

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY 2009

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the appropriate Lead Member at the Council Meeting on 15th July 2009.
2. The Council's Constitution provides a maximum time limit of thirty minutes for this item.
3. A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the Member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original or the reply. Supplementary questions and Members' responses to written and supplementary questions are each limited to two minutes.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the thirty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the questioner or the Member to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the Mayor decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member of the Council may move, without discussion, that the matter raised by a question be referred for consideration to the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee.

QUESTIONS

Three questions have been submitted as set out below:-

6.1 Question from Mr. Terry McGreenera to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

“In the light of the statement made by the Prime Minister earlier in the year about a return to council housing and the measures announced in the Budget, does the Lead Member for Housing regret the policies that this Council has pursued over the past decade and the trouble, grief and human and financial cost that it has caused to people in Tower Hamlets?”

6.2 Question from Mr. Barry Blandford to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

“Jubilee Crescent is a Sheltered Housing Scheme located at 327 to 355A Manchester Road in the Blackwall and Cubitt Ward, Post Code E14 3HN. It consists of 4 x 6 bedroom flats, 3 on the ground floor, 3 on the first floor and 1 x 3 flats on the first floor, with the ground floor as a 3 bedroom flat (for Manager) plus an office and Day/Club room.

Recently a meeting was held with the residents and a general manager on the future and we were told that it was being taken out of Sheltered as there was no lift or wheel chair access. The Residents that moved into the Crescent over the years took up residency as it was designated Sheltered.

It seems that yet again the council is taking the stance that we older people do not matter. We had no information, no consultation and the matter was dealt with at a Cabinet meeting behind closed doors.

We also have received a letter from the planning department on a scheme to replace the windows from Crittal to PVC with new doors, afterwards we had a meeting with the general manager on this proposal, and since the application was turned down and a new one submitted which we were told has been agreed, once again we have not been consulted.

We also have discovered through an advert in East End Life that the 3 bedroom flat has been advertised for a couple with a carer over 60 or brother and sister. This has annoyed the residents as we were hoping it to be converted to a one bedroom flat a sleep-in room for a relative a complete office with own toilet and extension of clubroom plus another toilet to bring it up to health and safety regulation.

We have been wondering whether or not any of the cabinet members have ever visited the Crescent and seen what a grand site one that was built for retirement home for the Dockers in 1935 in the year of the Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary and refurbished by the LDDC in 1985 and opened by Mrs. Jo Benson OBE JP Housing Corporation Board Member.

I, on this occasion would on behalf of the residents request that we are visited by a member of the Cabinet, a planning officer and a ward councillor and to be listened to the queries of the older people?”

6.3 Question from Ms. Joanna Kaschke to the Lead Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Abdul Asad:

“Holiday Play Centre provision has become too expensive for benefit recipients so children from poor households miss out on professionally run play centre facilities during the summer. To send a child every during the summer holidays would cost for 25 days £100 + £2 to bring a child there by bus = £50 + a packed lunch cost at £2 per day = £50, + outings costs estimated at £20 total cost = £220.

I think this can be seen as unaffordable for most parents on income support or job seekers allowance taking into consideration all the other costs one has to run a household and clothe a child.

I would like to know why we can’t have cheap local play centres?”