

**7. Question asked by Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Jill Whitehead, Chair of Environment and Neighbourhood Committee**

The Life Centre is currently turning over £2000 per week and has cost the taxpayer in excess £8 million in capital expenditure, subsidies, how was this allowed to happen, and has it only been allowed to continue because it is closely linked to the Lib Dems?

**Reply by Councillor Jill Whitehead**

The Sutton Life Centre was designed and constructed at a cost of £8 million, of which £4 million came from a successful bid to the 'My Place' Big Lottery government backed grant funding scheme. This represented significant inward investment in Sutton. Funding was agreed after a thorough evaluation undertaken by the Big Lottery against criteria aimed at building first class facilities for young people. The remainder of the capital required for construction came through the linked sale of the old Ridge Road Library site. The Library was moved to the Life Centre and it remains one of Sutton's most successful libraries.

The Life Centre is managed in accordance with the Council's agreed budgeting and financial management processes as with any other Council service, and currently operates within all agreed financial parameters, including income, revenue costs, and savings requirements. All accounts are published in line with requirements.

**8. Question asked by Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of Housing, Economy and Business Committee**

As one of the reasons for the catastrophic failure of the Life Centre was that, no market research was carried out to see if anyone wanted a Life Centre or what it had to offer, what market research have the Council taken to ensure that SDEN is wanted by anyone, except possibly Barratts?

**Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy**

Councillor Mattey, thank you for your question offering us your opinion on what should or shouldn't have been done in respect of the Life Centre.

In the case of the Decentralised Energy Network the questions we would need to be asking are:

- Do you want the council to help reduce reliance on fossil fuels?
- Do you want the council to help reduce the amount of carbon being emitted into the atmosphere?
- Do you want improved air quality as a result of the council helping people to switch to non-polluting energy?

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- Do you want the council to help enable access to a sustainable source of energy that is currently being wasted?

I would be very surprised if anyone were to say no to these questions.

But in any case, for those of us that are concerned about climate change and the continued plundering of the Earth's scarce resources it is imperative on us to do what we can to offer alternatives and mitigate the impacts where we can.

**9. Question asked by Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of Housing, Economy and Business Committee**

Why were Opportunity Sutton able to tell a forum held at the UK Energy Research Council in April this year that heat from SDEN would be delivered to adjacent boroughs as part of phase 2 of its plans?

**Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy**

Because that is the plan.

**10. Question asked by Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of Housing, Economy and Business Committee**

Did Lidl know that Opportunity Sutton would be suggesting to delegates at the UKERC they would be occupying the food store at Felnex?

**Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy**

As stated in response to your enquiry (CSS 3601395) on 16 August 2016, the Council is not in a position to comment on the progress of commercial negotiations between the developer of the Felnex site and any potential occupiers.

**11. Question asked by Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of Housing, Economy and Business Committee**

From my own research the average resident of social housing in Sutton is paying 6 pence per kilowatt hour for heating. If Sutton is successful in supplying heat to Felnex the cost could be more than double this figure, how will Sutton be able to claim it is trying to fight fuel poverty?

**Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy**

As stated in response to your previous enquiry (CSS3214576) on 1 April 2016, the final heat price will only be set once the final parameters of the model are clearly defined, e.g. the

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actual accommodation schedule for Felnex and the total capital and operating costs for the scheme are known, following the procurement process.

**12. Question asked by Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Simon Wales, Deputy Leader of the Council**

London Borough of Sutton tried to spend £18 million with Lumina to buy a shopping complex in Reading. Lumina own Times Square and the building contractor they employed to refurbish it have gone into administration, and the accounts of the building company reveal that it had £36.00 in its bank account in its last set of publishing its accounts. As Lumina's Times Square are such a key part of Sutton and the previous building contractor had gone into administration, what does this tell us about Sutton and its choice of partners?

