

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL MEETING – 27 OCTOBER 2010

Question by: Mr Nick Bardoni

To the: Cabinet Member for Children's Services

QUESTION

“Question to Council regarding the proposed closure and sale of the Sands End Community Centre.

In the summer, referring to the proposed closure of Sands End Centre, Cllr Greg Smith stated in the Press, "If there is a massive groundswell of opinion, then of course we'll have to look at these proposals again".

Given that such a "massive groundswell" has now occurred, as evidenced by a petition of over 6000 signatures, the hundreds of comments left on iPetitions.com, the dozens and dozens of letters it has received against the proposed closure and the protest by hundreds of residents outside the Centre on 8 October; will the Council please define precisely what further conditions it considers necessary to be met in order for it to abandon this hugely unpopular proposal which, as has been surely demonstrated, runs contrary to the wishes of the overwhelming majority of voters in Sands End?"

RESPONSE

There was an open consultation on the proposals which did not end until 10 November. When the consultation was over it will be considered by Cabinet at a meeting either by the end of this year or in early 2011.

In respect of Agewell, this was a National Health Service programme which ran a table tennis club at the centre. Agewell took the decision that they wished to move that particular service for their own reasons from the Sands End Community Centre to Charing Cross Hospital, this was not a Council decision. The Council could not change situations where people who provide services in the centre or rented space wanted to leave of their own accord.

The Council would continue to engage with campaigners of Sand End, continue to look at their questions and undertake further research not just in where other facilities and services

could be repositioned to but also at the core question of the centre itself. No decision has been taken and can be taken before it has gone before Cabinet.