

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010**

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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

**SUMMARY**

1. Eighteen motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for the Council meeting on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
2. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008, the order in which the motions are listed is by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) not reached at the previous meeting.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months unless notice of motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

**MOTIONS**

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

## **11.1 Declassify Old Ford Road as a designated route for heavy goods vehicles**

**Proposed: Councillor Stephanie Eaton**

**Seconded: Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan**

This Council notes:

- a) That Old Ford Road is a narrow residential street with many period properties that are very close to the road;
- b) That vibrations from HGV lorries cause damage to residential properties;
- c) That the noise from HGV lorries in close proximity to homes disturbs residents living on Old Ford Road;
- d) That more suitable routes are available for HGVs to travel through Bethnal Green;

This Council resolves:

1. To investigate alternative designated routes for heavy goods vehicles through Bethnal Green;
2. To classify Old Ford Road as a residential road, and not suitable for HGV lorries;
3. To ensure that satellite navigation systems, maps and other guidance for drivers are amended to reflect this change.

## **11.2 Support for the co-operative and social enterprise sector**

**Proposed: Councillor Alex Heslop**

**Seconded: Councillor Denise Jones**

This Council recognises that there is a diverse and healthy co-operative sector in Tower Hamlets with a combined turnover of approximately £50 million and also appreciates the important role that co-operatives and other social enterprises can play in community and economic regeneration initiatives. Although there are many successful co-operative enterprises operating in Tower Hamlets such as Tower Hamlets Community Credit Union, Tower Hamlets CDA and Greenwich Leisure (effectively a workers co-op), as well as several food co-ops and housing co-operatives, there is not a single Council officer with a specific remit or indeed expertise for working with the co-operative & social enterprise sectors.

This Council resolves to do the following:

- Allocate responsibility for supporting the co-operative & social enterprise sectors to the Lead Member for Regeneration as well as a designated Council officer who will promote and support new mutual models for the provision of

community services, including housing, pre-school childcare, residential and home care, recycling and leisure. Made possible through service reviews, externalising, or re-contracting services and procurement procedures.

- Organise an annual event to celebrate International Co-operatives Day in partnership with the local Co-operative Movement; this could also involve the Tower Hamlets Partnership and its Creating and Sharing Prosperity Community Plan Action Group.
- Develop procurement strategies that make a direct link between the Community Plan and other strategic objectives and contract specifications ensuring that community benefits can be fully integrated into the procurement process.
- Work with the Co-operative Sector and London Development Agency to improve access to finance and support for socially and mutually owned businesses.
- Work with staff and unions on a partnership basis in the creation of new cooperative services

### **11.3 Sale of Henry Moore Sculpture**

**Proposed: Councillor Rupert Eckhardt**

**Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer**

This Council notes: -

- The original Henry Moore sculpture entitled *Draped Seated Woman* is worth several million pounds and is currently housed in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in Wakefield, a 400 mile round trip from Tower Hamlets.
- The 23,000 families on the Tower Hamlets housing waiting list

This Council resolves: -

- To sell the sculpture at auction in order to raise capital funds with which to build new homes for social rent on the Renault showroom on the Commercial Road
- To hand over the proceeds of the sale and the ownership of Renault garage to the local RSL that can build the most housing for social rent.

## **11.4 Facilities for cricket**

**Proposed: Councillor Abjol Miah**

**Seconded: Councillor Salim Ullah**

1) This Council notes:

- a) the current first class cricket tour by the England team of Bangladesh
- b) the establishment of Bangladesh as a first class international cricket team
- c) the tour of England of the Bangladesh cricket team beginning in May
- d) the widespread interest in and enthusiasm for cricket amongst young people in all sections of our community
- e) the acute lack of cricket pitches or cricket facilities of any kind in Tower Hamlets
- f) that young people have to travel a long way out of the borough to find first class cricket facilities
- g) the nearest grounds at which we will be able to see the Bangladesh cricket team play during its tour are Chelmsford, the Oval and Lord's
- h) the recent excellent development of cricket facilities at Old Ford Primary School

