

## **Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 25 July 2018**

### **Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public.**

3 questions were submitted from members of the public.

#### **1. From Mr Healy to Councillor Halden:**

What assurance can Councillor Halden give on behalf of Thurrock Council that Thurrock Rugby Football Club training and fixture commitments during the season can be met for minis rugby on those pitches without restriction from the South West Essex Education Trust?

#### **Mayor:**

Councillor Halden can you please respond?

#### **Councillor Halden:**

I think from the offset the first thing that should be said is the West Essex Education Trust has got no interest in restricting sport activity. They are a specialist sports college. They have worked in harmony with all sorts of sports organisations across the borough for years. They have got no interest in working at odds with any group. As I have said in previous answers to questions in this regard, the Council's statutory responsibility is making sure we have enough school places in this borough. We are extremely proud that we are bringing forward plans for 70 million pounds worth of either new schools or expanded schools. It's something we are very proud of and something we are getting on with so we are meeting our responsibility. In terms specifically of what fixtures can and cannot be played, that is not the Council's remit that is not our forte. Those are conversations to be had between the Rugby Club and the Education Institutions who are actually engaged in the operational running of a rugby club. So your questions are better directed to them and not the Council.

#### **Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Halden. Mr Healy, do you wish to ask a supplementary question?

#### **Mr Healy:**

Councillor Halden, would you not agree with me that the Council can condition our right to continue to play rugby on those pitches in perpetuity.

#### **Mayor:**

Councillor Halden would you like to respond?

#### **Councillor Halden:**

Thank you Madam Mayor. Obviously conditions, rights of access so on and so forth are an issue that can be taken up through the planning process. The Education Trust have already outlined that they want to strengthen rugby provision in the area, and they will be making such commitments I understand through the planning process. As you would have seen from the letter that was signed by the Chairman of the Rugby Club, by the Chief Executive of the

Trust that is building the Orsett Heath Academy. They are working hand in glove to make sure they can deliver this strengthened provision. And it is when it gets to the Planning Process and we are looking at the future of these institutions will have together, that is when the provisions are best put in place.

**2. From Mr Perrin to Councillor Watkins**

Can you tell me how many military graves there are in Thurrock and how much it costs the Council to maintain them?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins can you please respond, thank you.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Mr Perrin, and good evening to you as well. In Thurrock our records state we have currently 99 recorded Military Graves across the cemeteries and within Thurrock. The cost to maintain the military graves is within our General Maintenance Budget and schedules in within our environments schedules as well which we do. We do also receive money from the War Graves Commission to a bit of looking after them as well. One thing that I am going to announce Mr Perrin actually in relation to war graves this evening, obviously we are currently undergoing some war memorial clean ups which was announced last year, obviously in remembrance of those who fell in the first world war and the hundred wars of that, I can confirm that we will be arranging for all the war graves and commissioned headstones to be cleaned as well as part of the war memorials.

**Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Watkins. Mr Perrin, do you wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr Perrin:**

Yes please Madam Mayor. Councillor Watkins and the rest of you in the Chamber, I believe I circulated a story of a Private soldier, Private Howarth, who died on 3 May in 1918 in Orsett Isolation Hospital. His story is a very harrowing story and he was a local boy, he went, he joined the army as a young 20 year old weighing 12-15 stone, fit and healthy, he was a prisoner of war, repatriated back to this country weighing 5 stone. He died as they say on the 3 May and buried on the 5 May 1918 with full military honours. I am asking if the Council would consider commemorating him as a local boy on the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his death with a grave side ceremony, possibly with a firing military honour, and the possibility if we can trace any of his descendants. I know he wasn't married himself but he did have a sister who may well have married. So basically I am asking if the Council would consider on the 5 May 2019 commemorating this one soldier who was a local boy in Thurrock.

