

**London Borough of Sutton
Council: 29 April 2019
Questions under Standing Order 8.7
from Members of the Public**

1. Question asked by Richard Johnson to Councillor Councillor Manuel Abellan, Chair of the Environment & Neighbourhoods Committee

As Sutton's lead Councillor for environmental issues, will Councillor Abellan reassure Council and Sutton's 200,000 residents that his response to Mr. Eveleigh, at Full Council, 28 January 2019 was a correct and accurate assessment of the environmental impact of the Heathrow proposals upon this borough?

Or will Councillor Abellan withdraw his answer previously given to Mr. Eveleigh, and provide a correction, accepting that in direct contrast to his previous statement, the Heathrow flight path proposals contain evidence of a significant, detrimental environmental impact upon addresses within the London borough of Sutton?

Reply by Councillor Manuel Abellan

Thank you Mr. Mayor. What I can clarify is that my answer to Mr Eveleigh's question gave a view based on the information I received from Council Officers at the time on the position of the whole borough not of specific areas of the borough, and following the full Council Meeting on the 28th January the Council Officers were able to attend specific briefings on Heathrow to look at what the consultation was proposing and ask rather than questions and we submitted a very detailed and robust response before the 4th March, made in light of the further information that we received especially around the frequency of flights, flight paths, and direction of travel. I think that actually we agree on this issue Mr Johnson I will read you a couple of sentences from a response to the consultation which makes it absolutely clear that we are against Heathrow expansion. "We share the concerns of neighbouring boroughs that changes to the direction of flight paths could be dictated by those areas that already have significant noise issues, and directed over areas with existing low ambient noise levels such as here in Sutton. The borough remains opposed to the expansion of Heathrow Airport due to the impact of the proposals on community surface access and the wider environmental footprint changes. So when we have the statutory consultation in June and we have more of the details that we will receive in due course from Heathrow we will make it clear both on the technical questions that we will protect the interests of Sutton residents and make sure that we if there is to be an expansion that the flight paths that are chosen are the best ones for us. And we will reinforce again what we have done for over 20 years now that we are against expansion of Heathrow

Supplementary question asked by Richard Johnson

Yes thank you Councillor. It's just one phrase one sentence that really worried me. You said that it is therefore unlikely that there will be any significant additional noise impact on addresses in the borough. That from what I've read is not going to be the case. So are you able to state whether or not that is the Council view or not?

Reply by Councillor Manuel Abellan

As I've said we are against Heathrow expansion is it good for Sutton? it's not, do we think that some areas of the borough will be very impacted by it? yes, and we will make our voices heard in due course. I think, actually it would be useful to lobby your colleagues opposite who are very good friends with the Secretary of State for Transport and who maybe can help change his mind. It's a Conservative government that is proposing expanding the airport.

Supplementary question asked by Councillor Neil Garrett

If I could summarise Councillor Abellan's answer. He answered a question at Full Council without doing his homework and this evening he is now trying to blame Council Officers for giving incorrect information, is that a fair summary?

Reply by Councillor Manuel Abellan

We hadn't had the meeting which Officers attended to get the detail needed on the six questions for that specific consultation, once we had the detailed information if you read our five page response on the consultation you will be quite clear on what we said. I think it is quite ironic that getting these answers from Conservative Councillors who are very good friends with the Secretary of State for Transport.

2. Question asked by John Carey on behalf of the Trustees of Sutton Night Watch to Councillor Marian James, Chair of the People Committee

Does the Council intend to stand by the motion passed by majority decision in November 2017 and help Sutton Night Watch Homeless relocate when the time comes, or does the council stand "In Contempt of Resolution" with an intention to neglect this obligation?

