

COUNCIL, 17 SEPTEMBER 2014

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

A 20 MINUTES FREE PARKING

Motion on behalf of the United Kingdom Independence Party Group

Havering council should introduce 20 minutes free parking across the borough where it is practical to do so.

A1: Amendment by the Administration

This Council notes that the proposed budget savings for the next two years include an option for an initial period of free parking in outlying car parks and on street and that the outcome of public consultation will be considered carefully before final decisions are taken.

B GALLOWS CORNER JUNCTION

Motion on behalf of the Administration

This Council calls upon Transport for London to undertake an early review of measures to improve the Gallows Corner junction which is widely regarded as one of the most congested and dangerous road hazards in North East London.

(No amendments received).

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C COUNCIL TAX – EMPTY HOUSE PREMIUM

Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group

In order to alleviate the pressure on the Council Tax Support scheme, this council agrees to apply the empty house premium on households which have been empty for at least two years at a rate of 50% above the standard council tax rate.

By applying the premium, it will:

- a) bring Havering into line with the other 25 London Boroughs who apply the premium
- b) avoid empty properties from being run down and becoming an eyesore in the community
- c) with nearly 400 empty properties in the borough this will help ease the pressure on the local housing market
- d) provide a significant additional income stream and help ease budgetary pressures

C1: Amendment by the Administration

This Council agrees to the preparation for consideration of a report as to the application of an empty house premium on empty households above the standard council tax rate; such report to include an analysis of appropriate periods during which the household must be empty and of the implications for cases involving probate and major repairs and other exceptional situations.

D INGREBOURNE HILL EXTENSION

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

Plans for an extension of Ingrebourne Hill into the Hornchurch Country Park will result in many years of severe highway disruption for the local residents of Elm Park, South Hornchurch, Rainham and beyond. The Rainham Road entrance to the site is on a TfL bus route and any closure will also involve closing part of the

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recently opened [Harold Hill to Rainham section] of the Sustrans around London cycling/walking route promoted by the Mayor of London that passes through the Hornchurch Country Park/Ingrebourne Hill and exits at the Rainham Road entrance.

Thus to ensure all interested parties are consulted this Council calls on the Administration to ensure the Greater London Authority are **formally** contacted for their views about plans for the extension and closure of Ingrebourne Hill.

D1: Amendment by the Administration

This Council notes that a planning application to extend Ingrebourne Hill has been received and that there will be a full consultation in accordance with the requisite procedure, including the GLA. The planning application will be considered by Regulatory Services Committee on the basis of a comprehensive report on a quasi-judicial basis without bias or pressure from the remainder of the Council.

E ACADEMY PROGRAMME AND CHAFFORD SWIMMING POOL

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

The Government want all schools to leave local authority control and be managed by the Headteacher and Secretary of State for Education. This means the ownership and management of all school assets are transferred from the council to the school and means all school facilities, including sporting and swimming facilities, become school assets rather than council/community assets. And this means school sporting and swimming facilities face closure because 1) schools will prioritise funding for educational purposes 2) Councils will prioritise funding to assets they own and control. This is illustrated by events at Chafford [Academy], Rainham, where the swimming pool faces closure due to this change of ownership and control.

Thus Council regrets this aspect of the Governments Academy programme and calls on the Administration to negotiate with the Headteacher and Governing Body to seek an agreement that keeps the Chafford swimming pool open in the public health interest.

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E1: Amendment by the Administration

This Council regrets that following a contested independent adjudication the sports facilities on the Chafford School site in Rainham, including the swimming pool, are to transfer to the School in October 2016 and notes that officers are in discussion with the School as to the continued public use of the facility.