

Council Meeting: 28 July 2016

Councillor C.T.H. Whinney will ask the **Executive Member for Parks and Recycling, Councillor Dr. L. Hack** the following question:

Re-cycling performance

At the Executive meeting on 30th June the re-cycling percentage was stated as 23.3% (estimated) but this was for one month only and solely for dry mixed matter which I was advised as for the contents of the Big Black Bin. However it expected that the actual % will increase.

In the past the percentage for all re-cycling including kitchen and food waste which is heavier, was in the region of 50 - 53% with a target of 60%.

Would the Executive Member advise what the latest figures for the following recycling matters are:

- % for all re-cycling?
- Target for all recycling?
- Latest charge for landfill?

Observations

Supplementary

In addition can the Executive Member advise on progress to include flats and those dwellings of multiple occupation in collection for re-cycling?

A: The figure reported relates to the recycled element comprising of dry mixed recycling (glass, cans and plastics). This material is presented at the kerbside in the grey wheeled bin.

Our overall 2015/16 recycling figure for all material was 48.8%. This includes paper, card, cardboard, dry mixed recycling, food waste, garden waste and textiles.

Our target for the overall recycling rate to be achieved by 2020 is 60%.

Landfill disposal costs are paid by Surrey County Council, landfill tax is charged at an additional cost of £84.40 per tonne. Latest information suggests that around 11% of the County's residual waste is currently sent to landfill.

Our kerbside recycling service continues to be introduced to flats and sites with communal bin stores. In excess of 3,000 properties now benefit from the new service. Care is being taken to ensure that contamination of recycling streams is minimised.

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Councillor A. Horwood will ask the **Executive Member for Economy and Jobs, Councillor E. Humphreys** the following question:

Gatwick Noise from Flight Path Departure Route 3

Residents from the central area of Reigate have just recently contacted me to inform me that they have been subjected to an unacceptable level of overflying aircraft noise on one the 9 departure routes out of Gatwick Airport. The flight path in question is Route No 3 - which leaves the Easterly runway (08) and is Westbound towards Southampton. The noise has been reported as being low and intense.

You may well know that all flightpaths have undergone major change since the introduction of concentrated departure routes in 2013, away from dispersed routes as a result of European directives and London Airspace changes.

Departure route 4, which is also overflying our borough in the opposite direction- is going through a collaborative process in re- examining take off points, having worked closely with groups, residents, airspace architects, GAL (Gatwick Airport Limited) and MP Crispin Blunt. Departure route 3 however has never been deemed to require a re-examination by the CAA, DFT or GAL.

Could I ask that the Executive Member do what he can to facilitate a re-examination of departure route 3 by GAL in order to bring respite to the residents of Reigate Central, who are currently enduring frequent levels of concentrated and at times low aircraft noise, particularly during this busy summer period?

Observations

Thank you, Cllr Horwood, for your question and for bringing this issue to my notice.

Having Gatwick Airport on the doorstep brings undeniable benefits to the borough's businesses and residents, but can also cause localised disruption and disturbance. In particular technological advances mean that flight paths are more accurate, and therefore departing aircraft tend to fly within a narrower zone.

The Council has a good working relationship with the airport, both at member and officer level. We are also represented on the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM), which is the statutory advisory body for the airport.

I will continue to work with GAL - through existing channels - to ensure that the negative impacts of flights on local residents are minimised, whilst the benefits that the airport bring to the borough are maximised.

And I have no doubt that you will continue to act in your capacity as the Council's GATCOM representative to ensure that this latest issue is brought to the attention of the relevant bodies.

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Councillor J.C.S Essex will ask the **Leader of the Council, Councillor Victor Broad** the following question:

Rise of racist and xenophobic incidents and hate crimes

I am very concerned about the recently reported rise of racist and xenophobic incidents and hate crimes. I believe that we all have a duty to stand up and stamp out racism and xenophobia.

We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Our council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

Please can you confirm what Reigate and Banstead is already doing to ensure that local bodies and programmes have the support and resources they need to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia, and reassure all people living in this area that they are valued members of our community?

And, please can you commit to publicly condemn any such attacks and make it clear what additional steps the council will take to tackle this racist, xenophobic and criminal behaviour?

Answer

Thank you for your question. Firstly can I say that we all share your concerns about the increase in Hate Crimes and Xenophobic incidents. The Council records and reports directly to the Surrey Police 'Prevent' lead. (Prevent is a government scheme designed to prevent violent extremism and promote positive community adhesion. All Councillors will have been invited to attend a Prevent briefing here on the 15th September).

Surrey Police and the Council are keen to ensure that all hate incidents and hate crimes towards individuals from all of the minority groups, are reported at the earliest opportunity and we urge anyone suffering any racist, xenophobic or other hate crimes or anyone who witnesses such actions, to report them to the relevant authorities at the earliest opportunity.

We also urge communities and individuals to work with us, so that victims receive the help and support they need.

This Council will continue to liaise closely and share information with Surrey Police on these serious matters and I hope the actions outlined help put your mind at rest that Reigate & Banstead Borough Council is doing all it can to prevent racist, xenophobic and hate crimes in Surrey.

In responding to this question however, I am a little concerned in being asked to single out any particular Crime out for condemnation. It goes without saying that all Crimes are to be deplored and whilst I am happy to address and deal with the question by Councillor Essex, I would not want to establish a precedent for this Council being expected to condemn all specific Crimes that come into the public domain in the future. This could put us in the difficult situation of being criticised for not condemning others of equal seriousness or if by not openly condemning them, being perceived as somehow condoning them or regarding them as being of less consequence than others.

It goes without saying that this Council respects all residents irrespective of race, gender, orientation or culture and we will do our utmost to encourage our residents to live in a cohesive, tolerant society, where xenophobia has no place.

Further in reinforcing Councillor Essex's comments on the stance this Council has taken, I would remind you of the fact that we were one of the first Councils in the Country to offer refuge to a small number of Syrian families. In this respect I am pleased that our first family is now happily settled in the Borough.