**Reply by Councillor Simon Wales**

The Council pulled out of a transaction that if completed, would have resulted in the Council acquiring a property asset from Lumina. That would have been the extent of the Council's relationship with Lumina and would not not have made the Council Lumina's partner, just as someone buying goods from Tesco does not become Tesco's partner.

The proposed transaction has nothing to do with the actions that Lumina might be taking regarding their management of Times Square. The only interest the Council has with Times Square is simply one of it being the local authority in which the shopping centre is located.

**13. Question asked by Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Simon Wales, Deputy Leader of the Council**

Sutton Seniors Forum is described as being apolitical, yet until recently its treasurer was a Lib Dem Councillor, one of its trustees was a former Lib Dem Councillor, another is the mother of the council leader, in 2015 it received £6250 from the Lib Dem Mayor of Sutton's charity fund, should the council be giving money to a charity that to the outside observer seems anything but apolitical?

**Reply by Councillor Simon Wales**

Being apolitical means that the activities of the organisation are carried out in an apolitical way, such that the organisation does not favour one party over another in its dealings or pronouncements and this is achieved. The political allegiances of former councillors are irrelevant - one certain ex Lib Dem councillor is anything but supportive of the Liberal Democrats.

As to the Council giving money to the Forum, Councillor Matthey has answered his own

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question. The Mayor's charitable funds are not Council money, but sums collected by the Mayor's charity committee for his nominated charities.

**14. Question asked by Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Jill Whitehead, Chair of Environment and Neighbourhood Committee**

Now that link between airborne particulate pollution and Alzheimer's is becoming much more established. What actions will the council be taking to protect children in schools and residents that live in proximity to the Viridor Incinerator? The Incinerator will put 10.5 Tonnes of these particles into the atmosphere each year.

**Reply by Councillor Jill Whitehead**

Both the Council and the Environment Agency are satisfied that all emissions produced by the ERF are within safe limits. As part of the Beddington Farmlands planning application assessment, a full environmental statement was produced to assess all impacts and the Council commissioned an environmental compliance expert to review technical information submitted. The Environment Agency subsequently granted the facility a permit to operate and will monitor emissions to ensure they remain within safe limits.

The Beddington Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) will contribute no more than 0.11 $\mu\text{m}^{-3}$  (cubic micrometres) of PM<sub>10</sub> and 0.11 $\mu\text{m}^{-3}$  (cubic micrometres) of PM<sub>2.5</sub> to the annual mean concentration of particulate matter.

Emissions from the stack will be monitored and the process will be regulated by the EA. Sutton Council also operate a network of air quality monitors which measure concentrations of particulate matter in the ambient air. Current and historic data is made publicly available on the [London Air website](#).

One of the main sources of particulate matter is slow-moving, congested motor vehicles and private cars. Therefore, the Council's Air Quality Action Plan contains measures to encourage a behavioural shift towards sustainable modes of transport. By reducing the number of single-occupancy journeys being made in cars, this will help to improve air quality across the whole of the borough. The actions to promote sustainable transport are also complemented by other measures including the use of vegetation to reduce human exposure to poor air quality.

Where air pollution levels are predicted to be elevated, we aim to alert people who may be affected using social media. In addition, people are encouraged to sign up to AirText so that they can receive a pollution alert by text, e-mail or voicemail. This service is available to all but a school could nominate a representative to receive the alert and circulate the information internally.

**Standing Order 8.6 - Questions Not Reached at Council****15. Question asked by Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Simon Wales, Deputy Leader of the Council**

Was Councillor Hookway told of the close ties that linked Sutton Seniors Forum to Sutton Lib Dems before he decided to make it one of his nominated charities?

**Reply by Councillor Simon Wales**

Before becoming a councillor, Councillor Hookway was the Borough Fire Commander for the London Borough of Sutton. As a result he knows and values many voluntary organisations across the borough. His choice of mayoral charities was entirely his own and in no way influenced by his colleagues. It is a pleasure and an honour to have such an esteemed member of our community on the Council.

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