**Mayor:**

Thank you. Councillor Watkins

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you very much Mr Perrin for your supplementary. Yes I have taken the time to have a read through this incredibly sad story as to what happened with this poor boy at the time. In regards to obviously your request for a ceremony absolutely will look into what can be done with that. What I would quite like to do as well is, obviously we do have 99 war graves as I mentioned already and part of that is obviously the clean-up in relation to the stones, I'm asking the team as well, sorry I'll speak a bit louder, to see what we can do in the run up to this year's anniversary. To see if we can do something for all those that have fallen, and all those who gave everything for Thurrock and for the residents of the United Kingdom and Great Britain. So absolutely on both levels.

**3. From Mr Coleman to Councillor Gledhill:**

Thank you Mayor. After yet another unauthorised Traveller encampment in Chafford Hundred, can the Council Leader outline what he is doing in his role as Cabinet Member for Public Protection to stop the increasing number of encampments in Chafford Hundred and across Thurrock please.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Gledhill, would you like to respond please?

**Councillor Gledhill:**

Thank you madam mayor, good even Mr Coleman and thank you for your question. I do need to clarify something first of all. The incursion that happened in Chafford recently was on private land so it is down to the private land owner to actually take the action. The Council can't get involved with what is known as a section 77 notice to move them on because it is as I say private land. The Council did actually get to a point where as actually no action had been taken we went down to serve a planning enforcement notice. But I am told that on arrival the Travellers had moved on. And that was solely because the owner of the land had worked with the Police to move them on under the Police powers that they have. Moving on to Thurrock as a whole, there are a number of target hardening measures that we have put in place and that includes bunding, the increasing amount of height barriers on car parks, gates and fences, protective shrouds around the padlocks so they can't be removed and then suddenly the gate is opened. On top of that I am pleased to say the Thurrock Council is moving forward with one piece of legislation is an injunction to permanently protect our sites. This won't actually protect them, it won't stop anyone from going on there, but it will make it much easier for the Police and the Council to remove them as they will be in contravention of a court injunction. It is quite an extensive and time consuming operation, it did start last year, we are still in the process of getting that together but we are hoping that it will be in place by the end of this year. In the meantime, Thurrock Council is one of the very few Councils that doesn't just use the criminal justice public order act 1984 to move travellers on, it does look at other parts of legislation to help move them on and that has been equally successful if not much more successful.

**Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Gledhill. Mr Coleman, do you wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr Coleman:**

Yes I do thank you. Thank you for your response. The response didn't know that land was owned by greenbelt. It was after numerous checking that we were advised of that and we had done some digging ourselves. Greenbelt at the time, and I have spoken to greenbelt personally, were advised by the Council that the travellers would only be there for a few days, and there's not really much point in pushing them along too much because they are just going to move to another area. That will save the Council a little bit of money won't it. Again so my question is what measures will be put into place to stop people driving on to the land in Chafford and that particular area, ironically yes the greenbelt company that own it have said that residents would have to pay themselves to put some fencing up or something if they want to. And to write to them for approval. But under the planning permission for Chafford Hundred we are not allowed to put a shed in our own garden. So how can residents on the bit of land that they pay nothing for and don't own, put fencing up as well.

**Mayor:**

Thank you. Councillor Gledhill

**Councillor Gledhill:**

Thank you for your supplementary there Mr Coleman. Obviously it's not for me to dictate what a private landowner would ask someone to do to try and help protect their land. From what you're saying it does sound somewhat unreasonable for greenbelt to ask you to pay for something that they are responsible for. How they would go about that and if they would get planning permission is another matter. But they are the landowners, they are aware of the covenants on the land, it is down to them to prevent any further incursions on that land. If there are any further problems please do contact me and we will make sure officers make clear their obligations.

## **Item 14 – Questions from Members**

The Mayor informed the Chamber that 1 question had been received to the Leader of the Council and 10 questions had been received to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee had been received.