2) This Council believes:

- a) an interest in and enthusiasm for cricket should be encouraged amongst young people in Tower Hamlets from all sections of the community and both boys and girls
- b) the Council should encourage schools to follow the initiative of Old Ford Primary school in finding ways to develop their own cricket facilities
- c) schools should be encouraged to take advantage of the Bangladesh cricket tour to arrange trips to see cricket with their pupils
- d) the Council should organise a civic reception for the Bangladesh and England cricket teams when Bangladesh are on tour in England to encourage interest in cricket in this borough
- d) urgent investigation should be made into the possibility of improving and providing cricket facilities in Victoria Park as part of its regeneration sufficient at least to enable professional cricketers to provide exhibition matches

## **11.5 Parking in John Smith Mews**

**Proposed: Councillor Waiseul Islam**

**Seconded: Councillor Rajib Ahmed**

This Council notes:-

The tenants of John Smith Mews are happy with the existing arrangement which has been in place since 2001 when their tenancies were signed that they will be allowed to park their vehicles in their small estate of 14 houses without any parking restrictions.

ONE Housing Group / Toynbee Housing Association has been threatening to impose parking enforcement without consultation and against the wishes of the residents of John Smith Mews, who are happy to open and lock the gate themselves.

That the development is not a car free development but instead it had free car parking without any condition for tenants of Toynbee Housing Association living in John Smith Mews, E14 2DP.

This Council resolves:

To oppose any move by ONE Housing Group to forcefully impose any form of parking enforcement in John Smith Mews without full consultation and agreement with tenants and representatives of the John Smith Mews Tenants Association.

Support and empower the residents of John Smith Mews as residents of London Borough of Tower Hamlets to continue to enjoy the parking facilities originally supplied by Toynbee Housing Association and agreed in writing.

Support residents of John Smith Mews to manage the parking and security aspect of their vehicles by being allowed to lock the gate themselves.

Urge ONE housing group and all housing associations/RSLs to thoroughly consult residents before bringing in any parking enforcement policy.

## **11.6 Display of Henry Moore sculpture**

**Proposed: Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali**

**Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer**

This Council notes that:

- The original Henry Moore sculpture entitled *Draped Seated Woman* is worth several million pounds and is currently housed in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in Wakefield, a 400 mile round trip from Tower Hamlets.

This Council resolves: -

- To commence negotiation with Canary Wharf PLC to move the sculpture to the Canary Wharf Estate where it will be put on permanent and public display.

## **11.7 Anti-Social Behaviour**

**Proposed: Councillor Fazlul Haque**

**Seconded: Councillor Dulal Uddin**

1) This Council notes that:

a) anti-social behaviour blights the lives of many in our community

b) the report of the Chief Inspector of Constabulary Denis O'Connor that many police forces are failing to deal with anti-social behaviour adequately or appropriately

c) the dissatisfaction of many residents with the performance of the police in general and the Safer Neighbourhood Teams in particular

d) residents' dissatisfaction concerns being unable to speak to anyone on the SNT phone numbers, the failure to call back when messages are left on SNT phone numbers and the slow response of the police when they do respond

e) sightings of Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers by residents of this borough are only a little more frequent than sightings of the firecrest or common crane

2) This Council believes that:

a) dealing with anti-social behaviour requires a serious and co-operative approach between a number of agencies, including the council, schools, parents, police and voluntary agencies

b) there is not much point in seeking a boost to police numbers if they are not taking the right approach to anti-social behaviour reports

c) there needs to be close monitoring of the performance of the police in relation to reports of anti-social behaviour, including a record of phone calls unanswered, phone calls not responded to, the speed of response to complaints and, crucially, the accurate recording of anti-social behaviour complaints

d) there needs to be a comprehensive review of anti-social behaviour strategies involving the police, council officers and representatives of other relevant bodies and voluntary agencies to ensure best practice on these issues are adopted in this borough.

