

**Responses to comments and enquiries made at the  
North Chingford Community Council on  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009**



**Query 1:**

**M Offord** would like to know why it has taken so long for the Friends of Mornington Hall to sign their contract and to receive their award which was allocated to them last year.

**Response: Dawn Polis, Community Councils Manager**

Please see below an extract from my diary, which list all major events which took place to ensure that the contract fell in line with the Council's policy and that the new contract did not contravene the conditions of the lease which the Group already has with the Council.

**Extract from diary 2008/09 - sequence of events:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Events</b>
10 November 2008	Friends of Mornington Hall awarded £703 (subject to lease) from the North Chingford Whole area fund pot.
10 November 2008	Friends of Mornington Hall awarded £3000 (subject to lease) from the Chingford Green ward.
10 November 2008	Chingford Amateur Dramatic & Operatic Society (CADOS) awarded £3,110 from the Chingford Green ward.
December/January 2009	Confirmation letter, Standard terms and conditions letter and information required on targets/ outcomes and monitoring/evaluation was sent out to the group.
February 2009	The above information was received. Further clarification was sought regarding the purpose for funding. A meeting with Surveyors was arranged with Community Councils Manager to discuss the Lease.
March 2009	Community Councils Manager met with surveyors. Site visit to took place 2 April 2009
April – May 2009	Site visit by surveyors – Community Councils Manager awaited surveyors report.
June 2009	Change of chair persons of both Groups. Awaiting confirmation of new chairs.
July 2009	22 <sup>nd</sup> July draft contracts drawn-up. New Chair persons confirmed. Site visit by surveyors.
August 2009	Awaited further estimates from chair person of Friends of Mornington Hall of the works which are to be delivered. Further discussions with surveyors, Community Councils Manager and chair persons to ensure that works to be delivered correspond with works applied for from 2008/09 annual fund.
September 2009	Decision taken to combine contracts of Friends of Mornington Hall and CADOS because the Friends of Mornington Hall and CADOS are the same group and therefore have the same entity and joint responsibilities to the Hall. New contract developed.

October 2009	Awaited further information and clarification from the Friends and Mornington Hall and CADOS regarding joints targets and outcomes.
November 2009	Joint contract approved by Legal, sent and signed on 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> November by Groups' Chair Persons, etc.
17 <sup>th</sup> November 2009	1 <sup>st</sup> instalment paid to CADOS.

**Query 2: The closure of College Gardens**

**M Huggins** (Maida Avenue) said he had received notification that the council was planning to close part of College Gardens. He wanted to know if the works would be stopped to carry out consultation.

**Response: Paul Humphreys, Head of Asset Management**

The College Gardens Nursery has been closed for more than 12 months now. The Council is negotiating a lease of the vacant building to the Chingford Foundation School. The School will continue to provide education services from this asset.

**Query 3: The Ridgeway Site**

**E Carvell** (Endlebury Road) said that the Ridgeway site has been closed for more than 16 months. He asked if there were any plans to develop the site.

**Cllr Phillips** replied that the original plan for the Ridgeway site was to turn it into a care home and to create extra care social housing, with possibly a doctor's surgery. The Council was looking into establishing what proportion of the site would be allocated to these three schemes.

She added that a report would be presented to the Cabinet in December to check on what has been defined.

**Current update:** In December 2009, Cabinet accepted Scrutiny's recommendation to keep the Ridgeway site for the reprovision of care.

**Query 4: The use of weed killer**

**R Tonkin** (Dale View Avenue) said that she has asked workers why they did not use weed killers on the grass area and they replied that they were not allowed because a neighbour had made a complaint.

At the meeting, A Lyon replied that we do not spray growth overgrowing the footway from an adjacent area. We expect to deal with that by mowing or pruning.

**Response: Terry Finney, Contract Monitoring Officer- Street Services**

Kier Street Services, the Street Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance Contractor, is required to treat weeds on footways and shrubs beds, but not in grass areas. They may need to occasionally spray around fixed obstacles if they cannot cut around them, but will need more information to deal with a specific problem. I am not aware of the methods having changed because of a complaint. I do know that grass cutting was disrupted earlier in the year

when another contractor was digging up some of the verges. I would be happy to discuss this further with the resident if they would like to contact me via 0208 596 3000.

#### **Query 5: Education**

**T Calver** said he would like to receive further clarity on the answer received for Query 7 (page 13) of the “Responses to comments and enquiries....”, (the blue sheet) dated Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

#### **Responses: Moira Bishop, Head of Capital Strategy & Partnering**

Moira has confirmed that Bill Lyttle (see response below) would be the one to comment further. She has nothing further to add.

