

**Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 18 September 2019**

**Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public.**

No questions were submitted from members of the public.

## **Item 13 – Questions from Members**

The Mayor informed the Chamber that 2 questions had been received to the Leader of the Council and 8 questions had been received to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee had been received.

### **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

#### **1. From Councillor Mayes to Councillor Gledhill**

##### **Mayor**

Question one, to the Leader of the Council. Councillor Mayes will you please read out your question as stated on page 51 of the agenda.

##### **From Councillor Mayes to Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mister Mayor. In relation to crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour in Tilbury, can the Portfolio Holder tell me what the Council is putting in place for the safety of Tilbury residents?

##### **Mayor**

Councillor Gledhill.

##### **Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you for Mister Mayor and thank you for Councillor Mayes for your question. As previously advised at Full Council and other committees, crime and drugs are a matter for the police to deal with and specific enquiries in regards to policing matters needs to be directed to them accordingly. Certain aspects of tackling anti-social behaviour do fall under my Portfolio and as such I'm going to have to give this answer in two halves. The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has recently increased the number of police officers in Thurrock with an additional fifteen police officers, and more recently another seven town centre police officers. This unfortunately have not included Tilbury at this time. I and this administration see tackling anti-social behaviour as high priority and continue to work in partnership with the police to assist in any way we can. As such, the Council's allocated £1million to be spent over the next three years reducing anti-social behaviour, and part of this includes funding for the additional police officers, and the funding of some specialist police operations. Not at least the gang injunction, which we've seen repeat successes on, and indeed producing the illegal use of motorcycles and quadbikes, which has seen a significant success for the police under Operation Caesar. It's also seen a reduction in Tilbury and other places of these crimes, indeed in the first two quarters across the whole of the borough compared to the same period, across the same two quarters in previous years going back to 2016, we've seen a decline in reports and indeed incidents relating to this. Council have set up a joint partnership patrol with the Council's environmental enforcement officers, and these police have been out on patrol in Tilbury. These patrols have resulted in

persons being dealt with for the following crimes: causing anti-social behaviour; misusing nitrous oxide canisters; fixed penalty notices for people committing offences such as fly-tipping, littering, urinating, and fly-posting; breaches of care of duty in respect of commercial waste; three anti-social behaviour community protection warnings have been issued; two fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping; four fixed penalty notices for littering. 27% of those, sorry 20%, that represents 27% of notices issued so far under this particular operation. On top of this, police have issued a number of cannabis warnings and community protection warning notices for those causing anti-social behaviour, and dealing or indeed in possession of cannabis. As I said earlier, I know this will be a fact because I've been out with them and I understand Councillor Allen has also been out on them. With the success of the police funded town centre team, we'll be meeting the local police commander to work with them to use part of the funding we've set aside for more police to put at least two more police officers for town centre policing in Tilbury. As soon as these discussions have concluded, I will then of course notify yourself, and the other Tilbury Councillors and any other Councillors of areas who will see a direct benefit from these extra police officers. Finally, as I always say, police are intelligence and information-led organisation, so the more residents that report crime and anti-social behaviour, it clocks up these statistics, which then allows the police to argue for more services and support in specific areas.

Moving on to what we've done as a Council, on top of the offences listed previously, we've dealt with thirty fly-tipping, issued thirty notices; forty-four for littering; six for failing to provide waste transfer notes, I'll get that right eventually; and thirteen fly-posting offences, that's solely in Tilbury this year. As part outlined in Councillor Johnson's report, we're due to complete our CCTV review and take that to overview and scrutiny, and we're recruiting an anti-social behaviour officer, to help co-ordinate between housing, ASB and the police to ensure a great level of support, not only in Tilbury, but across the borough. Thank you Mister. Mayor.

## **Mayor**

Councillor Mayes do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

## **Councillor Mayes**

Thank you for your detailed answer. I get lots of people obviously, I know that you said the police isn't a council matter, but obviously because we put money towards it, and pay for police officers, obviously there's a vested interest. A lot of people say they don't feel safe in their own homes, this is not just in Tilbury but around Thurrock, and indeed around the country as well, but obviously we need to focus on here. We – in Tilbury there's a neighbourhood watch scheme, they are trying really, really hard. They've seen some extra police, but there's still a very, sort of, lack of police presence on the ground, which is obviously making people not feel safe. In terms of supplementary question, with youths, which is quite a big issue, especially with the C17 gang in Thurrock, what are the Council doing or putting in place to ensure that youths are protected from gangs, getting involved in crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour?

## **Mayor**

Councillor Gledhill.

**Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor Mayes for your supplementary. I regret trying to trim down my excessively long answer from earlier to the long answer I gave, as that had specifics in relation to the money we've spent and the operations we've had to help protect our young people in Tilbury. Off the top of my head I do remember, I do remember, and I know it's not here, is that we're putting extra patrols in from environmental officers and other officers between 3 o'clock and 7 o'clock in the evening to try and engage with children to make sure, that not only are they safe and protected from those that would prey on them, and get them into that terrible gang lifestyle. Also, to try and identify what they would like to see, and what they would like to do, because as someone whose not even got young children anymore, I wouldn't like to say what's best, or what they would like to engage with, so let's ask the people who we'll be supplying that service too what they want. It is a vital role, this prevention role, the cure, and I'd much rather we stop children and young adults, stop them getting into crime ruining their entire lives, and stay on the straight and narrow to be productive members of the community, which the vast number of residents in Tilbury, and across the borough are.

**Mayor**

Councillor Mayes do you have a second supplementary question?

**Councillor Mayes**

Thank you for that. The – I know you're saying 3 until 7 but I'd highly suggest increasing that onwards because our youths are out later than that, as you can imagine, and they're normally the ones that would be causing such issues. My final question would be with the government set to announce 20,000 extra police officers, would you as Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder do all you can to some extra police officers in Thurrock, but more so in Tilbury.

**Mayor**

Councillor Gledhill

**Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mister Mayor and again thank you Councillor Mayes for your question. I take on board your statement about late patrols and that certainly makes common sense. It may be different officers, and indeed, we might need to put some training for our environmental protection officers to help them to engage where they see this, so engagement rather than enforcement. As it comes to the 20,000 police, yes I will lobby, but I'm going to get back to what I said at the back-end of the very long answer. Polices' – police numbers is intelligence and information-led so we really do need any resident and every resident who sees a crime, or is a victim of a crime to report it either through 101, 999 if it's an emergency, or indeed Crimestoppers free

phone, which is anonymous, which they can call, leave the information, and that's passed down to the police or the relevant authority to deal with. I know it's disheartening sometimes when it appears nothing is done, sometimes everyone becomes aware of the problem, it goes on for weeks and weeks, or months and months and months, and then something happens, but where it appears nothing is happening, it's a bit of a problem. So, if more people in that time report problems, the easier it's going to be to say, okay we need to allocate more resources to it.

### **Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Gledhill. We now move on to question two for the Leader. Councillor Potheary please read out your question as set out on page 51 of the agenda.

## **2. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mister. Mayor. Can the Portfolio Holder explain why the recent announcement of town centre policing teams did not include Tilbury?

### **Mayor**

Councillor Gledhill.

### **Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mister. Mayor and thank you Councillor Potheary. As in my previous answer, police establishment and allocation of resources are a matter for Essex Police, however I can advise that town centre police have been allocated to areas where they meet the criteria of the town centre, as laid down by the PFCC. We had no input on that and that was a county-wide made decision to accommodate for the police. As Leader and Portfolio Holder for ASB, I recognise the need for an increased presence in other areas of the borough, not receiving Town Centre Policing, including Tilbury, and I have already raised my concerns with the police. I have advised them that Tilbury should be an area of priority and focus, and I gave this response to Councillor Mayes earlier and indeed to Councillor Allen about six or eight weeks ago, I'm sure he'll correct me if I'm wrong, when they raised that particular issue with me direct. That said I'm using – we're looking to use part of the £1million we've set aside for extra police numbers to do this, and as soon as we've had those discussions and they are concluded, I will of course notify the Councillors of Tilbury, other Councillors in areas that may be of direct benefit, and indeed the entire Chamber.

### **Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Potheary do you have – excuse me – a supplementary question.

### **Councillor Potheary**

Thank you Mister Mayor. Sorry I'm not going to do the supplementary that I planned because I'm slightly taken aback by something you said in your answer Councillor Gledhill, which that there was no consultation with the Council by Essex Police about where these officers would go in terms of in town centre teams. Could you just clarify what the relationship between Essex Police and the Council stated at the moment if that didn't occur?

**Mayor**

Councillor Gledhill

**Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mister Mayor, I was actually going to call for a point of clarification, at that point. I did not say that there was a consultation in Thurrock. I said there was consultation with us in the definition of a town centre, as this was something across the whole of Essex that they decide. We must remember that, right at the beginning, I said that the police are a separate organisation. It's down to the PFCC to make those choices, and this might be a terrible thing for any Councillor to say, especially the Leader, there are times when it's not just all about Thurrock. Unfortunately, for the PFCC it doesn't always just think about Thurrock, it has to think about the whole of Essex, and this is one of those occasions. We may not agree with the methodology they used and we may not agree with the numbers they used, but equally we've got to remember that we've got ward boundaries where we can say that Tilbury consists of Tilbury Riverside and Tilbury St Chads, but actually it may include parts of Thurrock Rectory, parts of Chadwell, we don't know, they could have a completely different set of criteria and obviously when they're setting their rules it's down to them. But, we have registered our disdain, for lack of a better word, giving police officers from one of the areas which does quite clearly need it. I will continue saying that, it's not just Tilbury, there are other areas in Thurrock, where I'm saying need it equally.

**Mayor**

Councillor Potheary, do you wish to pose a second supplementary?

**Councillor Potheary**

Thank you for the clarification Councillor Gledhill. By what kind of rate do you see the teams reducing crime by, and by when do you feel we'll start to see these results?

