

**London Borough of Sutton Questions  
Full Council 14 November 2016  
Standing Order 8.6, Questions not reached at Council**

**9. From Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee**

St Helier hospital has confirmed that no one from Sutton Council has approached them about connecting it to SDEN. Why does St Helier Hospital feature then in SDEN's literature as being a potential SDEN customer.?

Councillor McCoy says she knows that SDEN will extend to other London Boroughs because it's in "the plan". If it's in the plan, why do the planned heat pipes follow a path that takes them away from the London Boroughs of Croydon and Merton?

The latest SDEN report says that instead of connecting to 19,000 homes, SDEN has the potential to connect to 19,000 new homes. Is this an admission that SDEN cannot be retrofitted to existing homes? Given that it is highly unlikely that there will ever be 19,000 new homes anywhere near the Viridor incinerator, does this mean that claims that SDEN would stop fuel poverty and bring in £6 million in annual revenue seem ludicrous ?

**Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee**

I am not surprised that if you ring up the call centre at St Helier Hospital and ask about SDEN you won't get anyone who knows anything about it.

However, I can confirm that Officers working on the SDEN project have been in discussion with the Estates Team at St Helier regarding connection earlier this year.

Permission was also given by the Estates Team for the GLA's consultant to survey the boiler house at the hospital to ascertain how the SDEN network might be connected.

The current business case focuses on getting the pipes in the ground to supply Felnex as Phase 1 of the project. Once the initial pipes are laid it is a simple matter to connect further pipes to extend the network and connections will be incorporated to enable this to happen.

As you have had explained to you on numerous occasions, the total heat available is equivalent to that needed to heat 19,000 homes.

It has not been claimed that it will be used for this many homes, as it is clear that some of the heat will be used by commercial premises. Nor is it claimed that SDEN will in itself address fuel poverty. It was noted that any profits from the project could be used to address fuel poverty.

The Council is confident that the business case that has been prepared is robust.

**10. From Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Ruth Dombey, Leader of the Council**

Is it not perverse that Sutton Council is contemplating spending vast amounts of money building a bridge to take heat pipes over the Hackbridge rail line. A gantry, so houses in Felnax can connect to the Viridor Incinerator? I say perverse because the council is not prepared to repair the railway bridges that connect the public with the much vaunted Beddington Country park. Unless the Council acts to prevent the demolition of the bridges, the only access the park will be for Viridor employees. What is the council going to do to stop the demolition of these bridges?

**Reply by Councillor Ruth Dombey, Leader of the Council**

Between Mitcham Junction rail station and Hackbridge rail station, there are currently four pedestrian footbridges across the Hackbridge rail line. To the north, and south there are two active footbridges that are approximately a kilometre apart, and currently provide east/west linkages for the public across the Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) and the Beddington Country Park. The 'Merton Footbridge' to the north has paths linking into both the MOL and Beddington Country Park. The southern-most footbridge also does this, and additionally provides direct access into Hackbridge town centre via Furlong Close by the Hackbridge roundabout.

There are two further footbridges in between these two active footbridges, which are physically closed-off to public access as they are both derelict and have been disused for some considerable time, (approximately 10 years). As such, they are both scheduled for demolition in the New Year by Network Rail, who own the bridges. Regrettably negotiations with Network Rail to retain and refurbish these two bridges could not be progressed due to the high costs the Council would need to provide to enable this.

**11. From Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee**

The Southwark judgement means Southwark Council have to refund £26 million for overcharging social housing tenants for water and sewerage charges. Sutton Council, like Southwark, may be classified as a reseller of water and sewerage charges. Is it not likely that the council will be classified as a reseller of electricity gas and of heat? What can the council say on this subject? Can the council please tell me the number of SHP dwellings that currently have a water meter fitted?

**Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee**

A report on this issue will be coming to the next Housing Economy and Business Committee.

The Southwark judgement is in respect of water and sewerage charges. It is not believed that the position is similar in relation to gas and electricity supplies.

