

## QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

### 5.1 QUESTION FROM PENNY RUTHERFORD TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR IMPROVEMENT, PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY – COUNCILLOR DOUGLAS MILLS

The agenda of the Cabinet meeting in March 2009 which discussed implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act listed the following local organisations which would be consulted (in lieu of forming a newly constituted Local Panel) for the purposes of the Act:-

- Streets Ahead
- Street Champions
- Other representative Forums such as Connecting Communities BME forum, Older People's Assembly, Assembly for People with Physical or Sensory Disabilities, the Inter-Faith Network, the Youth Council and others
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Police SNT Panels
- Developing links from the Hillingdon Residents' Survey
- The Chrysalis Programme and Councillor Ward Budgets.

Given that local Residents' Associations

- Probably represent a greater number of residents than any other local organisation
- Have demonstrated the ability to make constructive suggestions in many areas relating to Civic life,
- Comprise a wide range of people with varying knowledge and skills in different areas
- Consistently demonstrate an interest in and commitment to improving and maintaining sustainable life in the local area
- Function in a more consultative way than Street Champions which the Council include on their list,

Will the Council make a commitment to including local residents' Associations in their consultations for the Sustainable Communities Act, if not, why not and what criteria are used in making this decision?

### 5.2 QUESTION FROM TONY ELLIS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR IMPROVEMENT, PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY – COUNCILLOR DOUGLAS MILLS

At a recent meeting of chairmen/officers of Residents' Associations from the north of the Borough, there was a general consensus that there is no consistency in the way that officers of the Council consult with Residents' Associations. Some are consulted on a regular basis and others rarely, if at all.

Recent examples are:-

- None of us was involved in the formulation of the draft Core Strategy document
- Not all of us were invited to the officers' presentation on the Core Strategy
- Hard copies of the Core Strategy were not made available until we protested at a higher level
- By the time hard copies were available, we had less than 4 weeks to consult with our residents. Requests to extend the consultation period were refused by officers.
- The Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation was not sent to Residents' Associations
- Changes to parking regulations consultations are not sent to the affected Residents' Associations

Residents' Associations represent many thousands of the Borough's residents and are mandated to protect their interests. This irregular or lack of consultation makes our work very difficult and we feel the many Council officers do not value our opinions.

Assuming that the Leader of the Council agrees that Residents' Associations should be involved in all public consultations, will he instruct the Chief Executive to ensure that his officers consult all of us in future?