## **11.8 Crown Estate residents**

**Proposed: Councillor Joshua Peck**

**Seconded: Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

This Council notes that:

- The Crown Estate announced on 25 January its intention to sell the freeholds of 1,300 properties on the Victoria Park Estate in Tower Hamlets and Hackney, and the Millbank, Cumberland Market and Lee Green estates in other London Boroughs
- Tenants of these homes include people who have lived there for over 60 years, young families and key workers
- Many residents are on shorthold tenancies which could be ended with as little as two months' notice
- The Crown Estate has given residents an eight-week consultation period but has refused to tell residents whether it is proposing selling the properties to a Registered Social Housing Provider or a commercial landlord; or to give them any guarantees about their security of tenure or levels of rent; or to make any commitment to the homes staying as affordable and key worker housing in the future.

Further notes that:

- In advance of this announcement the Crown Estate had temporarily stopped housing key workers, leading many to believe that they expect any new owner to cease providing key worker housing on the estates altogether
- In meetings with residents and Meg Hillier MP, and in response to inquiries from Tower Hamlets Council, the Crown Estate has refused to give any more details of its plans, or give any commitments about the protection of residents' tenancies or the future provision of affordable and key worker housing and has been unable to point to any positive benefits for residents
- As a result, many residents are extremely worried about what will happen to their homes and whether they will find themselves evicted or priced out.

This Council believes:

- That as a public body the Crown Estate has, in failing to give residents any details of the proposed sale or any reassurance about their futures, has fallen far short of the standard it should uphold.

This Council resolves:

- To oppose any sale that doesn't legally guarantee all of the rights and safeguards of tenants' current tenancies, including security of tenure and levels of rents; and that doesn't also guarantee continuing provision of affordable and key working housing at current levels.

### **11.9 Hermitage Memorial Garden**

**Proposed: Councillor Dr. Emma Jones**

**Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer**

This Council notes:

- The importance of the Hermitage Memorial Garden in commemorating the civilian deaths of the Second World War;
- The damage to the Hermitage Memorial Garden and the sculpture on Wapping High Street; and
- The lack of CCTV to protect the gardens

This Council resolves to:

- Install CCTV to monitor and protect the gardens; and
- Repair the damage to the sculpture and restore the gardens to their former glory.



## **11.10 Crown Estate sell off**

**Proposed: Councillor Dulal Uddin**

**Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah**

1) This Council notes:

a) the intention of the Crown Estate to sell off residential properties in a number of estates across London

b) property they intend to sell off includes a significant number of homes around Victoria Park on the Tower Hamlets side

c) this sell-off appears to be intended directly or indirectly to finance a project in Lower Regent Street and is part of a Crown Estate strategy to redefine their core strategy focussing on commercial properties which has included loss-making investment in retail parks

d) Crown Estate residential property provides essential housing for key workers

e) there has been an excellent campaign by residents against this sell off

f) the Crown Estate is refusing even to ballot residents on whether or not they want to be sold off

g) George Galloway MP has put down an Early Day Motion opposing the sell off, Frank Dobson has held an adjournment debate and Treasury Select Committee MPs have subjected both the Chief Executive of the Crown Estate and the minister responsible to a grilling over the sell off

2) This Council believes:

a) it would not be in the interests of the residents or the wider interests of society for these properties to be sold off to property speculators or others

b) at the very least the Crown Estate should ballot the residents about the sell off and that this is required of them under their obligation to promote good management

c) the Government does have the legal power to direct the Crown Estate not to sell off these properties and should exercise that power if the Crown Estate does not abandon this sell off voluntarily

3) This Council demands:

a) the Crown Estate ballots all residents on the sell off and agrees to be bound by the result of that ballot

b) the Government should direct the Crown Estate not to sell off these properties if the Crown Estate refuses to ballot its residents and intends to proceed with the sell off

### **11.11 Parking permits for 62-80 Swaton Road**

**Proposed: Councillor Rania Khan**

**Seconded: Councillor Alibor Choudhury**

This Council notes:

That the residents of 62-80 Swaton Road have been granted parking permits since 2004.

That in 2009 the Council informed residents that the development was a car free zone.

That the fact the development is “car free” was not made clear to residents when they moved into the properties.