#### **Bill Lyttle, Chief Adviser, VT Group**

Bill Lyttle has confirmed that he is not able to add to the earlier response provided (see below for original Query 7 and its response) and would re-iterate that support given to pupils whose English is not their first language would not be to the detriment of other pupils

#### **“Original Query 7 and its response, page 13 of the Response to comments and enquiries, dated Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009:**

**T Calver** pointed out that WF Magazine and website stated that millions of pounds have been given to secondary school in the Borough. He wanted to know to how much time teachers spent with pupils whose English was not their first language to the detriment of others. He also asked information regarding the phone mast on Chingford Foundation School.

**M Bishop** replied that the Council would have limited choice on how to spend the funds received from the Government if these were earmarked for specific projects.

Finally, she asked the residents to submit his final question to Chingford Foundation School.

#### **Further response: Response: Bill Lyttle, Chief Adviser, VT Group WF Magazine Article**

It is unclear which article of WF Magazine the query is referring to. It may be that the questioner is referring to funding to schools under the Building Schools for the Future initiative to make improvements to the infra-structure, which would need to be directed specifically to this purpose as a condition of the funding. Much funding directed to schools from central government is for a specific purpose only and cannot be used in other ways.

#### **Pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL)**

All schools have staff trained to support pupils for whom English is an additional language. Good EAL teaching is good teaching and therefore will not be to the detriment of other pupils. The time spent on children with EAL would vary from school to school, as appropriate for the number of pupils in the school needing support.“

## **Query 6: Tesco, Highams Park**

Help Form:

### **A resident (Endlebury ward)**

“As the Tesco application in Highams Park is going to have a significant detrimental impact on the residents of at least 2 of the 3 wards represented here tonight, I would like a response from the various councillors as to why they did not attend the public meetings organised to discuss the Tesco application prior to the Council’s decision to approve it.

In addition, they also failed to show up at the subsequent meeting where Ian Duncan Smith made his views known as to the course of action necessary to have the verdict reviewed. In this regard, I would ask each of the councillors to either confirm or deny they have written to either the Mayor of London to refuse the application or John Denham, the government Minister who has the power to call in the scheme.”

### **Response: Councillor Matthew Davis, Endlebury Ward**

Any resident concerned about this matter is advised to contact their ward councillors directly, who will be glad to respond to their own constituents.

However it is a matter of fact that both the Mayor of London and John Denham, as Minister, have decided not to call in the Tesco planning decision and so there is no further avenue open to halt the development other than an action in the High Court.

## **Query 7: Hawkswood/Brookfield site**

### **P Theron (Whitehall Road):**

“a) How much money has been spent on the Hawkswood/Brookfield site since 2004?

b) What plans are in place for the future of the site?

c) What is the current situation?

The residents provided a time line on the evolvement of the site from circa 2004 to 2009.:

- Hawkswood site was a school for deaf pupils between 1969 and 2004.
- Refurbished for Brookfield pupils with physical needs whilst work carried out at Brookfield School (Oak Hill).
- Refurbished for pupils with social emotional needs.
- Most recently it had 8 members of staff for 1 pupil.
- House on site originally for seven resident pupils and house parents.
- Refurbished for SSO (2007).
- SSO made redundant.
- Work started to convert site for teacher’s centre (not shelved?)
- Administration staff for outreach service for deaf pupils on site”

**Response: Moira Bishop, Head of Capital Strategy and Partnering**

a) Records show that from 2008, approximately £100,000 has been spent on maintaining the building to support the current occupants. Records prior to that date are not easily retrievable.

b) High level feasibility work will take place over the coming months to explore whether the site is appropriate for the relocation of one of the Building Schools for the Future special school projects.

c) See a) and b) above.

**Query 8: One way systems**

**C George (Stanley Road):**

“What has happened to the suggested one way system for Garfield Road and Stanley Road? Is it to be implemented? If so, when?”

**Response: Alan Campbell, Traffic & Project Development, Environment & Regeneration**

It was stated that as part of the North Chingford Residents Parking Scheme a one-way system in these two roads would be consulted upon. As the North Chingford Residents Parking Scheme was not supported locally the scheme was not progressed.

**Query 9: The Bull & Crown**

**A resident:**

“Bull & Crown. Will the whole local community be involved in consultation on the developers’ plan? Will only part of the building be available for public use? If not, what local community gain will be offered to the people of Chingford?”

(A copy of the article “Providing homes, not properties: The future looks bright for Waltham Forest with developers Atlantic in the picture, published on Waltham Forest Guardian on 12/11/09 has been submitted).

**Response: Ian Ansell, Development Management**

No proposals have been presented to the Council at this stage and there is no information available as to the extent of the areas to remain in public use. When an application is received, consultations will be carried out with local residents.