### **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

#### **1. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Gledhill:**

Could the Leader please update the Chamber on progress with dealing with Serious ASB issues and crime on the Garrison Estate in Purfleet?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Gledhill

**Councillor Gledhill:**

Thank you madam mayor, eventually. And thank you Councillor Gerrish. I do apologise in advance, because of the amount of work that has been undertaken by officers and the Police this will be a fairly lengthy answer. I am aware of the situation on the Garrison and the issues that have been raised both direct to myself and through officers and indeed through Councillor Gerrish. An initial response was sent after concerns were raised on 28 of May by the Chief Executive and a more detailed response was sent on the 25 June by the Corporate Director. Senior Officers of the Council have met the Tenant's Reps on the 5 July and have agreed a monthly meeting to update them on progress. In terms of specifics, repairs have been done within the communal area of Chieftan Drive and the broken glass panels have been replaced with the metal mesh type glass to help reduce the likelihood of vandalism. Repairs have been completed to all magnetic door closures to reduce access by other people that are not residents. And funding has been secured to enhance the CCTV in Chieftan Drive and around the Garrison area. We are also introducing improvements to the security control panel to prevent unauthorised access across all blocks. The Tenancy Team secured funding for demolition of the garages that have been vandalised. Mobile CCTV units are planned to tackle the motorbike and quad bike nuisance as well as locking the gates to the spider fields to reduce access, this is on top of the things I announced earlier. With Police getting access to help tackle this direct. I won't say what it is I don't want to give the game away. Two weapon sweeps have been taken on the estate following intelligence received. A golf club was recovered on the first but nothing on the second. The Antisocial Behaviour team is seeking possession of a property concerned where drugs have been found and are actively pursuing evidence on another to take their tenancies away. We have written to the parents where we have received evidence in relation to the behaviour of their children or younger people living in their premises. And Essex Police are actively pursuing through the courts perpetrators of public order offences recently. To offer residents assurances and visible presence antisocial behaviour officers are committed to conducting evening patrols with the Police and in addition Essex Police are running operation borderland over an extended period to gather intelligence and provide visibility of where the problems actually are. Alongside our Garrison estate working group where professionals meet to agree progress of actions meetings have also taken place with Garrison estate Residents Engagement Group. Following a

consultation with those residents we are looking to apply for a PSPO which will impose conditions on those committing crime and nuisance and antisocial behaviours on the Garrison estate. This can only happen when we have got the evidence so it is a time consuming piece of work. We are also working actively with the youth participation team and Active Essex to provide activities so to discourage those who are vulnerable to get involved with ASB, much better to prevent it than to actually go for the cure. And finally to provide further information to our residents and bring the community together we are hosting a family fun day on the 8 August. There are some other initiatives such as getting the youth offending team and the adult offending team at as part of community payback to go out and help clean up the estate, but I am waiting on dates when that would happen but hopefully when that happens there will be an announcement so people can go out and help. Don't forget these events are there obviously part of rehabilitation but also as punishment but the rehabilitation part that you actually get to show the problems that they cause. There are as I say other activities of the Council that are ongoing and I can quite happily write to you about those.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Gerrish do you have a supplementary question?

**Councillor Gerrish:**

Thank you madam mayor yes. I would just like to thank Councillor Gledhill for his response and for the actions that both he and the Council have taken so far on this issue, and credit where credit is due I think since I raised this issue with both him and the Chief Executive a lot has been done in the area. I think there is still more to do but we are moving in the right direction in terms of tackling some of the issues that we have seen. Madam Mayor when residents came to me a huge concern of theirs was trying to get the Police or Council to listen to their problems that they were facing day in and day out. At times they felt abandoned to whatever might happen and have been in real fear for their safety. Will the leader agree to take up conversations with officers to ensure we have both a clear and understood escalation path for Council staff especially the more junior Council staff that might receive the initial reports of these kinds of issues when issues of serious crime are first reported. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Gledhill do you wish to respond?