That many of those living in this development rely on their cars for their livelihoods and may well not have moved there if they had been informed about its car-free status.

That the development in question does not suffer from excessive pressure on car-parking spaces.

That a similar case was brought to the attention of the Council in January in a petition from residents of Horseferry Road, Shadwell who have experienced similar problems.

This Council resolves:

To allow the residents of this development to continue to apply for parking permits in the usual manner.

To oppose the imposition of “car-free” status on this development in view of the fact that occupants were not informed of this when they moved into the properties.

### **11.12 Rosefield Gardens**

**Proposed: Councillor David Snowdon**

**Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer**

This Council notes:

- the shocking state of Rosefield Gardens in Limehouse, where paint is peeling off the ceiling.

- that residents have reported problems of anti-social behaviour, especially in the warmer months, caused by youngsters hanging around the stairs of their blocks.

This Council resolves:

- to undertake urgent redecoration of Rosefield Gardens
- to install security doors to 2-40 Rosefield Gardens and 1-31 Kemps Drive

### **11.13 Dispatches programme and slurs against the Council**

**Proposed: Councillor Fozol Miah**

**Seconded: Councillor Harun Miah**

1) This Council notes:

- a) the recent Dispatches programme presented by Andrew Gilligan which sought to denigrate this council and other organisations and individuals in Tower Hamlets
- b) the active participation in the making of this programme of Jim Fitzpatrick MP
- c) the active participation in the programme of the Leader of the Conservative group Peter Golds
- d) the utterly unfair denigration of a hard-working senior council officer who did not and does not have the power to answer back to that cheap unfair denigration
- e) the subsequent remarks by the chair of Tower Hamlets Labour Party that the Town Hall was a “centre of Islamic Fundamentalism”

2) This Council believes:

- a) the Dispatches programme gave a completely unfair and distorted impression of Tower Hamlets and its Council
- b) no attempt was made by the makers of this programme to produce a balanced, fair and objective analysis of the Council and its decision-making
- c) this programme and its active participants have fuelled antagonism towards members of the Muslim community

3) This Council deplores:

- a) the participation in this programme of Jim Fitzpatrick MP and the comments he made

b) the participation in this programme of Peter Golds, the Leader of the Tory group, and the comments he made

c) the slur against this Council made by the chair of Tower Hamlets Labour Party

4) This Council reaffirms:

a) its commitment to its integrity in decision-making with regard to allocation of funds and other matters

b) its confidence in its senior officers

c) its commitment to One Tower Hamlets, to ensuring harmony and respect between and within communities and its wholehearted opposition to any attempt to divide the Muslim from the non-Muslim community or to divide the Muslim community itself.

#### **11.14 Reducing Carbon Emissions**

**Proposed: Councillor Ohid Ahmed**

**Seconded: Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

This Council notes:-

Climate change is having severe consequences around the world and in particular having devastating effects in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Climate change is already happening in the UK – the ten hottest years on record have all been since 1990 and this winter has been the coldest for 30 years.

The Labour Government's 2008 Climate Change Act made Britain the first country in the world to set a legally binding 'carbon budget', aiming to cut UK emissions by 34% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050 through investment in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

The leadership shown on this issue at the Copenhagen conference by Gordon Brown and Ed Milliband

The Labour Government has more than doubled spending on flood protection since 1997 and developed a heat wave plan in the NHS.

That action by local authorities is critical to the achievement of the Government climate change objectives and is uniquely placed to provide vision and leadership to the local communities by raising awareness and influencing behaviours.

This Council is already committed to:

Local Area Agreement indicator 186 – aiming for a reduction of 10 per cent per capita in CO2 emissions for residents.

A 25 per cent reduction of its own carbon emissions by 2012, 40 per cent by 2016 and 60 per cent by 2020.

This Council resolves:

To formally pledge its support for the 10:10 campaign, the aims of which it is already working towards

To increase awareness among residents of the importance of reducing carbon emissions – especially where doing so can also save money by reducing gas and heating bills.

