

Leader's Question Time - Mortlake

Date: Tuesday 31 October 2017

Time: 6pm – 8.45pm

Venue: St Mary's Church

Panel members:

- Deborah Lightfoot (Chair)
- Cllr Paul Hodgins (Leader of the Council)
- Cllr Pamela Fleming (Deputy Leader – Cabinet Member for Environment, Business and Community)
- Cllr Martin Seymour (Cabinet Member for Planning and Strategic Development)
- Cllr Peter Buckwell (Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene)
- Cllr Susan Chappell (Strategic Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools)

Also in attendance: Cllr David Linnette (Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and the Voluntary Sector)

Pre-submitted Questions:

Waste Issue	
Question 1	Helen Bantock - Provision for rubbish at the maisonettes in several streets is insufficient. A bin located by Jubilee Gardens for general waste would be really helpful for people in our situation. I have previously contacted councillors about this matter and received no replies.
Response	Response from 23:54 to 27:58.
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Fleming will talk to the refuse and recycling department to try and find a better solution. However, this is a genuinely difficult problem to solve.• Cllr Hodgins has offered to meet the resident and take a look at the issues faced.
Air Quality in relation to the Level Crossing and Brewery Development (questions were taken in a block and answered together)	
Question 2	Caroline Kelsall (absent, but read out by Chair) - Sadiq Khan has released his damning report on pollution in London. As a matter

	of urgency, what is the Council going to do to change these thoughtless and dangerous driving habits and to enforce cleaner traffic management?
Question 3	Susan Weaver - I am very concerned about the ongoing problem of the Mortlake Rail Crossing, the ever increasing traffic, engine idling etc. and the effect on our health.
Question 4	Graham Kench - What priority is the Council giving to protect Mortlake residents from ill-health and premature death from poor air quality, especially in light of the increased traffic and congestion generated by the Stag Brewery re-development?
Response	Response from 32:18 to 48:03.
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Hodgins acknowledged that the Council can learn from White Hart Lane where residents and businesses have signs in their windows asking drivers to switch off their engines. This will be looked at with businesses and residents to see if something similar can be done at this level crossing.
Transport and highways in relation to the Brewery Development	
Question 5	Michael Cooling - Can you provide an update on the Brewery Development, particularly since the Network Rail report? The level crossing is the most dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.
Response	Response from 49:48 to 57:15.
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will continue to work with Network rail, South Western Railways and the Brewery developers on this issue.
Question 6	Graham Clucas – 1. Can you ask the developers to change Chalker’s Corner now, so we can see if their much vaunted traffic flow improvement scheme makes any real difference? 2. Can you tell the developers to increase the parking on site to at least 1 car per unit? 3. What plans are there to change the mini roundabout at the end of Sheen lane? 4. When do you expect the plans for Mortlake Brewery to be submitted?
Response	Response from 58:42 to 1:07:07.
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled Parking Zones will be revisited and consulted on for the area around the Stag Brewery Site.
School question in relation to the Brewery Development	
Question 7	Howard Potter - Why can't our local youngsters have room to move and clean air to breathe whilst at school at Barn Elms instead of at Mortlake Brewery?
Response	Response from 1:10:27 to 1:18:22.

Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Chappell to work with other Cabinet members and Council officers to make sure that the travel plan is robust. • A discussion will be held with the school sponsor about the size of the proposed school. The site will have a smaller playing area compared with some schools, but we will encourage use of shared space with other local facilities and schools.
Question 8	Kate Woodhouse - As Cllr Hodgins knows, the Mortlake Community Association which serves the local community, does not have a base from which to deliver its services. Will the Council commit to devoting s.106 money from the Brewery development to the establishment of a community centre for Mortlake on the ground floor of the Maltings?
Response	Response from 1:19:20 to 1:22:21.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Officers will be working with Stag Brewery developers to make sure that the ground floor of the Maltings is used for community use and the Council will continue the conversation with Mortlake Community Association on this.