**Councillor Gledhill:**

Yes there is, number one we are working in the right direction, yes there is more to do, and yes definitely it will take some time to actually resolve this. Equally yes we need to make sure that whoever receives the information passes it up the line to those who can make the decisions. There is nothing worse than residents giving information day in day out for weeks on end only to find out that it's stuck on a computer or has not been passed to the relevant officer and not dealt with in an appropriate time. Residents want to see action and they want to see it when its needed not when we feel that it is necessary. So there will be a process put in place to ensure that can happen, not just with us but with the Police as well. Such as reporting it to an officer on the street, they can only do so much, but we need to make sure that it gets up through the system, that it is reported as a crime, recorded

as a statistic. That way we can get Essex Police to put more resources in to the area. That will also help me as part of the antisocial behaviour project that we have got going to say where we need to put the resources and what resources are needed where.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Gerrish do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

**Councillor Gerrish:**

Thank you Councillor Gledhill, no supplementary.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO CABINET MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE COUNCIL ON A JOINT COMMITTEE**

**1. From Councillor Duffin to Councillor Holloway:**

Can you lay out the influence you have as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to prevent the closure of Orsett Hospital?

**QUESTION WAS WITHDRAWN**

**2. From Councillor Akinbohun to Councillor Watkins**

There has been appalling service from c2c recently as we continue to see service disruptions on a regular basis. Many of my residents have lost money, lost jobs, some said their refund policy is very hard to follow. What are you doing to ensure c2c is aware of the discomfort the disruptions are causing and to make sure there are improvements?

**Mayor:**

Thank you would you like to answer Councillor?

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, thank you Councillor for your question and may I welcome you also to the chambers this evening as well, I know it's your first question so welcome to the chamber. I would obviously firstly like to say that I am sorry to hear that residents of Chafford Hundred who use C2C rail service have experience disruptions or delays and obviously extend out my apologies as well to the rest of Thurrock as well within that, not just obviously the residents of Chafford Hundred the users of C2C service. I would add that I am sure C2C are fully aware of the problems on their line, only have to read their Twitter sometimes to know how the general users sometimes feel about that. But obviously the performance I have had a look at this it so trust me does need to be better I have seen where this has dipped and obviously I would say on defence to C2C sometimes there are incidents which are not in their control. I know there was one last week in particular where there was a person fell unwell, obviously wish that person a very speedy recovery and if you read that report obviously they couldn't stop at Barking like they normally would do, it was advised by the doctor I think on the site at the time that they had to stop at Limehouse in order to seek the medical attention in order for

that person who was unwell got that the medical attention they needed and obviously that did cause serve disruptions to the line but that is obviously one incident among many on there which do need to be explained. So for that a letter has been sent to the Managing Director for C2C from myself regarding disruption to residents, as well as expecting a formal reply obviously about recent incidents, performance and also that compensation which residents, not resident users of C2C can get. I have stated and made aware as well within my letter that I would ask the Chair of PTR Councillor Kerin to send a formal request to C2C asking for them to attend the next meeting so members of the PTR Committee can ask questions directly to C2C. I can't obviously ask him to turn up to that because it's not my Committee but I have made him aware that no doubt Councillor Kerin will be sending him a request very shortly and alongside this the leader will be meeting with C2C this Friday to talk about recent performance issues and how we expect to see improvements and best performance residents of Thurrock. I will ensure to remind C2C of the obligations by provide also compensation with the delays in their service and speak to them in regards to the ease of claiming compensation for various customers not already using the automatic delay repay system. Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Akinbohun do you have a supplementary question for the Councillor.

**Councillor Akinbohun:**

No Madam Mayor.

**3. From Councillor Fletcher to Councillor Watkins**

The current weight restrictions in Belhus leave most of the ward at the mercy of HGVs - does the Councillor support a review of weight restrictions and HGV mitigation measures across the borough?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you very much Madam Mayor thank you Councillor for your question, I think I am going to be saying this an awful lot tonight because it seems to be everyone's got questions for me. Welcome to the Chamber as well. HGVs down residential roads obviously are not only an issue in Belhus but they are obviously an issue across the rest of the Borough I am sure we all do feel that it has been mentioned many time by all parties. Obviously by no means the first time it has been mentioned, I would say we are always tackling HGVs access seriously and I've taken measures across the borough to tackle this, from both taking appropriate action on road changes and to enforcement. We've received some stats that say actually approximately 3000 penalty charge notices have been issued across the Borough in the past year that's July to July but I am also very happy to announce that a review is currently underway on HGV weight restrictions not only in Belhus but across the entirety of the Borough as well so just to give you a bit more information on

Belhus, consultation will be going out in around about in August time so keep an eye out for it and I'll make sure obviously you're notified about it as well the residents be. And obviously alongside as well further work is being carried out on HGV point of origin to destination work again not just in Belhus but across the rest of the borough, so yes I do support a review as one is already on going. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Fletcher do you have a supplementary?