To use the lessons learned in improving recycling from 7 per cent to over 30 per cent in just 3 years to encourage behavioural change from residents of all backgrounds.

### **11.15 Bethnal Green Stairway to Heaven war memorial**

**Proposed: Councillor Mamun Rashid**

**Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah**

This Council notes:

a) the fantastic achievements of the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust in getting planning permission for the memorial to those who tragically died in the Bethnal Green tube disaster on 3 March 1943 when 173 people were killed in the worst loss of civilian life in Britain during the Second World War

b) so far the Council has committed £100,000 to support the project which needs over £600,000

c) the Trust has done brilliantly in raising tens of thousands more through their fund-raising efforts

d) the campaign is still a long way short of their target

e) the completion of this excellent project will be of great benefit to everyone in Tower Hamlets

2) This Council believes:

a) the Council should do even more to support the project through publicity and promotion of the campaign to raise funds

b) the Council should seek to increase the Council's funding of this project.

### **11.16 Respite breaks for carers**

**Proposed: Councillor Harun Miah**

**Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah**

1) This Council notes:

a) a Freedom of Information enquiry from the Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Crossroads Care has revealed that money promised for carers to get respite breaks is instead being used to plug holes in the NHS budget

b) carers do a fantastic job of caring for the elderly and disabled

c) carers are particularly important in areas of the community where there is not an extended family to act as support for the elderly and disabled

2) This Council believes:

a) there should be an urgent review by the Council with its partners in the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust to ensure that carers are getting funding for respite breaks they desperately need

b) if funding promised for carers is being diverted to plug holes in the NHS budget in Tower Hamlets, urgent measures should be taken to ensure carers do get the funding promised and that holes are plugged by the government and efficiency savings.

### **11.17 Transport for London cuts**

**Proposed: Councillor Salim Ullah**

**Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah**

This Council:

1) is alarmed at impending cuts at Transport for London to fill a £460 million spending gap.

2) notes that these cuts come on top of the fare increases announced by London Mayor Boris Johnson in the New Year, which include a 20 percent rise to the basic bus fare – a move that will disproportionately hit the poorest travellers in Tower Hamlets and London as a whole.

3) is opposed to plans to cut 800 jobs on the London Underground, which will mean more unstaffed stations and threaten passengers' safety and their sense of safety on the network.

4) is opposed to further public transport cuts across London, which will force more people to use cars and undermine a coherent transport and environmental policy

- 5) believes that part of the funding shortfall is due to the current Mayor's abandonment of his predecessor's policy of extending the Congestion Charge Zone to cover the richer areas of Central London.
- 6) recognises that the immediate cause for the shortfall is the PPP scheme to refurbish the Tube, which Gordon Brown as chancellor imposed on the capital against the opposition of Underground unions, passenger groups and Ken Livingstone who was elected as an independent in 2000 opposing the scheme.
- 7) believes that the PPP scheme does not give value for money and is resulting in large amounts of public funding going into the pockets of private contractors such as Bechtel.
- 8) calls on TfL and Mayor Johnson to find alternatives to cuts to public transport and on Lord Adonis, the transport minister, to allow TfL to borrow to cover the shortfall, to recognise that the PPP scheme has been an expensive fiasco and to investigate ways of bringing the tube upgrade fully into public control and ownership, as has in effect happened through the collapse of Metronet's piece of the PPP upgrade.

#### **11.18 John Smith Mews residents objections**

**Proposed: Councillor Abdul Munim**  
**Seconded: Councillor Dulal Uddin**

This Council notes:

- a) the very strong objections to the car clamping system and permit regime that was to have been unilaterally introduced on John Smith Mews by One Housing Group from 16th January 2010
- b) residents are completely happy with the existing key and gate system and see absolutely no reason why this system should be changed
- c) proper consultation has not taken place with residents over this matter by One Housing Group
- d) incorrect information has been used by One Housing Group to justify the changes to the parking regime
- e) residents want the clamping system immediately and permanently withdrawn and a return to the original system pending further negotiations with One Housing Group

This Council supports the residents in these demands.