Sutton Housing Partnership does not hold data on whether individual residents have made an agreement with the relevant water company to have a water meter installed.

### **12. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Ruth Dombey, Leader of the Council**

It is my understanding that the land that was purchased from the NHS for the Belmont school site was subject to VAT. If this was the case, did the Council apply for the option to tax and has the VAT been recovered?

Has the Council calculated the cost of delaying the building of the School for two years? Can the Council please explain the cost of this delay?

The Council has said that the School is an integral part of the London Cancer Hub, is this the first time a school has featured as part of a cancer hub?

What can the Council say to critics that linking the school to the cancer hub was a cynical exercise in stifling opposition to its plan to put the wrong school on the wrong site?

### **Reply by Councillor Ruth Dombey, Leader of the Council**

No VAT was payable on the purchase of the Belmont site from the NHS.

There is a requirement for additional secondary school places in the borough from September 2018. The school on the Belmont site will not be completed until early 2019, for reasons outlined in Councillor Mathys' earlier response to Councillor Garratt. There will be a cost of providing temporary alternative accommodation for those children. Options for this are still being considered and so the cost has not yet been finalised.

The London Cancer Hub is a unique project which, from its inception, has included a secondary school alongside medical diagnosis, treatment and research facilities. As set out in the London Cancer Hub roadmap and Development Framework, there are some exciting opportunities for the Harris Federation to take advantage of its location and to work with the Institute for Cancer Research (ICR) in the development of its curriculum. The ICR could play a key role in supporting the school to develop its focus on health sciences which would in turn inspire pupils to pursue a career that would ultimately contribute to the wider success of the London Cancer Hub in the future.

### **13. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee**

The Lib Dem website revealed yesterday that the best site for a secondary school would be Rosehill. Why then did Councillor Dombey go against officer advice and put all the Council's

efforts into establishing a school in Belmont thus delaying the provision of any new school places in Sutton by at least two years?

**Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee**

The Council has stated for a long time that it would in all probability need two new secondary schools and it was the original intention to build the first school on the Sutton Hospital site in Belmont but due to possible delays in purchasing that site from the NHS, Rosehill was considered as a possible alternative. However, building on parkland was a step we wished to avoid if at all possible and furthermore it was always clear that if a school was to be built on Metropolitan Open Land, it was unlikely to receive planning approval whilst there was a brownfield site available in Belmont.

The Council's actions have ensured that schools can be delivered to meet need in the timescales required by ensuring planning regulations have been met, unlike the suggestions by the Conservatives that would have left us with no new secondary schools at all.

**14. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Ruth Dombey Leader of the Council**

Will The Lib Dems website be used exclusively in future for publishing information on the location of schools?

**Reply by Councillor Ruth Dombey, Leader of the Council**

No.

**15. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Ruth Dombey Leader of the Council**

Will Councillor McCoy be able to use the Council press officers in future to launch political attacks on her detractors? (That is, the ones outside her own political group).

**Reply by Councillor Ruth Dombey Leader of the Council**

I would like to draw Councillor Matthey's attention to the proposed Protocol governing Members' Use of Council Resources elsewhere on the Council agenda. This sets out the acceptable role and use of the Council's communications function, in the context of the Local Authority Code of Practice on Publicity and the Council's Constitution.

**16. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee**

Councillor McCoy has claimed that the problems of ferrying thousands of London Cancer Hub workers and schoolchildren to Belmont will be solved by building a tram terminus in Belmont. There are no concrete plans to build a tram link to Sutton or indeed extend it to

Belmont. Does this mean she hopes by that building a tram shed it will entice TFL to build a tramline?

**Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee**

The Cancer Hub Partnership has undertaken a thorough transport assessment for the site that informs future development plans. All technical work has been undertaken with Transport for London. The Cancer Hub Partnership continue to work in close collaboration to manage the immediate traffic and transport investments and plan strategically for the long-term transformation. The Cancer Hub development framework is clear that growth will only be brought forward when sufficient transport capacity enhancements can be put in place. The south London Tram remains in the Mayor's investment programme. The Cancer Hub Partnership continues to proactively engage TfL on Tram and other transport investment issues.

