

<b>Committee:</b> Ordinary Council	<b>Date:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
<b>Subject:</b> Chairs' reports and Members' Written Questions	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
<b>Report of:</b> Claire Mayhew – Corporate Manager (Democratic Services)	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report Author/s:</b> Name: Claire Mayhew - Corporate Manager (Director Services) Telephone: 01277 312741 E-mail: claire.mayhew@brentwood.gov.uk	<b>For Information</b>

In accordance with the Council's Constitution a brief written report by each committee Chair covering their area of responsibility is provided for Members' information at each Ordinary Council meeting.

Any member may ask a Chair written or oral questions on:

- (a) any matter included in a Chair's written report; or
- (b) any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Council's area and which falls within the area of responsibility of the Chair's committee.
- (c) No question should be put to the Chair if it relates exclusively to a ward, operational or resident matter that could have otherwise been resolved by reasonable use of the casework system.

The period allowed for Chairs' reports, written and oral questions and answers will not exceed 60 minutes without the leave of the Mayor and such leave will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

Six written question have been submitted:-

### **1. Question from Cllr Naylor**

This is a question to the Chair of the Community, Environment & Enforcement Committee

At the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Liberal Democrat Group raised concerns over the continued failure to repair/replace various items of equipment within our 'Flagship' play area at King George's Park. Notification of various defects has been presented through the appropriate channels on at least three separate occasions, dating back as far as October, 2022, but a satisfactory response has not yet been forthcoming.

Given our summer months are now approaching, bringing with them a much higher public usage of our outdoor facilities, can the Chair of the Community, Environment and Enforcement Committee provide a definitive date when the Zip Wire and Suspended Roundabout equipment will be fully operational.

## **2. Question from Cllr Kendall**

This is a question for the Chair of Community, Environment and Enforcement Committee

*King George's Play area is promoted as a 'fully inclusive' environment for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike and it is noted that apparatus specifically for those with disabilities features as part of the park's overall offering. However, it appears that some very fundamental operational considerations have been overlooked.*

*Use of the toilet facilities adjacent to the play areas is restricted to the seasonal opening times operated by the splash park with the only alternative being located at the pavilion site. This is especially problematic for mothers/carers of young or disabled children who require prompt access to toilet, baby changing and disabled facilities.*

*Can the Chair of the Community, Environment and Enforcement Committee please explain why access to the toilets adjacent to the play areas is restricted and what plans are in hand to increase accessibility to an all year-round basis.*

## **3. Question from Cllr Laplain**

This is a question to the Chair of Community, Environment and Enforcement Committee

*Following an inspection of the play facilities at Warley, it was noted that two items of equipment are out of use / unusable. Can you please provide a date when we can expect these to be repaired. The first item is in the toddler section and the second is in the gym.*

*However, of more immediate concern, three of the child safety gates are no longer operating effectively. The springs designed to ensure they re-close after entry/exit have malfunctioned, leaving the gates wide open. These circumstances could easily result in a young child leaving the park parameters and wandering into the road. If not yet repaired, please confirm the date this vital maintenance work will be undertaken.*

## **4. Question from Cllr Naylor**

This is a question to the Chair of Community, Environment and Enforcement Committee

*River Road children's play area has had a swing broken for some considerable time, eventually being removed.*

*Can I have a response detailing why it has been left in an unusable condition for such a lengthy period of time, and the date it will be restored for the use of local families.*

**5. Question from Cllr Davies**

This is a question to the Chair of Community, Environment and Enforcement

*Bishops Hall Park play area currently has at least three items of equipment unavailable for use. In the main area, a large 'Do not use' sign is placed against equipment that has been out of use for a lengthy period. Additionally, on other equipment there are two supporting posts remaining, but the accompanying middle section completely missing and in the toddler's section the tyre basin swing has disappeared.*

*This is a well-used play park, serving numerous residents from within Pilgrims Hatch and the wider area.*

*Can you confirm dates when the appropriate repairs / replacement will take place in order that the facilities can be brought back to an acceptable standard.*

**6. Question from Cllr Fryd**

This is a question to the Chair of Community, Environment and Enforcement

*Courage's play area is a welcome facility for local children, and especially those attending Shenfield St. Mary's school, which is adjacent. Whilst the toddler's area appears to be in satisfactory order at this moment, the section for older children has, for some time, looked extremely neglected.*

*On a recent inspection both the basket swing and cable runway are unusable, and a further piece of equipment has been removed from the site completely. The climbing equipment looks in a very poor state of repair, not helped that a component part, the slide, has disappeared entirely.*

*Please can you provide a timescale for this much used facility to be returned to full usage.*

The order for a new seat for the runway was also placed at the start of January, this has already arrived – installation is planned by the end of March. The other cable runway is fully functional.

## **Appendices to this report**

Chairs Reports for:

Appendix A: Planning & Licensing Committee – to follow

Appendix B: Audit and Scrutiny Committee – to follow

Appendix C: Policy, Resources & Economic Development – to follow

Appendix D: Housing Committee – to follow