**Councillor Fletcher:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, yes firstly I would like to thank you Councillor for that very good news we have been waiting a while, yes it's something we're looking forward to. I am particularly looking forward to the next question because I see that's on HGVs as well and I am sure it will, I am looking forward to the glowing response that we'll receive. Also I'd like really to do is ask the Councillor if he'll ensure the love is shared not just in the east but in the west of the borough.

**Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you very much Councillor for your supplementary, obviously thank you for your kind words about obviously something being done about it as I said you'll be receiving more information coming in August. In regards to sharing the love across the rest of the borough. You know we as an Administration have always shown love to the rest of the borough in particular to the west of the borough. I could go on about many of the things that should come on board, new school places, new health centres, better clean it cut it fill it, road improvements etc etc the list can go on, the answer is yes because it's the same as what we do for the rest of the services.

**Mayor:**

Do you have a second supplementary Councillor?

**Councillor Fletcher:**

Just to say we are all looking forward to seeing the evidence, thank you very much.

**4. From Councillor Anderson to Councillor Watkins**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways please provide an update on the HGV issue along the Manorway in Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins/

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, might as well stay standing up I think. Welcome to the chamber as well Councillor Anderson as well and congratulations on your fantastic win. The HGV issue down the Manor Way and Corringham has been a major issue for some time and the Council, local Councillors, community forums, Essex Police and with the support of DP World colleagues and residents set up a task force to try and tackle the issue. What I would say just as a side note to the remarks just made before obviously HGVs issue are major problems across the entirety of the borough. The Manor Way was obviously a very specific incident whereas been reported in the press much about it there was up to 100 not up to 100 but there was a lot of lorries parking on the cycle path and damaging the verges and the road itself as well as actually causing substantial damage to the road. So swift action had to be taken about that for the safety risks which imposed specially in relation to the cycle path. The Council did take a proactive approach and has been working on plans of the 6 areas affected ensuring measures are put in place to not only stop this from happening now but also to try and stop it from happening from again and I would like to put some thanks on record. My thanks to DP World and for partners for interacting and engaging not only with us but DP World in particular did actually engage with its haulage firms where they were reported and where they had seen the lorries had been parking up they made sure those haulage firms were aware that that was not the practice which should be taken. Just going through some of the stuff which was done, new signs were placed down the Manor Way by request from the Police and clearly stating no parking is allowed on the road or its paths or verges, and this was at the request to help the Police. The Council Enforcement Officers have taken on a series of enforcement evenings which saw multiple CPN issued, enforcement officers continue to enforce down the Manor Way. The Police did do a little bit of enforcement, I would have like to see them do a little bit more but that's a different story. I am very happy to announce this evening with 106 funding works will be carried out down the Manor Way to start repairs and instigate solutions to resolve the issue great new story Councillor there will be a series of work to start which will see curbs raised, protection from the drainage areas as well as installation of bollards our retention is to protect the cycle path and were making adjustments to road layout too. As I have stated the Council has been proactive in this matter, plans do take time and I am very thankful for the team for the hard work on this and again thanks once again to everyone who has been involved in the task force which no doubt will continue as well. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Anderson do you wish to pose a supplementary.

