecting residents.*
- 3. That this investment builds on a prior £5.4 million CCTV programme and is part of a multi-year plan running through to 2027/28.*
- 4. That the new enhancements include artificial intelligence – enabling features such as more efficient video playback, automatic vehicle tracking, and retrospective facial recognition across the CCTV network.*
- 5. That "live recognition" cameras will be placed at 10 high-traffic sites, matching faces against a defined police database in real time, contingent on police support.*

6. *That 500 existing cameras will be upgraded to allow better retrospective searching of footage to solve crimes.*
7. *That 50 cameras will get speakers so officers can step in as and when anti-social behaviour is taking place.*
8. *That the CCTV network complements the work of both the Metropolitan Police and the Council's Law Enforcement Team, established in the face of opposition from the Conservative opposition.*

This Council believes that all residents have the right to feel safe in public spaces and that technology, when used responsibly, can enhance community safety.

The Council affirms that the adoption of advanced tools will go hand in hand with robust policies, transparency and oversight.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Rebecca Harvey, Nikos Souslous, Lisa Homan, Stephen Cowan, Max Schmid, Rowan Ree, and Andrew Jones (for the Administration) – and Councillors Jose Afonso, Liam Downer-Sanderson, and Adrian Pascu-Tulbure (for the Opposition).

Councillor Harvey then made a speech winding up the debate before it was put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

10.14pm – RESOLVED

This Council notes:

1. That H&F has one of the densest CCTV systems in the country, with over 2,000 cameras in operation.
2. That Hammersmith & Fulham Council is investing £3.2 million in upgraded CCTV and surveillance technology to support the Met Police in fighting crime and protecting residents.
3. That this investment builds on a prior £5.4 million CCTV programme and is part of a multi-year plan running through to 2027/28.
4. That the new enhancements include artificial intelligence – enabling features such as more efficient video playback, automatic vehicle tracking, and retrospective facial recognition across the CCTV network.
5. That “live recognition” cameras will be placed at 10 high-traffic sites, matching faces against a defined police database in real time, contingent on police support.
6. That 500 existing cameras will be upgraded to allow better retrospective searching of footage to solve crimes.

7. That 50 cameras will get speakers so officers can step in as and when anti-social behaviour is taking place.
8. That the CCTV network complements the work of both the Metropolitan Police and the Council's Law Enforcement Team, established in the face of opposition from the Conservative opposition.

This Council believes that all residents have the right to feel safe in public spaces and that technology, when used responsibly, can enhance community safety.

The Council affirms that the adoption of advanced tools will go hand in hand with robust policies, transparency and oversight.

7.3 **Special Motion 3 - Celebrating H&F's Award-Winning Parks and Commitment to Green Spaces**

10.14pm – Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier moved, seconded by Councillor Nicole Trehy, the special motion in their names.

“This Council notes that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham has been awarded four new Green Flag Awards by Keep Britain Tidy, recognising excellence in the management, safety, and community value of local parks and open spaces. The newly awarded sites are:

- *Eel Brook Common*
- *Marcus Garvey Park*
- *St Paul's Church and Open Space*
- *Vicarage Gardens*

The Green Flag Award is an independently assessed, nationally recognised standard that celebrates parks which are safe, welcoming, well-maintained, environmentally responsible, and inclusive.

The Council believes this achievement is a testament to the hard work of our parks staff, gardeners, volunteers, the Law Enforcement Team and Friends groups, who deserve public recognition for their contributions. Recognising this, the Council has launched a new H&F Parks Forum to further strengthen community involvement, offering residents and local groups the opportunity to help shape the future of our borough's open spaces.

The Council notes that new investment has also played an important role in park improvements, with over £3.5 million spent in recent years and a further £1.1 million planned between 2025 and 2027, supporting new planting, improved lighting, pathways, signage, and community facilities.

The Council notes that the new awards bring the total number of Green Flag-accredited parks in H&F to 25. In 2014, under the last Conservative administration, the borough had only 11 Green Flag-accredited parks. At that time, parks were threatened with privatisation, such as through plans for a longer-term 35 lease of much of Hammersmith Park to a private company.”

Councillor Chevoppe-Verdier made a speech on the motion (for the Administration). The guillotine fell at 10.17pm and the motion was put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

10.18pm – RESOLVED

This Council notes that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham has been awarded four new Green Flag Awards by Keep Britain Tidy, recognising excellence in the management, safety, and community value of local parks and open spaces. The newly awarded sites are:

- Eel Brook Common
- Marcus Garvey Park
- St Paul's Church and Open Space
- Vicarage Gardens

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The Council believes this achievement is a testament to the hard work of our parks staff, gardeners, volunteers, the Law Enforcement Team and Friends groups, who deserve public recognition for their contributions. Recognising this, the Council has launched a new H&F Parks Forum to further strengthen community involvement, offering residents and local groups the opportunity to help shape the future of our borough's open spaces.

