

## **Item 13 – Questions from Members**

The Mayor informed the Chamber that one question had been submitted to the Leader and a further three questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

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

#### **1. From Councillor Snell**

*With reference to the comments made in the local press by the interim Chief Executive, will Thurrock be 'doing its bit' and housing Syrian refugees?*

This question was withdrawn at the meeting by Councillor Snell.

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

#### **1. From Councillor Redsell**

*The majority of parking outside schools is done responsibly. Having had many yellow lines placed outside of schools, and parents still park(ing) illegally and irresponsibly in side roads and around the school. How do you envisage the pilot scheme allowing teachers to take on parking enforcement will tackle and solve the problem?*

#### **Mayor**

Councillor Potheary. Please respond.

#### **Councillor Potheary**

Thank you Madam Mayor. I am hoping Councillor Redsell that after the wait you will be happy with the responses.

Ok. As to terms of parking, from September the school gate enforcement pilot at Tilbury Pioneer Academy will give appropriately trained and equipped members of the school community the power to issue fix penalty notices to motorists flouting parking restrictions outside schools. Up and till now the school enforcement had to be undertaken by Thurrock small team of enforcement officers who had to spread their resources across all the schools in the borough. I hope that the daily enforcement, the new pilot scheme will provide, will provide an effective deterrent and hopefully in the future based on the pilot we should hopefully be able to roll out to further schools.

**Mayor**

Councillor Redsell, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Redsell**

Thank you Madam Mayor. Thank you for that answer. The pilot scheme at the moment only includes five schools how long before all schools will be included also why only one secondary school has joined in with the first pilot scheme. Thank you.

**Mayor**

Councillor Potheary

**Councillor Potheary**

Ok, so I think I did say this in my question. But I am aware of why you might have thought it was involving five schools. So, we invited all schools in the borough to take part in the trial, Tilbury Pioneer was the only school in a position at the time to commit the necessary time and effort. Should the trial prove a successful we do hope that others schools will take up the opportunity at a later date. Personally it is something that I would like to see at every school but obviously we have to work with the schools on that to show them that there is a real benefit to the school as well as the local community.

**Mayor**

Councillor Redsell, do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

**Councillor Redsell**

Thank you for that. Just a short one. I know the time only started in September and if any tickets were issued, I don't expect you to have the answer to night, but if you could let us know how it is going. Thank you.

**2. From Councillor Redsell**

The unlawful grazing of horses on council land including some children's play areas and also in many other parts of Thurrock. Can you inform the chamber what if any revenue this brings to Thurrock Council or if not, what action is been taken to stop this?

**Mayor**

Councillor Potheary

### **Councillor Potheary**

Sorry. Thank you Madam Mayor. Thank you Councillor Redsell for her question. So, Thurrock Council does receive a small amount of income from granting grazing licences on some of its land but that's legal grazing. So because your question is about unauthorised grazing I would like to inform the chamber that where the council is aware of this happening on its land and where there is a health and safety or financial risk the owners of the horses are requested to remove them. If the owner is not known a notice is displayed in the area stating that the horses must be removed. Until recently there has not been the need to take these further steps. In recent weeks however there have been increasing incidents particularly on housing and highways land. This has been especially problematic in Tilbury and Councillor Worrall has fought really hard on this issue to find a solution. Consequently notices will be served and specialist contractor engaged to enforce this set of notices. This will hopefully act as a deterrent to others and give the message loud and clear that horses should not be left to graze on verges and in our parks.

### **Mayor**

Councillor Redsell do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

### **Councillor Redsell**

Thank you Madam Mayor. You have already answered my second supplementary so can I go onto my third. Thank you. I was just going to ask about Children's Park but you have already covered this. As we as a council are we following up the chipping and passporting of horses in the borough and are any of the horses that are not chipping or passported on council land.

### **Councillor Potheary**

I do not know the exact details of that but I can get back to you with that.

### **Mayor**

Councillor Redsell. No.

### **3. From Councillor Aker**

Thank you very much Madam Mayor. Can the Cabinet Member for Housing tell me how many council houses were bought under 'right to buy' every year from 2010 to the current day?

### **Mayor**

Councillor Worrall

### **Councillor Worrall**

Thank you Councillor Aker and I can indeed tell you that in 2010/11, 10 brought; 2011/12, 21; 2012/13, 46; 2013/14, 88; 2014/15, 68. And this year 2015/16 as of 7 September 35; 268 in the last five years.

### **Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Worrall.

Councillor Aker do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

### **Councillor Aker**

I do, thank you Madam Mayor. Is Councillor Worrall who gave comment to 'Your Thurrock' on the 12 June 2015 where she said she struggles with the 'Right to Buy' which for decades took homes and money out of a system designed to help those most in need, the same Lyn Worrall who this year in these Land Registry documents brought a property in Kelvin Road, Tilbury using the Right to Buy?

### **Mayor**

Councillor Worrall

### **Councillor Worrall**

I am quite happy to answer that. Councillor Aker, yes I have brought My Right to Buy. I have used my Right to Buy. I have lived in Thurrock all of my life. I have lived in Tilbury all of my life. For 25 years I was a council tenant, I did 9 years in a council flat, I moved into a house and then I moved once more, still in Tilbury, still in the community that I represent. And because I am an elected councillor in the town that I grew up there was no reason that the Right to Buy scheme should exclude me to buy my house. I work full time, as well as being a councillor and I want the same securities for me and my two children that every other resident has in Thurrock, and that we strive to give every other resident. So with all due respects Councillor Aker you are the last person in this chamber that I feel that I have to take moral advice from. Thank you.

### **Mayor**

Now, Now. Councillor Aker do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

### **Councillor Aker**

I do, thank you, I do. I can understand your comments there, but do you not see the hypocrisy and the people who will be watching this, that it is all well and good campaigning and saying one thing against right to buy and then doing another thing entirely in private. Surely as the Portfolio Member for

housing there should be some consistency on this and not saying one thing and doing another.

**Councillor Worrall**

Thank your Councillor Aker. And here in Thurrock I am glad to see now we are building houses for when we are selling houses and by 2020 we would have built another 1000 houses using the receipts from right to buy. Firmly efficient houses being built for Thurrock residents. So I don't see that I personally should not buy my right to buy. When everyone else has a right to your right to buy, every other council tenant has a right to buy. We are building good houses for our residents.

**Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Worrall.