**Councillor Anderson:**

I would like to thank the member along with the Council team for their work with regards to this issue, however there have been some particular complaints with regards to HGV parking along the Manor Way between the guard rail just outside the Thames Haven Road. I was wondering if there were any plans to deal with this issue in particular.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor for your supplementary. Yes there are plans in place as part of the 106 works which will be carried out. I know details have been shared to the relevant Ward Councillors across the chamber. What we intend on doing is taking the guard rail back so it's closer to the road which actually frees up little bit of parking for the residents there but ensure as well that no lorries can park there any time soon. I for one have seen this on my many runs and my attempt to get fit these days I have taken many photos of those lorries parked up outside and reported it. Again I would like to thank our Enforcement Officers as well for taking the required work they have done in order to pursue those cases, so yes. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Anderson do you have second supplementary?

**Councillor Anderson:**

No thank you.

## 5. From Councillor Fish to Councillor Watkins

Residents in Clarence Road have raised concerns with myself and my fellow Ward Councillors about the high volume of traffic and in particular HGVs in the road which is causing frequent damage to parked vehicles and risking further more serious damage to vehicles and road users. What does the Portfolio holder intend to do to alleviate the situation?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor, you're going to get sick of saying Councillor Watkins tonight Madam Mayor. Obviously there is a common theme of the HGV issue going on across this borough this evening from all sides of the chamber. I would obviously like to say I am sorry to hear the residents of Clarence Road are experiencing said difficulties and obviously experiences I would ask Councillor if its ok to have them instances to hand if you could then forward them on to myself and to our teams as well so we can take the appropriate action as well and obviously if there is damage being done to those vehicles its obviously they can see what the lorries are that is a Police matter as well so can take the appropriate action. As mentioned this evening a review is currently being carried out of about the weight restrictions not just mentioned in Belhus but the entirety of Thurrock.

Obviously I did a bit of information about this actually, you may well know this Councillor I am not sure if you do so if you don't mind saying this is but between Cement Block Cottages and Stanley Road there is actually an existing weight restrictions which is currently designed to stop the HGVs rap running obviously if that is not happening the way it should be obviously that can be addressed. The Police are responsible for that enforcement and obviously we will speak to the Police about continuing to do enforcement but one of the things that we are doing as I mentioned it, is looking at the point of origin to the point of destination of HGVs as well and with Grays in particular we are looking at the designated route which these HGVs should and can take and to see if solutions can be made more effective for Police to be able to do their enforcement action against. Hope this answers your question obviously

as I said this review is ongoing I would really like for you to feed into that review any information you can provide that would be super helpful and I will take any questions. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Fish do you have a supplementary question.

**Councillor Fish:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, can you give me some idea of the timeline for that review when it would be taking place and when it will be more likely to conclude.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, as I've already mentioned the review is taking place right now so this is not something which has just started this is something that has been going on for a little while now. I can't actually give you the cast-iron guarantee as to when it will come to you in Grays, it will no doubt come to you very shortly as I've mentioned the one in Belhus is coming out to consultation in August. I'll chase up and come back to you with more appropriate responses if that's ok when we'll likely to see that consultation review come back. As I mentioned already there is a review ongoing about origin destinations of those vehicles and the designated routes which is obviously quite an in-depth piece of work, and we've obviously come to the stage were we feel that appropriate action will be able to take place in the work which will need to be carried out of have a good impact on the residents then well come out with that information.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Fish do you have a second supplementary.

**Councillor Fish:**

No thank you Madam Mayor.

**6. From Councillor Rigby to Councillor Watkins**

Please can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways provide an update on our pot hole filling pledge?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, and in tradition of this evening welcome to the chamber Councillor Rigby. As part of this Administration to continue the commitment to clean it cut it fill it policy I am more than happy to inform the chambers as to where we are with pot hole filling. In the 2017-2018 year 6391 pots holes were filled and so far this year, as already mentioned by the leader in his opening statement 1108 pot holes have been filled. We did see an increase number of reported pot holes this year, which as you can imagine was from the harsh of weather experience, to the constant rain and snow quite a lot of snow and the constant cold temperatures from now obviously seeing the complete reversal when the sun doesn't seem to want to go away. June alone we repaired 315 pot holes which is Council an incredible number when you think about it, but not only are we being proactive with repairing the road

network, where our pot holes formed we are also looking at undertaking patching works where there are signs of damage to the road network which could lead to further and future complications taking on my belief that we should be proactive within the service. Madam Mayor I am proud of this Council's Administrations continued achievements so far. Transport department in the last two years has won multiple awards since April 2016 and we have filled over 20 thousand pot holes that have been repaired and we continue to invest in our clean it cut it fill it policy and more to come. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Rigby do you have a supplementary question?