Open Questions from the floor:

Question 9	Cycling is a long term problem. The Lower Richmond Road is dangerous for cyclists and lots of kids are cycling on pavements. In Mortlake Green there is a large bush that needs cutting back as it obstructs the view of cyclists coming around the corner. Walking along the back of Sheen Lane by the Builders Merchants, cyclists are travelling too fast. It is dark and someone is going to be hit. There is a lack of police presence in the area.
Response	Response from 1:25:45 to 1:30:19.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will liaise with the police to look into this problem and will also liaise with local cycling groups and develop a campaign on responsible cycling. • Cllr Buckwell will find out where the bush is and arrange for it to be cut back if possible.
Question 10	Regarding the [Stag Brewery] school - why 1,200 [pupils]? Why not 600, for instance? Why so many?... Like most things in life, there has been compromise, and it sounds like the secondary school is needed for the area, but there is also a big problem with traffic. I would've thought that any sensible decision would be a compromise between reducing the amount of traffic, or trying to maintain the amount of traffic as is, and one way to do that would be to reduce the size of the school.
Response	Response from 1:30:42 to 1:33:35.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A discussion will be held with the school sponsor about the size of the proposed school.
Question 11	Sheen Lane Crossing and the school on the Stag Brewery Site – We have another 1,200 school children bustling over, along with everybody else from the development, which is high risk now, so what's it going to be like when it's all completed?... I live on

	Lower Richmond Road and I see daily, the amount of traffic, and this is going to be so much more when the development is completed. I strongly believe that it is far too big, if you put, let's be honest, an enormous school in the development along with everything else.
Response	Response from 1:34:10 to 1:36:21.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Chappell to work with other Cabinet members and Council officers to make sure that the travel plan is robust
Question 12	<p>Two points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On Neighbourhood behaviours – I'm encouraged by what was said about the 'switching off' campaign from signage up to walls. My suggestion and request is: that we can have that, including the wardens, not only before the brewery development gets started, but before Hammersmith Bridge is next closed, with a priority for the Borough. Related to that, if there are wardens in the area, near that traffic build up, going into Chalkers Corner, maybe those wardens can be eye out for rogue cyclists as well? 2. I'm, aware of a Japanese School in Acton that has a walking train. A walking train is where kids are encouraged to walk from considerable distance away from the school because they are always being overseen by a group of volunteers, parents, staff and others. And could we consider that from very early on as you have rightly said, the school builds up to 1,200?
Response	Response from 1:37:45 to 1:39:18.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Chappell to work with other Cabinet members and Council officers to make sure that the travel plan is robust
Question 13	<p>I want to talk about green space relating to school – I want my kids to have green space to play and I think for me the question is: saving the green space for sports and recreation and as part of the heart of the community. Isn't that even more important as the population grows? What will the council do to actually protect the field, as is, or an AstroTurf? The way I think about is pretty simple, which is 1,200 kids, on an AstroTurf, meaning, they're playing just football, and you're asking 1,200 kids at break time to take time, to choose what sport they want to play. That's a recipe for disaster, they're going to spill out, on to the roads, and the pressure will be, back on the rail crossing, so I don't see us being able to change human behaviour, just by reducing the space they have to play. Actually, I think you should be looking at a smaller school, back to 600 again, or maybe less, or maybe even a primary school. I'm not convinced a secondary school is fit for purpose for that space because, for me, secondary schools need a lot of sporting grounds, whether its football, rugby, basketball, you'd want all of those things to be there, because we want them to not just actually go into a room to learn, we want them to be out there playing because it helps their learning as well. So for me the critical question is: what are you doing besides just squeezing every space for the school?</p>

