

COUNCIL, 25 NOVEMBER

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

A ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

A developer has made extensive alterations to a property that includes erecting two 2 metre (6'6") high front boundary brick walls of an industrial appearance. The walls are immediately outside one neighbour's front door and another neighbour's front window in a road characterised by owner occupier houses with low front walls.

The Planning Department has described the two walls as arguably part "permitted development" (nearest the building) and part breach of planning rules (nearest the highway). The "permitted development" part of the wall blocks neighbours street view.

This is a very worrying development, thus Council calls on the Administration to implement an Article 4 Direction throughout the borough to restrict the height of front walls without planning permission to protect our suburban environment and community cohesion.

Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group

Amend motion to read:

Noting concern expressed in respect of a case where two 2 metre high front boundary walls of an industrial appearance have been erected and that the Planning Department has described the two walls as arguably part "permitted development" and part breach of planning rules and that the "permitted development" part is considered to block neighbours' street view, this Council invites the Towns & Communities Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee to investigate the case and to consider and recommend to Cabinet any action which the Council might take to address problems such as these.

B AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER

Motion on behalf of the East Havering Residents' Group

Research by the National Autistic Society suggested, of the 700,000 adults with Autism, only 15% are employed. The remaining unemployed require long-term financial support.

Havering has approximately 1,433 adults with Autism, which is profiled to rise by 12% over the next 15 years. This places increased pressures and challenges at a local level.

This Council accordingly agrees to:

- Work with Local Partners to ensure the devolved offer on skills and employment includes a strategy to support Autistic Spectrum Disorder adults with the aim of increasing the number in employment by the end of 2016.
- Lobby the government to recognise the economic benefits and under-use of skills in the workforce, and to develop programmes, promoting work opportunities for adults with ASD.

C LEISURE CENTRES

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

As we await the promised new Romford Leisure Centre it is still vital to maintain and enhance the existing borough wide provision of leisure facilities that serve all our residents. Presently the borough wide leisure centre contract is held by "Sports and leisure Management Limited" and operates at a loss requiring a council subsidy. To cut costs there has been a contractual variation to reduce hours and presumably improvements at Chafford, Rainham and no doubt the Central Park, Romford and Hornchurch Leisure Centres face potential cutbacks too!

Council, 25 November 2015

Following Academy status and a Land Tribunal Adjudication the Chafford Leisure Centre will be owned by the school when the council contract ends in Oct 1st 2016 and without financial help will close, because their priority is educational rather than leisure spending. The existing facility needs significant investment and if it were to close there is planning permission in place for a new swimming pool at Chafford when funding becomes available. But will the Council allow an existing Leisure Centre, as well as an Ice Rink, to close as we await a second and 'state of the art' leisure centre in Romford that includes a promised £2 million funding from reserves?

Thus this Council calls on the Administration to maintain and enhance the existing borough wide provision of leisure facilities at Rainham, Romford and Hornchurch Leisure Centres in the healthy interests of all Havering residents.

Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group

Amend motion to read:

Noting with approval the imminent commencement of the construction of the Romford Leisure Centre in Romford Town Ward, the letting of the contract for the first phase of the £3 million Broxhill Sports Park in Heaton Ward, the recent opening of the Visitors Centre at Hornchurch Country Park in Elm Park Ward, the recent opening of the new library and establishment of a new park in Rainham Ward, the current construction of a new library in Gooshays Ward, the achievement of Green Flags in parks across the borough and noting that the Council's Leisure Management Contract, the negotiation of which is currently in progress, is likely to provide an enhancement of leisure facilities rather than cutbacks, this Council welcomes the Administration's intention to continue to maintain and enhance the existing borough wide provision of leisure facilities in the healthy interests of Havering residents.