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The Council notes that the new awards bring the total number of Green Flag-accredited parks in H&F to 25. In 2014, under the last Conservative administration, the borough had only 11 Green Flag-accredited parks. At that time, parks were threatened with privatisation, such as through plans for a longer-term 35 lease of much of Hammersmith Park to a private company.

7.4 Special Motion 4 - Celebrating Black History Month 2025 in Hammersmith & Fulham

The special motion was withdrawn.

7.5 Special Motion 5 - Opposing online hate speech

The special motion was withdrawn.

7.6 **Special Motion 6 - Drugs in Public Spaces**

The special motion was withdrawn.

7.7 **Special Motion 7 - Taking Care of Our High Streets**

The special motion was withdrawn.

Meeting started: 7.11 pm
Meeting ended: 10.19 pm

Mayor

Appendix 1 – Public Questions and Responses

Question 1

From: Peter Golden, Resident

To: Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology

Question:

"In Hammersmith & Fulham's 2030 Climate and Ecology Strategy, the council has recognised that the largest source of carbon emissions of things the average person uses relate to food, recognising in particular, the high climate impact of meat and dairy. A 2023 analysis found that plant-based diets resulted in 75% less greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution and land use. Plant-based diets also cut the destruction of wildlife by 66% and water use by 54%. Helping the community access plant-based food through council events, school menu changes and public education would help lower Hammersmith & Fulham's carbon footprint but have positive impacts on the health of our community. Therefore, will Hammersmith & Fulham join 46 councils worldwide, including Lambeth, Edinburgh, Belfast, Norwich, Exmouth and Haywards Heath in the UK, and endorse the Plant Based Treaty initiative and take meaningful steps to expand access to healthy plant-based food?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology:

Food is a significant contributor to our borough's consumption-based emissions, and our Climate and Ecology Strategy recognises this. Alongside that, we've launched the H&F Food Plan 2025–2030, which puts sustainability at the heart of a whole-systems approach to food. The plan aims for a borough where everyone can eat well, sustainably and with dignity, and was co-produced with our Food for All Partnership, including the Foodbank, Nourish Hub and other local organisations.

We're focusing on practical measures within our local powers. For example, we've completed the roll-out of wheeled recycling bins and food-waste caddies to over 50,000 households, helping residents recycle more and keep streets cleaner. We support community growing and food skills through partners such as the Hammersmith Community Gardens Association, and we work with Nourish Hub and the H&F Foodbank to improve access to nutritious food and reduce waste.

We also back ReLondon's "Eat Like a Londoner" campaign, which helps residents save money, cut waste and eat well, and we engage local employers and community groups through the H&F Climate Alliance. To amplify our impact, we participate in London Councils' One World Living programme, which is developing policies on sustainable food purchasing and delivering London-wide campaigns to promote healthier, lower-impact diets.

Question 2

From: Brian Mooney, Resident

To: Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety

Question:

"H&F is spending millions on AI-CCTV and facial recognition cameras, officially to address crime. It has already tracked resident and visitor journeys using SmartLenz in a Brackenbury study. What guarantee is there that these systems will not be used for charging drivers in the potential road pricing initiative buried deep in the Air Quality Action Plan (p75)?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety:

The cabinet report regarding CCTV and the use of AI technology is clear that these cameras will be used for the purpose of fighting crime and anti-social behaviour, working alongside our partners and the police.

This council has invested millions to keep residents safe in H&F with a further £3.2 million to be invested. There is no intention to use the cameras for road charging, and they do not contain the necessary technology required for road user charging schemes. To reiterate, we are committed to keeping our residents safe and this technology will help in our fight against crime and anti-social behaviour.

Question 3

From: Chloe Barlass, Resident
To: The Leader of the Council

Question:

"Why is the Uxbridge Road and surrounding streets lacking in care from the council? Parking restrictions ignored, filthy streets, litter, unused phone boxes, addiction, drug dealing, messy shop fronts, too many fried food shops and a huge amount of betting shops. We pay our council tax and parking permits we deserve better. Our children have to walk through this every day to get to school. Do better!"

Response from the Leader of the Council:

We are actively working to improve the condition and experience of Uxbridge Road. Over the past five years, the council has invested millions into the area — including arts, culture, public realm improvements, and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Recent actions include:

- Doubling Law Enforcement Team patrols along Uxbridge Road.
- Over 600 monthly enforcement visits to nearby streets like Devonport Road and St Stephen's Avenue.
- Deep cleaning pavements, removing fly-posters and graffiti.
- Investigating 157 planning enforcement cases and to date have served enforcement notices (Section 215) to the owners of 10 properties. These require improvement works including repairs, cleaning, and signage improvements. This work is ongoing with more notices to be issued following engagement and negotiation with businesses and owners,
- Working with businesses to improve shop fronts (e.g. repainting Nando's, repairing signage, concealing wiring).
- Preparing a new waste and recycling service with timed collections.