Reply by Councillor Marian James

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Mr Carey. Just to say that the resolution that was adopted by the Council stated that it would help secure Night Watch a more permanent solution in the borough, whilst also working to eliminate the need for your services by addressing the broader issues of inadequate supply of housing. But my understanding is that you've been the Council has allowed you to use the Secombe Centre since 2017 free of charge is that correct? and it extended that use and permitted other uses within the centre for activities and I think it's also extending your agreement as from May? yes, so I think the

Council has been helpful to Sutton Night Watch and as regards accommodation I think it's something that you need to take the lead on, you know the Council does help voluntary organisations and community groups, but I think it's something that Sutton Night Watch has to take the lead on because you know what's best is for you. So I think the Council has been quite helpful to date Mr Carey.

Supplementary question asked by Mr Carey

Could you answer then why when we have approached the Asset Management of the Council with regard to other properties that do come available why we do not get a response. Why we have asked to view properties and we're knocked back, there is always a reason why we can't view them, and why even though we're on the list of the Council to approach us when any properties become available they do not contact us.

Reply by Councillor Marian James

Ok, well obviously I haven't got that information to hand this evening, but I am quite happy to look into that. I mean one of the things that I did say to Councillor Crowley at the last Council meeting is. I think it would be really helpful for you, I say this to you and I say this to lots of other charities as well. Is to contact Community Action Sutton they could probably support you with a business plan, fundraising strategy, and accommodation strategy. I would urge you to contact them and get that support. But if your saying to me that you know you have not had that contact then I will look into it and come back to you Mr. Carey.

Supplementary question asked by Councillor Tim Crowley

Thank you Mr Mayor. Councillor James I am just wondering what the status is of the moment of SPEAR and the outreach teams in Sutton in regards to homelessness. Because it seems that since we have appointed St Mungo's the outreach has become a little bit sketchy and I know that Sutton Night Watch are concerned about that and how we are dealing with that within the community. And also I ask you whether you think there is space for independent charities within the borough or do they have to be tied into the Council to get any help from them?

Reply by Councillor Marian James

Councillor McCoy will answer the question about SPEAR. I think there is room for independent charities within the borough as well as those services commissioned within the Council, and I do think the Council as I said to Mr Carey, I do think the Council have been quite helpful to Sutton Night Watch so again I just say I think they need to ensure they are part of Community Action Sutton, because if they become members of Community Action Sutton they will get access to training, they can go along to forums they will be kept up to date with all the things that are happening in the borough and I'm sure it will be a great help to them to come under that umbrella. So yes I agree there is a place for commission services and independents. And now I will hand over to Councillor McCoy to tell us about SPEAR

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

Thank you Councillor Crowley just to respond to that as housing comes under my remit. SPEAR is ongoing it continues to work with the Council along with a number of other organisations to both address the underlying causes of homelessness and support those sleeping rough. SPEAR in particular continues to provide emergency accommodation for single homeless people. And also St Mungo's has recently been formally commissioned by the Council to support homeless people, it's part of a recommissioning project we did and they were undertaken commissioned because they have a proven track record in helping vulnerable people into long term accommodation and they are working on some accommodation to. So actually we've got that provision in place that we need through the agencies we've been working with, and I'm sure Councillor Crowley will agree with me that there is a need for any organisation to go through the proper processes when contracting with the Council for the purposes of transparency and accountability, we can't just do it on the hoof we've got to do it through the proper processes, proper processes being followed and this organisation has been formally commissioned to meet the need as we see it in the borough Thank you.

3. Question asked by Fiona Lumsden to Councillor Manuel Abellan, Chair of the Environment & Neighbourhoods Committee

What budget has been set aside for proposed Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) for the borough?

If following residents views/opinions being taken into account and a re think by the council that decides NOT to go ahead with the CPZ, what will happen to the money that has been set aside, will it be used to improve our roads ie potholes/resurfacing etc or perhaps towards helping the growing homeless problem that seems to have worsened in the borough over the past couple of years?

Reply by Councillor Manuel Abellan

Thank you very much for your question Miss Lumsden. There is an agreed capital budget of 2.2 million for the parking strategy project. This budget covers consultations, office resources, design proposals, the traffic management order, process and implementation of schemes on the ground as well. If at the end of the project any budget remains it will be reassigned to other of the Council priorities.

