

MOTIONS

8.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MILLS:

This Council notes the Mayor of London's recently published consultation documents on the London Plan, Transport strategy and Economic Development strategy.

This Council welcomes the focus given by the Mayor on a wide range of issues concerning Hillingdon residents, including but not limited to:

- the rejection of a third runway at Heathrow
- the removal of arbitrary targets for affordable housing
- the ability to provide greater protection against inappropriate development of gardens
- the importance of the car in outer London
- the need to support our town centres

The Council further notes the Cabinet's success in winning support from the Outer London Commission on a number of key points which are now incorporated into the future plans. Council asks the Cabinet to continue dialogue with all relevant parties to build upon these themes and in particular the discussions about

- two new Express north to south bus routes
- appropriate funding for both the social infrastructure required to support the expected growth and for the regional theatre to be sited within the revised Uxbridge town centre.

8.2 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ALLEN

Once again I feel compelled to put another motion on this issue. We all know that there are some buildings going up in many back gardens across the borough, which the owners are calling Games rooms, although in a number of cases they are being rented out as homes.

Time and again when an investigation is requested, the owners of said properties get given time to empty the property before a visit is made by an Enforcement Officer. Within days or weeks after a visit from an Enforcement Officer the building is once again rented out.

These buildings bring hidden costs for the Council as no data is collected/available to assist in the management of need, be it Housing, Health and Educational provision etc. Also as these are separate properties and the tenants are not on the Electoral register no Community charges are collected from them to pay for the services they use.

The anger from surrounding residents is further heightened by what they perceive as a doorstep service being supplied by the Planning Department to those who flout the rules. Residents are aggrieved that someone who ignores planning rules and puts up a building without permission is then assisted by being given advice by an Enforcement Officer on how to make changes to enable them to make a retrospective

planning application. Although the building may, in some cases be permitted development, the use as a separate dwelling requires permission. It appears to residents that all assistance is given to people carrying out unauthorised development while those acting within the law often do not receive this level of personal help.

In view of the above the Council calls upon the Cabinet Member to look at this issue in depth and then take appropriate action.