

QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

24 SEPTEMBER 2020

PUBLIC QUESTIONS RECEIVED AFTER DESPATCH OF THE AGENDA

EP4

Daniel Hinton has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services, Communications and Emissions the following question:

Question

The paper you are presenting tonight seeks to help alleviate the effects of fuel poverty on some of the most vulnerable, at risk and lowest income households across our Borough. Please can you confirm how recipient households will be identified and what criteria will be used when deciding how to prioritise households?

EP5

Judith Clark has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

Has the Council measured the air and noise pollution in choosing this site, given that children with special needs benefit from being out of doors as part of their school day, but will be likely to have particular physical and mental health conditions which are more vulnerable to air and noise pollution?

Regarding air pollution: The site, I presume, will be between the M4 and the B3270 – two busy roads, one being the major artery between London and Wales for private and heavy goods vehicles. In a low plain where fumes gather, I do not believe that the quality of air will be suitable for ordinary children, let alone children with special needs who are very likely to have pulmonary problems. Children with special needs benefit particularly from being out of doors and enjoying the tranquillity of the natural environment, but it may not be healthy for them to spend much time out of doors in a site like this.

Regarding noise pollution: I live in the upper part of Maiden Earley, but the noise from the motorway and B3270 (and A 329M) is constant. The school will be much nearer the motorway and B3270, so the noise will be worse. Again, such children need calm and tranquillity.

In addition, regarding flooding: Hatch Farm and the area along the Loddon are prone to flooding – so the school is more likely to suffer unplanned closures because of this. Children with Special Needs require routine, and they and their families would suffer more than ordinary children from unplanned closures.

MEMBER QUESTIONS RECEIVED AFTER DESPATCH OF THE AGENDA

EM6

Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Enforcement the following question:

Question

Why are there 100 unrelated houses added into a plan for the badly needed special needs school in Winnersh?

EM7

Richard Dolinski has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

My question is to the Lead Member for Children's Services regarding the proposals for a new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) school in Winnersh.

There is much clinical evidence published that shows that major highways have an adverse effect on the health and wellbeing of children who live near or attend schools adjacent to major highways, both from the failing air quality and from the noise pollution. I have no doubt that any new building design will mitigate against noise, but children are not just confined to just four walls. As a SEND teacher I became actually aware of how sensitive some children can be and how debilitating this can be for them. Worryingly the Council is proposing to build a school next to one of the busiest and expanding motorways in the UK, which again research has shown has the greatest impact on the health of our residents because of the poor air quality. Anything about 100 on the boundaries between index points for each pollutant is harmful. Therefore, will the Council conduct extensive air monitoring exercises and publish its results before any planning approval is considered? I'm sure you will agree, safeguarding our children is paramount.

EM8

Andy Croy has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

What sort of Local Authority builds a SEND school next to one of the busiest motorways in the country?