**Councillor Rigby:**

Madam Mayor, yes please. Thank you Councillor for your response, it is great this Administration continues to invest in the clean it cut it fill it campaign and take pride in our borough. Residents of Stifford Clays are very happy with this year's improvement to Long Lane. Moving on from your comments about being proactive please may I ask the Council to look at some of the deteriorated roads we do have in Stifford Clays, namely Oak Way, Whitmore Avenue and Cramaville Street to see if there can be any repairs in the future either for this financial year or next please?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor for your supplementary. Yes absolutely, we'll make sure that is passed on and that will take a look into those roads. I know in particular Cramaville Street and Fairway designated for some work to see how the road network is currently looking down there and if work needs to be carried out on those roads either in this year or next year and I will ensure that Oak Way and Whitmore as well are included within those reviews as well. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Rigby do you have a second supplementary?

**Councillor Rigby:**

No thank you Madam Mayor.

**7. From Councillor Jefferies to Councillor Watkins**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways please provide an update on the bin review announced last year?

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor and again welcome to the chamber this evening, I know you've spoken a few bits already I am more than happy to advise on the update this evening on the bin review over the last few months the team have been working hard on identifying all existing bins across the borough find the position and assisting the state they are in and also looking at how often they are emptied and also the residual rubbish left around those bins in

particular to see if they are big enough, based on this and the fact that we finally know where all the bins are which is sadly never have seem to have been done before, we are in the process of replacing where needed and removing unused bins and replacing were required bigger and better bins. The procurement is coming to its end and we expect this to be finished by the end August, and this will be an investment of over 400 thousand pounds on top of the money we have already invested into the clean it cut it fill it policy. We're looking at all types of bins what are the best types for the area they are located, big belly obviously have played a massive part it in the last year following their trial and obviously forming a so call part of the review as well. Other areas looking into are by bus stops across the borough to see if more bins are needed by the bus stops to soak up some of that rubbish left by those waiting for a bus were pockets of litter are found, bins in cemetery as reported in last full Council obviously being reviewed as well, and bins in less density populated areas but could require a bin all factors are being considered installation will start as soon as these bins come into play. But by no means do I want this to be a one off thing, I want this to be continuous prevention is the best solution, rubbish in the bin not rubbish on the floor. So I want us to continue to install bins were they are required by any future demands.

I think this is still and is a great new story, it is over 400 thousand pounds in additional investment into the clean cut it fill it policy. This is helping residents on the ground it might only seem a very small way for some, but a new bin in a good area soaking up that rubbish which is in the bin and not on the floor makes a huge difference. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Jefferies do you have a supplementary question

**Councillor Jefferies:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor Watkins for such a comprehensive reply, I am pleased to see the continued investment in clean it, cut it and fill it are that the Councils proactively installing bins in Ockendon in particular in Brandon Grove, as you mentioned the further reviews being done but I wondered if you could confirm when the bins in the rest of Ockendon will be replaced and in particular Dilkes Park and Bonnygate Park.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you very much Councillor for your supplementary. Yes just want to touch on the point you raised about bins obviously installed in parts of Brandon Grove already this goes back into my point about us being proactive obviously a lot of work has happened across the entire borough as well where both residents and both Councillors have commented about perhaps the state of the bins perhaps the state of the park as example needing more bins where it is required or perhaps there are instances which I have reported in the past where you turned up having three bins in one block and but then no bin anywhere else, this just seems peculiar in my opinion and obviously we have taken on some of that work on already to

try and fix where bins need to be fixed but obviously looking at where there is some demands for that bin now. As I stated once the bins arrived once the procurement exercise has finished they will start to be installed and we expect that to be finished by May 2019. I can confirm that Ockendon bins and the ones not already installed will be looking to be done within the first two months of 2019 January February. Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor.

