

COUNCIL, 25 September 2019

MOTIONS

A. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ON OPEN GREEN SPACES

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents', Residents' and Upminster and Cranham Residents' Groups

This Council views with concern the lack of protection and the rise of planning and development proposals on Havering's high value public open green spaces. Currently at risk and under threat are the Upminster Pitch & Putt, Gooshays Green and Dover's Farm Green.

Whilst we are under pressure from the Mayor of London and the Government to deliver unsustainable housing targets, our green and open spaces including green belt, must be preserved on health and wellbeing and air quality grounds. Council therefore agrees that the focus must turn to the mapping and development of the borough's brownfield sites before consideration is given to the development of the borough's green spaces.

Amendment on behalf of the North Havering Residents' Group

This Council calls upon the Mayor of London to re-consider the impact on communities that his Housing Strategy has caused. In particular the specific borough-level targets it places on local authorities for residential development on small sites such as Gooshays Green which is unfair on the communities that live in the vicinity and have to suffer through lack of infrastructure. The Council will therefore consider local residents views prior to making any final decisions on appropriation and development of this site in Harold Hill and where feasible prioritise the building on small sites in other locations within the borough.

Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council welcomes the administration's approach of safeguarding Havering's Greenbelt through the local plan process and commends its programme of estate regeneration, which will deliver a significant increase in affordable housing, whilst helping to meet the current housing targets.

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

Delete the words "we are under pressure from the Mayor of London and the Government to deliver unsustainable housing targets"

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Insert in place thereof “recognising the urgent need to increase the supply of affordable homes”

For clarity, amended motion would read as follows:

This Council views with concern the lack of protection and the rise of planning and development proposals on Havering’s high value public open green spaces. Currently at risk and under threat are the Upminster Pitch & Putt, Gooshays Green and Dover’s Farm Green.

Recognising the urgent need to increase the supply of affordable homes, our green and open spaces including green belt, must be preserved on health and wellbeing and air quality grounds. Council therefore agrees that the focus must turn to the mapping and development of the borough’s brownfield sites before consideration is given to the development of the borough’s green spaces.

B. ITEMS LEFT IN COMMUNAL RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents’ Group

Following the Grenfell disaster the government ordered local councils to review the safety of all their social housing and as a result Havering tenants were told to remove all mats and flowers from communal areas. The Council Leader (then Cabinet Member for Housing) said this followed advice from the Fire Brigade to keep communal areas clear of clutter (obstructions), but it shows an absence of common-sense for this sensible advice to be interpreted as an order to remove all mats and flowers, as these don’t undermine safety but improve tenants quality of life.

To assist the council in taking proportionate and appropriate safety measures this Council calls on the Executive to insist the government release details of the actual cause of the Grenfell fire, which for some reason is being withheld, and inform tenants that sensible mats and flowers are once again allowed in communal areas?

Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council endorses the Administration’s fire safety approach to Council estates which is based upon guidance from the London Fire Brigade.

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C. MINUTE'S SILINCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

It's custom and practice for members to hold a minutes silence for former councillors, but at the Annual Meeting of Council the Mayor's agenda papers included calling for a minute's silence to honour those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks that took place in New Zealand and Sri Lanka! The Council Leader said it was Mayoral discretion rather than an Executive decision to mention these attacks and he fully supported the Mayor's decision!

However Council agrees extending tributes beyond former councillors can be contentious and therefore calls on the Mayor to seek agreement from group leaders beforehand to avoid the practice being brought into disrepute.

Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council recognises the discretion of the Mayor of Havering in allowing moments of respect during meetings of Full Council; it also welcomes the minute silence in honouring the victims of New Zealand and Sri Lanka terrorist attacks.