Supplementary question asked by Miss Lumsden

So yes, what my supplementary question would just be. You said that if there was any left over money is there any priority on what that money would be spent on?

Reply by Councillor Manuel Abellan

I wouldn't dare be sat next to my leader here and decide where we would spend the money on sorry, but it will be brought back to the Council for the normal processes to take policy decisions and other priorities in the way that we normally do it.

Supplementary question asked by Councillor Neil Garrett

Just a quick question, if we've committed about 2 million pound to this project and I'm sensing that the public are not on the whole overwhelmingly in favour of it. My worry isn't there a danger of the sunk cost fallacy kicking in whereby you feel that you have to follow through to justify the money you have already spent because if you actually do what people want which is to scrap the whole thing and start again you somehow have to explain why you've spent so much money on this fiasco.

Reply by Councillor Manuel Abellan

No, I mean we don't think that it's a waste of money, we don't think we know that there's a lot of residents that have been asking for this for many many years, and because of your Conservative government we have to find 22 million pounds of savings as well. This is an issue that has been a priority for many many years we said we would look at it, we are working with residents to see what are the best solutions possible, I think there are some residents that would have seen a post I posted last week which shows we are listening and are taking concerns on board.

4. Question asked by Bill Plummer to Councillor Manuel Abellan, Chair of the Environment & Neighbourhoods Committee

Much has been made of Sutton's car ownership figures, on the Council website, in various publications and in the promotion of the current CPZ expansion consultation. Where exactly does this figure showing Sutton as having the 4th highest ownership come from?

Reply by Councillor Abellan

Thank you Mr Plummer I hadn't had an email from you in a little while I was getting worried so good to see you tonight. In response to your question the data comes from the 2011 census recorded that Sutton as having the third highest percentage of all boroughs so 76.6 % of households with access to at least one car or a van. Subsequently London Travel Demand Survey carried out by TFL also recorded that Sutton was the fourth highest in London in 2011/12. I have a link to the document if you drop me a line I will send it to you.

These are the most recent reports that were published and we don't see because we haven't had any massive public transport infrastructure since then we don't think it would have

changed much, so whether we are second, third, fourth or fifth I think you get the message we have a lot of cars in Sutton.

Supplementary question asked by Bill Plummer

I certainly do yes. What if I was to tell you that the TFL survey you refer to, I will give you the title but you already seem to know about it. Yes It's called the Road Task Force Technical note 12 How many cars are the in London and who owns them? they put us fourth place as you say as having fourth highest percentage of adults in London with access to a car. Doesn't say anything about car ownership so I thought that was interesting because although their document is all about car ownership it's about access to cars. Now I did a bit more research and the Department of Transport who actually have all the registrations from the DVLA for the last three years have shown us in thirteenth place. It's a bit of a difference, I can give you the website and I'll give you a document with those figures on them. Point I'm making this is irrelevant to our parking that you've been singing this song about fourth largest ever since this whole scheme has launched its still front page of the parking page on the website, its misleading people and it makes us wonder what other data that you've give us can we believe.

Reply by Councillor Manuel Abellan

I obviously can't comment on the document if I haven't seen it. A lot of cars in Sutton I think the point we are trying to make here with the parking strategy is just a better managed parking situation which is the main point out of it. So I don't think we should deviate from that objective. If you send me that report, I will look at it in detail and if we need to make a correction I will be more than happy to do it.

Supplementary question asked by Councillor Nick Matthey

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to put this question. Is it not the case that the reason why so many people are dependent on their car, is that in the last thirty four years the Liberal Democrat people who run the borough have made it their mission to make it virtually suicidal for people to try and bicycle because of their love affair with the waste industry who have extensive use of HGV traffic. If we look at what Croydon sent to the London Borough of Sutton about their plans for routing the incinerator traffic we can see that they are saying that lives if these plans go ahead - the question is the Liberal Democrats have created this situation so that anybody that values their life doesn't cycle, what are they going to do about it?

Reply by Councillor Manuel Abellan

I don't think that was a question, so Councillor Matthey should look up the definition of a question thank you.