- Pressing BT and New World to remove defunct phone boxes – with planning conditions already imposed for the removal of eight New World units.

We are also exploring a Business Improvement District (BID) to ensure long-term investment and accountability from local businesses.

Question 4

From: Alessio Tomasino, Resident

To: Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

“Our FOIs show there are no licences for A boards or stalls on Uxbridge Road yet the road is full of them. At the Cabinet meeting the Council promised to look at decluttering the private forecourt and the public highway but we have seen no progress. When is this happening?”

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

Thank you for your question. First and foremost, our absolute priority is to ensure that all roads and pavements are accessible to all users, especially disabled and vulnerable residents. Everyone should be able to move freely and safely and enjoy the full diversity of what Uxbridge Road has to offer, from vibrant Syrian restaurants to Shepherds Bush Market, the Bush Theatre, and award-winning pubs like The Hawthorn. Ensuring clear, unobstructed footways is essential for safety, dignity, and independence.

At the same time, we recognise the importance of supporting our cherished local businesses, many of which rely on A-Boards to attract customers and contribute to the vibrancy of the high street. A thriving high street benefits everyone, socially and economically. Dead or declining high streets have profound economic and social consequences. Research from the Centre for Retail Research and academic institutions like LSE shows that high street closures lead to reduced community cohesion, increased crime, and economic stagnation. Vacant shops and neglected public spaces diminish civic pride and safety, while the loss of local businesses erodes social interaction and cultural identity. Economically, high street decline depresses property values, reduces local tax revenues, and discourages investment, creating a cycle of deprivation. In 2024 alone, the UK saw an average of 37 shop closures per day, with London's vacancy rate reaching a 10-year high.

To clarify, A-Boards situated on the public highway do require a highway licence, but those placed on private forecourts are exempt. While FOI data may show no current licences issued, this reflects the fact that many A-Boards are placed on private forecourts, which do not require licensing. Our recent survey of Uxbridge Road identified that some A-Boards are located on private forecourts, and others on the public highway. The distinction is often clear where there is a change in paving material, however, in several locations, private forecourts have been repaved to match the public footway, which, while visually enhancing the street, can make it challenging for the public to distinguish between public and private areas.

For those A-Boards found on the public highway, our enforcement officers are actively engaging with businesses, encouraging them to apply for a highway licence where necessary. The primary objective is to ensure pedestrian safety and maintain sufficient width along the footway so that people can pass without obstruction.

Where A-Boards cause obstruction, compromise pedestrian safety, or do not comply with Council guidelines, such as being in poor condition or displaying inappropriate advertising, enforcement action is taken. Conversely, for boards placed responsibly and in good condition, the Council continues to work collaboratively with businesses to promote compliance and responsible use of space.

Our Law Enforcement Team and Highways Licensing officers patrol Uxbridge Road daily and regularly engage with businesses, requesting the removal of items from the footway where insufficient space is left for pedestrians. While we have not received formal complaints in the past three months about obstructive A-Boards, that is, boards which block pedestrian access, reduce footway width below safe standards, or pose a hazard to disabled or vulnerable users, we recognise that concerns persist and continue to monitor the situation closely. These efforts also address related concerns, such as shop items encroaching onto the footway, stock being stored during replenishment, and the prompt removal of trolleys used to move stock.

The Council is committed to a balanced approach, enforcing necessary regulations to protect public safety and accessibility, while also respecting private ownership and supporting local businesses to remain open, attractive, and thriving.

I hope this response provides reassurance that the Council is taking appropriate and compassionate action to address concerns about A-Boards on Uxbridge Road, ensuring both compliance and the continued prosperity of our local businesses.

Question 5

From: Victoria Eccles, Resident

To: The Leader of the Council

Question:

“Since the petition to Fix Uxbridge Rd, there has been very little engagement with residents to discuss how the Council will address the issues. The petition group has had no further contact from the Cabinet since the meeting on 15 September, when commitments were made to work together, despite emails being sent. How and when does the Council intend to work with petitioners on an overall plan, who will lead this and how will we be kept informed of progress?”

Response from the Leader of the Council:

Thank you very much and I reiterate that we are genuinely grateful that residents have raised their concerns.

