

**Addendum to Cheam North and Worcester Park Local Committee
Public Questions
22 February 2018**

Cheam North and Worcester Park Local Committee

This addendum contains questions from Members of the Public received and answered since the last committee meeting on 5 October 2017

1. Question asked by Alan Plant, Churchill Road and Priory Residents Association

We understand Cllr Samantha Bourne has been working with TFL to find a way for two 93 buses to safely park at the Church hill road end of Priory road without blocking the route for pedestrians to cross Priory rd using the centre refuge and allowing buses to park close to the pavement so as not to block traffic entering Priory Road. Also, to find a solution for parking a third 93 bus in Church Hill road, which does not obstruct traffic. Whilst maintaining maximum parking provision for vehicles, which currently park in this vicinity.

The Chair agreed that Mr Plant can read out the below statement and ask the question above.

Footnote. As this is the last local committee meeting of this Council, Chapra would like to thank the Councillors of this committee for their support in helping us to achieve some of our objectives, during the last 4 years and in Particular Cllr Richard Broadbent and Cllr Samantha Bourne for their timely information, actions and responses to our requests which has enabled all us all to benefit from, the support to gain Council refusal of the Victoria House planning application, Support and initiatives to tidy up North Cheam , ASB issues in Church Hill and resulting bench removal replaced by the eye catching Australis trees and the implementation of the long awaited 20 MPH speed zone to name a few.

Reply by Councillor Samantha Bourne - Nonsuch Ward Councillor

An update for this scheme will be given on the evening of the Committee meeting by Councillor Bourne.

2. Question asked by Robert Sparrow, Worcester Park Residents Association

At a previous meeting,(Oct 2015?) we were asked to give priorities for the allocation of funds to assess and help solve local problems, and we answered immediately and in writing in the next 24 hours "Traffic and air quality in Central Road" Can you please let us know whether these funds were allocated to this and what progress has been made in reporting back possible solutions.

Reply by Dave Trew, Pollution Control Environmental Health Team Leader

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Worcester Park has been identified as an Air Quality Focus Area and 2 main sources of funding are being investigated; DEFRA Air Quality Fund and the Mayor's Air Quality Fund (MAQF). The Council has submitted a bid to DEFRA for funding to deliver a project to deliver improvements to the air quality of which we hope to have a response shortly. If successful, the projects will involve a series of engagement and educational activities with local businesses, community groups and residents as well as expert advice and information as to how better control vehicle movements and reduce pollution. We are also drafting an Air Quality Plan for the next 4 years which will go to the Environment and Neighbourhoods committee in September 2018. The Council will also be looking to submit a bid to MAQF in September 2018. The Local Committee continues to invest in planting trees, plants and hanging baskets in the local area to help reduce the exposure to traffic pollution and will continue to investigate additional measures with the limited funds available.

There also exists a further LIP scheme in next years programme that will see £100,000 invested in Central Road as it has been identified as requiring investigations on a number of fronts, as journey time delays on buses and wider congestion issues contribute to local concerns.

3. Question asked by Robert Sparrow, Worcester Park Residents Association

A recent planning appeal by McDonald's Restaurants to open a drive through facility was made to Bristol, and was successful for them. The Inspector highlighted a lack of substance and detail by LBS planning officers, who were initially in favour of their application, and an intervention by the Safer Sutton Partnership, amongst other statements claiming the facility would mainly be used by "Taxi Drivers and Shift Workers" both of which undermined the decision democratically made by the Planning Committee. We have requested copies of these two Council submissions but have not yet been successful. Would it be possible for this committee to ensure these are published so the reasons that the original decision was overturned can be fully understood, and so councillors and residents can be sure that in future appeals, such as Victoria House, the views of the elected representatives are correctly represented.

Reply by Iain Williams, Senior Planning Officer

A copy of the Council's Appeal Statement that was sent to the Bristol Planning Inspector on 20 December 2017 has been provided to Mr Sparrow following the planning application received by McDonalds. The document details the decision taken by Sutton Council's Planning Committee and the reasons for this. Further planning enquiries should be directed to the Planning division.

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4. Question asked by Angela Marriott, Resident

a) Following the changes in waste collection and difficulty experienced with my sack collection why was I not notified in advance of this fundamental change to waste collections. Have other Council Tax payers been warned about this? I am sure that I cannot be the only householder who is unable to use bins without risking pain and personal injury because of their age or a disability

b) Whether the use of colour-coded bags has been withdrawn completely from all properties in the borough, including from flats over shops and commercial premises such as those in Central Road, Worcester Park. I have noticed that these bags were still in use when I walked down Central Road today. How will these properties, where there is no room for bins, be expected to manage.

c) Whether since I now need to take my own rubbish to the dump every week I am entitled to a significant reduction in my Council Tax. If so, how much will I need to pay now that I have been deprived of this most important standard local government service.

d) Whether Sutton Council/Veolia will continue to collect my blue and black colour-coded recycling bags according to the original schedule? If so, shall I receive a new schedule from April 2018 and a new supply of bags? If no new bags are to be supplied, can I put the relevant items for recycling in a clear plastic sack for collection? I could not cope with lifting and carrying a large plastic storage box. The clear bags would always be light and easy to lift. If I can continue to use bags, how will I be notified of the ongoing schedule for collection.

Reply by Robert Woodbridge - Neighbourhood Services Manager

a) Veolia have been reviewing the collections where historically properties have received bagged collections. The process is that a visit is made to the property to assess the criteria for a bagged collection, normally this is only available for properties without any frontage to their property, or have less than 1 square metre, or have more than two steps. (The most common use is for flats above shops). The resident would be informed of any changes, confirmed in writing and giving 3 weeks notice of any changes.

