

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

5.1 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY MR CHRIS WATERS OF FERRERS AVENUE, WEST DRAYTON TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR PUDDIFOOT:

Would the Council Leader be willing to adopt a better approach to “putting residents first”, by way of implementing a less formal system of interaction between the residents and those making the decisions within the Council, which will allow the residents to table concerns in a more social environment?

Supporting Information Provided:

Having watched the Council meeting of 19th January 2017 I paid particular attention to a motion put forward by Councillor Curling regarding the petition process and the time frame from decision making to implementation by looking at ways to improve reduce delivery time and the fact that the motion was lost, it made me wonder, are all the residents actually being put first?

I bring three major and recent instances to your attention:

1. The Children’s Centre “Business Improvement Delivery” consultation showed the majority of responses against the changes including the cases put forward by 9 petitioners and a protest. However, the Council seemed to have predetermined the outcome as it is all down to saving money and no further discussions and engagements were entertained.
2. Planning applications for over 2000 units along a mile between Yiewsley & West Drayton have been approved despite numerous concerns & complaints raised by residents. No formal feedback to residents is issued, no concerns are addressed by way of implementation of improvements and even to address concerns to the planning committee, I was told that “residents can petition the committee giving them speaking rights to address the committee”.
3. Regarding an email on 15th October 2017 from a Swan Road resident which included John McDonnell MP, regarding the speed in which vehicles travel, the Council wants facts and not rumours. The fact happened the night before – a drunken driver speeding up the road damaged 3 other vehicles mounting one onto the pavement. Luckily it was late at night else pedestrians could have been seriously injured. Whilst it may not be every car that speeds, it just takes one out of the handful that do, to result in injury or death.

Despite the fact that we do not seem to suffer the same levels of crime as our neighbouring Boroughs, the recent Get West London article (published on 18th October 2017) about the happiest Boroughs placed Hillingdon 27th with Harrow at 19th and Hounslow at 21st which is not much different from the same published by ITV last year.