Response	Response from 1:41:28 to 1:44:47.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will encourage use of shared space with other local facilities and schools.
Question 14	Via Twitter from Brewery Community Group - why did the council change its mind to change on protecting the field, given you said in 2011 planning brief it would be safe from developers?
Response	Response from 1:45:08 to 1:46:40.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required.
Question 15	I have a need to understand what was going on with the developers? They have a need to develop a site; you have a need for a school – could you offer some transparency about what the leverage is? Are they offering you the land? Are they offering you the building? Are they offering you an off the shelf school with all its interiors? What is the value of what they're offering you? Or us as a community?
Response	Response from 1:47:21 to 1:53:20.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will continue to work with the developer.
Question 16	My question is really about protected green space – both the sports field and Chertsey Court are classified as open land with townscape merit (OLT), which is a designation that the council decided many years ago to grant to those two pieces of land. So how can we justify building on them? Are you giving Barn Elms protection? Greater protection than these smaller, but equally precious green spaces?
Response	Response from 1:54:24 to 1:57:58.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Hodgins will talk further with the resident who raised this question and can provide the planning document on Barn Elms.
Question 17	<p>Via Twitter - Francine Bates - Do you accept that agreeing to a higher density on the Stag Brewery site will increase the risk to an already dangerous Mortlake Road crossing?</p> <p>Via Twitter – Sam - How are trains going to cope with the Brewery Site? There are already no seats [available] and virtually no standing.</p>
Response	Response from 1:58:48 to 1:59:44.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will be working with the developers, TFL and school to ensure the travel plan is robust.

Question 18	Via Twitter Richmond Cycling Group - What will be the expectation on the developer with regards to cycling on the Brewery development?
Response	Response from 2:00:05 to 2:00:34.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to talk to the developers on this.
Question 19	<p>The Village Plan 2010 said that the heart was taken out of Mortlake in 60's and 70's with the dual-carriageway and the mess that was left. If the brewery site wasn't being re-developed, I think that after the discussions in the previous meeting, there was a feeling something had to be done about the High Street. My concern is that an opportunity shouldn't be lost when the re-development of the brewery takes place to provide a link between the existing Mortlake and the new area. Otherwise, instead of a heart there, we'll have a clogged up centre, or arteries, we often look a four lines of traffic, parking on either side, parking on the pavement, and that isn't a very good thing.</p> <p>Safety is an issue around the level crossing, around the station. The introduction of Thompson House, entry and access from the station with forklift trucks, other builders lorries delivery to Tesco's being opened just the other side. What is the Council's responsibility for safety when giving permission for developments?</p> <p>There's two separate things: Your thoughts, if you would, on what might happen with the opportunity to do something about the high street? Secondly, what is the Council's responsibility for safety when permissions are given to change of uses around the station?</p>
Response	Response from 2:02:50 to 2:08:54.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will talk further with the resident who raised this question and will be looking at what comes in from the planning application.
Question 20	Having looked at the exhibitions being shown and having the chance to look at the plans, there does seem to be a potential of a dichotomy between the exiting Mortlake high street, the new high street that is being proposed parallel to the high street, and the green link down to the riverside, which is still part of the development. So one of the things that I'd like to ask the panel, how will they discuss the plans with a realistic positioning of those things, other than the residential properties and the commercial uses that will actually enliven the heart of Mortlake and create that centre? At present, there is space shown on those plans along the riverside, along the high street. How would that be dealt with by the council and planning officers to really help gel that centre as place?
Response	Response from 2:11:20 to 2:13:31.

Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will talk further with the resident who raised this question and will be looking at what comes in from the planning application.
Question 21	I'm very concerned about the density of people at the crossing. The whole area is very familiar to me. I'm wondering how many schools and nurseries you think are in this immediate area, other than at Thompson House just by the crossing
Response	Response from 2:14:20 to 2:16:40.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will talk further with the resident who raised this question.
Question 22	Via Facebook Katie Hyson - Most of Mortlake is on a flood plain, what mitigation plans and considerations are the council taking with the increased risk that climate change brings with higher tides and more flooding?
Response	Response from 2:18:14 to 2:18:41.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council can share further information on this.
Question 23	Via Twitter - What action is the council taking about its contractor responsible for waste collection who don't pick up the litter properly?
Response	Response from 2:17:14 to 2:18:13.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will continue to work with the contractor on this issue.