Where a resident or carer is unable to move or use a bin they can request an 'assisted collection' through the contact centre and an assessment will be made in line with the Council policy on assisted collections.

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Special arrangements or changes to the core recycling and waste collection arrangements will be made available in the circumstances detailed below:

Assisted collections: Assisted collections will be made available to residents who on assessment are deemed to be unable to use the core recycling and waste collection service without assistance from the Council (i.e. collection of the recycling and residual waste containers inside the property boundary). Each case will be treated on its own merits. Examples of issues requiring assisted collections include, Disability, Age, Illness or infirmity (may require temporary arrangements)

If the property address is provided LBS can instruct Veolia to visit and assess the property for an assisted collection.

b) Until another solution for properties with no or less than one square metre of frontage to the property is put in place the colour coded refuse sacks will still be used for residential properties. Commercial properties are collected by a range of different companies and LBS has limited control over their method of disposal.

c) As outlined in the response to question 1, we can provide the property with waste bins and assess for an assisted collection. The resident is not required to take their waste to Kimpton for disposal. With regard to your request for a reduction in Council Tax, please be advised that Council Tax is a tax on each property to help meet the cost of all local services provided. Therefore, there is no reduction available should any one service not be provided to a resident's satisfaction or is affected for whatever reason.

d) Where the property does not meet the criteria for an exception to the wheeled bin policy, the only exception to this will be a the result of an assessment for an assisted collection. So until the resident has an assessment carried out this question cannot be fully answered. We can arrange for LBS to do this if advised of the address and contact details. Where properties are applicable for a bagged collection, they are supplied with the following year's supply of bags in late March.

5. Question asked by Richard Johnson - Resident

Question relating to the Worcester Park Library Garden

With reference to the Planning Committee minutes of the 25 February 2015, (attached as annex 1). This states there were no declarations of interest, (which I can certainly vouch for, as I was there on the evening, representing around 250 objectors). This document details the subsequent, formal passing of the planning application to create the Worcester Park Library Garden and Cllr. Samantha Bourne appears as the (then) Deputy Chair of the Committee.

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After subsequent opening of the Library Garden, the August 2015 edition of Worcester Park Life featured a list of thanks to all significant contributors to the project and states the nature of each individual's contribution. [This is attached as annex 2]. The list includes Cllr. Samantha Bourne, who is thanked for her contribution as advisor to the planning applicant. (To quote the author's thanks exactly, "Cllr. Sam Bourne for help with the finer details of the Planning").

As a layman, to me there appears to be a clear and direct conflict between the two documents. Can the Committee advise, am I wrong.

Reply by Councillor Samantha Bourne - Nonsuch Ward Councillor

An response to this question will be given on the evening of the Committee meeting by Councillor Bourne.

6. Question asked by Richard Johnson - Resident

With regards to Worcester Park Library Gardens funding. The committee may recall that I was deeply concerned at the large amounts of cash flowing in and out of the Library Garden Project. I was concerned that there were insufficient scrutiny or controls. At one committee meeting, I related that costs were, as I put it, "coming out the woodwork" and I asked the committee to ensure there was proper, formal Council oversight of the project finances. This request was rejected, as I seem to recall, upon the advice of Cllr. Broadbent, who I believe attended at least some of the Library Garden project meetings.

In support of the existing arrangement, and with regard to transparency, it was later stated by the Friends of Worcester Park Library, that oversight of fundraising, donations and finances was assured, since the Friends of Worcester Park Library was a charity. However, neither I, nor the Charity Commission have been unable to identify any such charity or even any such charity beginning the process of registration.

Could the Local Committee advise, given that Sutton Council declined to scrutinise the financial operation of the Friends of Worcester Park Library and since the scrutinising charity itself did not exist, what system or body was in place to ensure the appropriate and authorised use of all donations and other funding for this project?

Reply by Paul Brockwell, Locality Lead Officer

The original funding given to this scheme was part of a participatory budget event in 2013. The scheme was supported by local residents and voted on. Further funding was awarded by the Local Committee in 2015 through the neighbourhood grants and public realm budget. Each element of funding attributed to The Friends of Worcester

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Park Library was scoped at the point of application, ensuring the funding was allocated accordingly. Further funding was secured by the Friends Group to make additional improvements to the Pocket Library Garden; this included additional plants, metal signs and a bespoke bench all of which were costed in advance. Finances in relation to projects are assessed by officers prior to being submitted for decision.

For Information:

Funding agreed 2013 - £5,000 - Local Committee Participatory budget (Public Realm)

Funding agreed 2015 - £1,000 - Local Committee Neighbourhood Grant

Funding agreed 2015 - £2,900 - Local Committee Public Realm

Funding agreed 2013 - £17,000 - Mayor of London Fund

Funding agreed 2013 - £17,000 - Waitrose Match Funding

7. Question asked by Richard Johnson - Resident

I ask this question as a member of the Worcester Park Residents Association Committee, who has received concerning information regarding email security: Can the Committee advise and assure me: To your knowledge, is any member of this committee aware of any incidents of covert and unauthorised access to the Worcester Park Residents' Association Mail Account.

Reply by Paul Brockwell, Locality Lead Officer

Officers of the London Borough of Sutton are not aware of any covert or unauthorised access to the Worcester Park Residents Association Mail Account. Councillors seconded this during the meeting.