**Mayor:**

Thank you, Councillor Jefferies do you have a second supplementary?

**Councillor Jefferies:**

Thank you Madam Mayor only to thank Councillor Watkins for his answer.

**8. From Councillor Hague to Councillor Huelin:**

Could the Cabinet Member please update the Chamber on the Council's policy for the maintenance of play equipment in our parks and open spaces?

**Mayor: Councillor Watkins, Oh no, that was a trick. Councillor Huelin?**

**Councillor Huelin:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor Hague for your question. Play equipment inspected weekly, minor repairs like tightening up nuts and bolts and things are done by the team on the site after the inspection, larger repairs include things like resurfacing are done by specialist contractors as and when they are required and then more complex repairs like replacing slides and swing seats and things are done by the play fitter. Some of the spares are kept in stock and could be done fairly quickly but sometime they have to be ordered from abroad and so it can take a little while to arrive, and equipment may have to be sent off for safety reasons and until the replacements arrive and can be fitted.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Hague, do you have a supplementary?

**Cllr Hague:**

Yes please Madam Mayor thank you Councillor Huelin that was very helpful, I just wanted further raise the matter for Rainbow Road/Warren Lane play area in Chafford Hundred as you might recall the local forum Councillors and resident work together to reclaim the land and secure the funding for the play area and the equipment several years ago. This play area has been a tremendous success it is very popular with residents in fact it has been a victim of its own success. It was brought to my attention some of the equipment, the slide and rope swing in particular are suffering from severe wear and tear, I have reported this to Officers but could I ask your support as portfolio holders to get urgent attention on this, particular as we are now reaching the holiday period the equipment will be getting much more use. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Huelin.

**Councillor Huelin:**

Thank you Councillor Hague, absolutely I think it's fantastic when community groups come together and take charge of a project like that, so yes I will please ask officers to look into this to that straight away and see if we can get something done before the end of the summer holidays.

**Mayor:**

Do you wish to have a second supplementary question Councillor Hague?

**Councillor Hague:**

No thank you Madam Mayor.

**Mayor:**

Moving onto the question 9 Councillor John Kent can you please read out your question on page 214.

**9. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Halden**

Can the Portfolio Holder explain to the residents of Elm Road, Maple Road and the surrounding streets why they should lose their, much loved, six acre park?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Halden, we have just have just over a minute left. Thank you

**Councillor Halden:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, first of all I would like to put out to Councillor Kent that the current place plan projects that by September 2022 Grays going to be a short of well over a 1000 school places, so his earlier comment of we should just expand existing schools, will nowhere near cater for that amount, unless you want to spend absolute millions ferrying children from Grays all over the Borough for their education. We have considered other sites in the area and nothing was available I am determine I do want to work with local resident to see what we can do to mitigate the impact of the build, but we've got the statutory responsibility to look for places and we are proud that we are delivering almost 60 million pounds in Grays to build 3 new schools. But let's be quite honest about your questions, I was very disappointed when I saw your tweet, turning up at the site with a collection of Labour Councillors, and Labour Candidates and Labour activists all in red rosettes from all over the borough from different wards some failed candidates and its quite clear this is more about.

**Mayor:**

Councillor, Can we now finish we have had exactly 30 minutes for question time. Can I ask Councillor Kent would you like a written answer?

**Mayor:**

The question time is now finished, OK question time is now finished, with the remaining questions that we have, with the remaining questions that we have on the list including indeed if Councillor Kent wishes to ask a supplementary question of Councillor Halden not in the chamber he is within his right to do so, and I am going to go through the list now there is a couple questions left and ask if people would like a written answer to their questions. All we have is Councillor Worrall. Councillor Worrall would you like a written answer to your question?

**10. From Councillor Worrall to Councillor Watkins**

What is the importance of parks and improving our open spaces for residents to enjoy?

Councillor Worrall requested for her question to be resubmitted at the next Full Council please, thank you.