Should the Tram go ahead, consideration of a Tram depot would be a key part of delivery. A Tram depot is currently accommodated within the design proposals for the Cancer Hub site and if the scheme goes ahead detailed technical feasibility work would then follow as part of the business case.

**17 From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee**

The Belmont School site is undersized for a secondary school - the whole footprint of the school and grounds is less than the main school building at Stanley park high school. Why has the Council deprived children in Belmont the same opportunity to exercise as the ones at Stanley Park?

**Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee**

There is significant pressure for school places in London and a dearth of available sites. The Department for Education regularly considers options from office building conversions to new builds and co-developments with residential and other uses and many successful schools have been delivered on much more constrained sites than the Sutton hospital site.

Many schools in Sutton do not have onsite playing fields and operate from constrained sites (e.g. Cheam High, Greenshaw, Sutton Grammar). To mitigate this concern, there is an offer from Wallington County Grammar School for the Free School to access off site provision at Old Walcountians should they wish to. Furthermore, the school has been provided with the maximum number and sizes of sports facilities on site, including a Sports England grade Sports Hall, a large Activity Studio and a multi-purpose activity space internally, and a

Games Court on site. The quality of the facilities at the school will therefore enable the school to deliver an excellent education for the pupils that go there in the future.

**18. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Ruth Dombey Leader of the Council**

When the school has to expand to deal with the burgeoning population increase, the only area with vacant land nearby is HMP High down. If parents and prison inmates protest about this as a suitable arrangement, how will the school expand?

**Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee**

Having expanded 10 of our secondary schools in the last 2 years and with 2 new schools planned for the end of this decade, the Council does not expect to need to expand the Belmont school.

**19. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee**

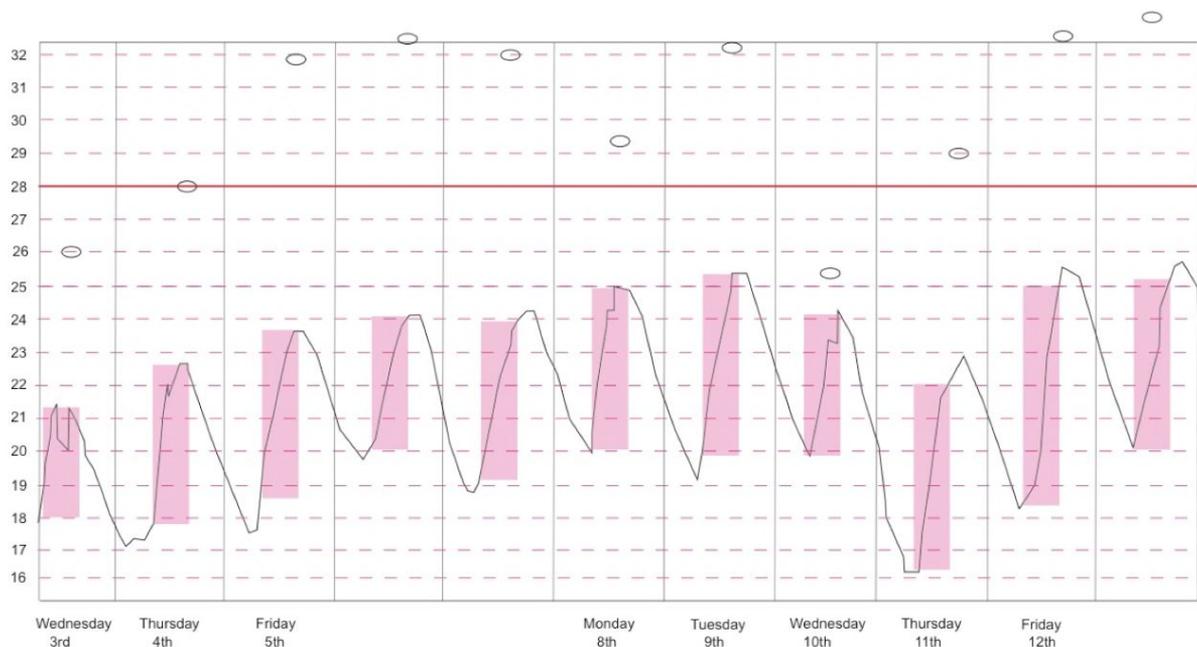
The School is to be built to Passivhaus specification. This requires complete airtightness and very high levels of insulation. With global warming one of the main problems in buildings is getting heat away, What steps have the Council taken to ensure the children get sufficient air changes per hour and the building is future proofed against climate change?

**Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee**

Passivhaus conceptually works like a Thermos flask, with minimal uncontrolled heat loss or gain, achieved by the high level of insulation and airtight envelope. This allows the designer to then control the internal temperature through controlled natural ventilation, mechanical ventilation and, where required, minimal cooling. The heat recovery works in reverse in the summer season, so that coolth in the building is transferred from the out going air to the incoming air. As such Passivhaus design is now successfully applied in the middle east, southern spain, Italy etc... with excellent energy consumption and comfort.

Attached is a temperature chart of one of our completed Passivhaus schools (Oak Meadow) measured in the very hot summer of 2013 (in the month of July). The line shows the internal temperature over the week and the dots show the recorded external temperature. It is worth noting that this project does not use cooling and is just using mechanical ventilation to achieve these temperatures:

### Temperatures over week of record high temperatures



#### **20. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee**

Stanley Park wanted to break new grounds in proving its environmental credentials so it installed a wood pellet boiler. Most people now agree that importing biomass from Sweden to burn it is not environmentally sound. The fact that the boiler cannot be used anyway because it cannot deliver water hot enough to kill legionella is another disadvantage; around £300,000 has been wasted on this Greenwash, what will be the extra cost of bringing the Belmont school up to Passivhaus specification and is this another example of Greenwash to hide the school's failings?

#### **Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee**

The approach the Council is taking on the new school is based on our desire to meet the Council's and London Plan targets on sustainability and carbon reduction as set out in the Passivhaus scheme and BREEAM. The principle we have adopted for the New Sutton Secondary School is 'fabric first', that is to reduce the energy the building will require to provide comfortable conditions by making an airtight and highly insulated building, together with a ventilation system that will recover energy from the exhaust air. The primary heat source will be high efficiency gas boilers. Photo-voltaic panels are proposed for partial on-site energy generation.

What is attractive about the Passivhaus standard is the measured in use performance, which stands out against performance gaps that have been seen in other new buildings. Our lead consultants, Architype, monitor all of the Passivhaus schools that they have designed, which currently have a total energy demand average of 67 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> compared to a national new build average of ~150kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. We expect a similar level of energy performance for this school.

**21. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Jill Whitehead, Chair of the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee**

Who paid the £5500 for the sustainability Summit at the Holiday Inn?

Why did the Council press office put out a statement saying there were tickets available when there was none?

Can Councillor McCoy accept that plastic is derived from the fossil fuel oil and that burning plastic that the Council has failed to recycle contributes to global warming?

**Reply by Councillor Jill Whitehead, Chair of the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee**

As stated in the response CSS 3771518, the cost for the Summit was covered by the Sustainability Team budget.

The event proved very popular and by the 6 October all places had been allocated with a view that others expressing an interest would be put on a reserve list and given access to video footage of the event and any publications that were produced post event.

As stated in response CSS 3771754 (provided 10 November 2016), we can confirm that when the Energy Recovery Facility is operational, we will continue to collect plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays for recycling through our recycling collections. These will continue to be sent for recycling and not be treated through the ERF.