

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There are 3 questions from members of the public.

**1. From Mrs Lodge to Councillor Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Social Care**

“My Granddaughter has been attending Bonnygate nursery for the last two years and was assured by Thurrock Council in 2010 that 60 placements would be available in reception for 2013, I am aware that Thurrock Council actively encouraged the school to obtain the 60 placements which would be readily available for 2013.

Could you explain why parents have recently been informed that Thurrock council's proposal although in the early stages are to cut the number of placements to just 30 due to the low attendance and low admission's of other catchment schools? ”

**2. From Mr Perrin to Councillor Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Social Care**

“Most parents generally want their children to attend good schools. Consequently some schools become more popular than others; and when parents cannot get a place at the school they want for their child, they can be disappointed. In order to satisfy parental preference, the Government has encouraged the expansion of popular schools by giving guidance that the existence of surplus places should not be used to prevent the creation of additional places at popular schools.

Can you assure parents in Thurrock that the Council makes every effort to satisfy parental preference and that no child is denied a place at a preferred school as a consequence of the Council reducing the number of places at a popular school in order to fill places at a less popular school, especially if the parents preference for a particular school is based upon a high OFSTED rating? “

**3. From Johanna Allison to Councillor Holloway, Cabinet Member for Environment**

“As a representative of the Lightship Cafe group of volunteers who have run the Grays beach cafe over the last winter period and who have a vested interest in operating the cafe again over the forthcoming winter season, could I ask the council in light of the recent fire what their intentions are in relation to its repair and restoration in order that it can be returned back into community use?”