We recognise that, as the lead positioner said at the Cabinet meeting, she raised a series of legal questions and asserted that we have a series of legal powers. And if you recall it was a two and a half hour meeting. So we went through an awful lot of information. If you look up the transcript to that, there were many, many issues

raised. So following that meeting, we organised for a complete review of all the petitioner's points, particularly the legal points. And the reason that was important is she very much explained that there had not been legal advice, but did assert a number of laws that we weren't using. And if you were there, it was very clear-cut, but she thought we had those laws. Now, you will remember we had previously taken advice on this and were told we simply do not have those powers.

Anyone who's ever dealt with a lawyer or any lawyers will know that you can get slightly conflicting legal advice at times. And what you want to do is to look at stuff in the round. So although it was over a month ago, I've had the officials look at every single one of those legal questions because in my job, you quite often get advice and if someone tells you it's wrong, as the petitioner did, then I will go and check it out.

That's what we've been doing. We've done that extensively and I understand a letter is in draft to go back and answer those very specific points. But as we agreed, we would work in good faith with each other. And I can appreciate you might wonder what's going what's happened. Well, since that point, we've also looked at all the different issues that were raised. Some of those were already in play. So, parts of Uxbridge Road will be raised. Parts of it we're looking to see if we can extend it. But you heard one of the officers at that Cabinet meeting say that some of those costs could be up to £30 million pounds. So, it is not easy to quickly come back with such sums of public money or indeed with such solutions. But we are a solution orientated administration and that's what we've been working on. So I've seen a draft letter earlier this week and I've looked at that and you will be getting several things happen.

Number one, you will get a full and clear response of all the concerns that were raised. I was grateful so many people came and I do hope you felt listened to. You were very much actively listened to and we are looking into those concerns. The second thing we will do is appoint a lead Councillor. So whilst you have many very effective ward Councillors in that area who raise these concerns all the time, we're going to appoint one coordinating Councillor to cut across all the different departments.

Following that, we will look to work with you and other residents in the area to see what else we can do to further improve it. I appreciate that the lead petitioner said she'd lived there for three years and I was really sorry to hear she said it was the worst place she'd ever lived. There has been hundreds of millions of pounds of investment into Uxbridge Road over the last 10 years. Now, you might say, where did we get that money from, because we're a cash-strapped austerity council, we put some money into the Bush Theatre, into public realm improvements, into crime fighting measures, the Law Enforcement Team, Gangs Unit, etc. But our job is also to win private sector investment. Anyone who knows about private sector investment means you have to win the confidence of the private sector for them to take the risk and put a business, whether it's a new pub that is in the Evening Standard and recommended as a place to go, or whether it's a new hotel that's being built at vast amounts of money or whether it's a complete refurb of Shepherd's Bush Market.

Now there's over a hundred million pounds worth of investment have come in here and we know the best way to improve Uxbridge Road is to keep winning that private

investment and that will be part of what we set out in the response and we hope we can continue to work with you in good faith – to not just have Council actions but to work to deal with some of the other things which aren't the Council's control like BT and the police, but also within the wider section of the market of attracting new investment that is driving what is a great road but could be much better.

Question 6

From: Kat Kostuniak, Resident

To: Cabinet Member for The Economy

Question:

“When will the Council share full information regarding the 154 enforcement cases on Uxbridge Road, as well as the Jan Kattein Architects report? Additionally, given the Head of Enforcement’s acknowledgment that the majority-if not all-of these cases may relate to satellite dishes and wiring, when will the Council conduct a fresh, comprehensive audit of the road to ensure enforcement actions are taken?”

Response from the Cabinet Member for The Economy:

The Council has investigated 157 properties as part of its comprehensive review of properties along this section Uxbridge Road. This has included details of landownership, and an assessment of those properties which could be improved via planning enforcement/licencing. This identified 157 properties which could be subject to future planning enforcement notices, Section 215 notices or Advertisement prosecutions. However, its normal practice to instigate informal negotiations with individual property owners prior to any formal action being undertaken. Experience has shown this to have the most successful outcomes overall.

Some properties (both ground floor and upper levels) have multiple issues and therefore need a bespoke approach involving a combination of the above measures to achieve visual improvements.

Approximately 250 final warning letters have now been issued, and formal enforcement notices (Section 215) have been served on 10 properties. These include 350-356, 360, and 416 Uxbridge Road.

A further 14 properties have been improved through the implementation of negotiated works. 9 more properties have had improvements negotiated and agreed in writing and works are awaited. 41 cases (of the 157) have been closed to date mainly relating to shop shutters that are immune from prosecution having been there 4 years, and properties where improvements have successfully been undertaken.

Actions to date include painting, cleaning, signage repairs, and concealing wiring with visible improvements at several locations. This enforcement programme is ongoing and updates will be reported regularly.

We are preparing to share the Jan Kattein Architects report at the upcoming meeting with residents. This will include a discussion of the proposals and how they align with enforcement and public realm goals.