**Councillor Gledhill**

I really hate saying this, but these types of matters are for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to give. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner does attend here in January and I'm sure he'll be able to give you all that information on our police operations. I do not know whether these police will be pounding the beats like they used to in the olden days, or whether they're

going to be put onto specialist operations that will target one particular crime or another particular crime. There is a report going to Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which outlines the unfortunate increase in crime, not just in Thurrock, across Essex, and indeed the entire country. Sorry, reported crimes across Essex and across the whole of the country, and of course the relevant chair of overview and scrutiny could, of course, ask the police spokesman in at that point for clarification.

## **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO CABINET MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE COUNCIL ON A JOINT COMMITTEE**

### **1. From Councillor Liddiard to Councillor Maney**

Can the Portfolio Holder please explain why, as a councillor visiting my residents, I have been refused a parking permit for Tilbury?

#### **Mayor**

Councillor Maney.

#### **Councillor Maney**

Thank you Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor Liddiard for your question. It might help, Mister Mayor, if I explain that parking permits form part of the Traffic Regulation Order pertaining to any given scheme, and in the case of the Tilbury resident parking zones, the Traffic Regulation Order does not make provision for Councillors permits. Put simply, this is the reason why he wasn't issued with a permit. I'm sure that Councillor Liddiard will appreciate, any Member will appreciate, that when the Council receives a request for a permit, it has to apply strict eligibility criteria, and unfortunately, at the time of your request you didn't meet that criteria. But, going on from that Mister Mayor, it might help if I reminded Councillor Liddiard that if he is attending a pre-arranged visit with a resident in one of the PDA's, he can of course benefit from the visitors parking permits, which they're issued with. And I will go a bit further and say there are other options, the Council is currently looking at the situation as part of the fees and charges review, and I'm currently considering an option which will allow Councillors to be issued with visitor permits. There are number of considerations that have to be taken into account before a final decision is made on that, but I'm considering that and I'd be happy to report back on that in due course. Thank you Mister Mayor.

#### **Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Maney. Councillor Liddiard, do you have a supplementary question.

#### **Councillor Liddiard**

Thank you Councillor and Mister Mayor for both of those questions.

**2. From Councillor Mayes to Councillor Watkins**

Can the Portfolio Holder tell me what is being done about the strong toast-like smell that is a daily nuisance to the residents of Thurrock Park?

**Mayor**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins**

Thank you very much Mister Mayor, and thank you Councillor for your question here. The Council are fully aware of this issue and we have had concerns raised from Members, residents should I say sorry, previously, and I would like to say we are taking this matter seriously. The Council are aware as to where this toast-like smell is likely coming from, and they are proactively engaging with the company to find a resolution, and I will not be naming the company this evening. Work has been ongoing for some time now as well, dating back to October last year, and that's ad-hoc since October when they had our first visit, and subsequent visits as well in 2018 and in 2019 so far. The company have conducted their own work as well, having employed an odour specialists and so far the evidence would not allow for a statutory odour nuisance, sorry it's a bit technical this one. We're exploring what options are available to the Council and we'll continue to work with the company and keep visiting the site. One request I do have which is very helpful for Tilbury Councillors here this evening and for indeed residents as well, is we are asking residents who have already put in a concern, and are doing equally the same, is to keep an odour diary. It sounds a bit silly, but when you go outside, have a sniff and if you smell the toast smell, jot it down, keep a diary and then can you let the council know, so then we can build up a case as well, which is what we're currently doing. Thank you.

**Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Watkins. Councillor Mayes do you have a supplementary question?

**Councillor Mayes**

Yes Mister Mayor. Thank you for that. It has been going on for a while, as you said, the only thing that I would say is there always seems to be quite an onus on residents, the residents have to report, and I get that. When people keep reporting they lose faith, and it's the same with the police and everything. Have we got a time scale on how long this will go on, as obviously it's been going for a while now. If you're at these stages, I'm not saying I'm going to hold you to an exact date, but I don't know if you've got a rough time scale o when you'd expect to have a resolution.

## **Mayor**

Councillor Watkins.

## **Councillor Watkins**

Thank you Mister Mayor. Thank you Councillor for your supplementary. Currently there is no timescale that I'd be willing to give right now. It's a bit like the police, it does rely on evidence, which is why we're asking for residents to give that evidence to the Council, and they can do what they need to do behind the scenes. Just like to add as well, that touching on your point on evidence always coming from the residents, in case in particular, the officers are on site and have visited multiple times and any of the officers we have across the county that happen to be in Tilbury as well. I'll also just note that, this sounds a bit weird, but having a sniff in the air to see if it's there and then reporting it back to the council, and then equally as I eluded to as well, the Council's team have been actively engaging with the company, which they believe the smell is coming from and actively engaging with them to try and reduce the smell.

## **Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Watkins. Do you have a second supplementary question? No, thank you Councillor.

### **3. From Councillor Fletcher to Councillor Watkins**

The Council is failing its environment-related KPIs in two out of six areas namely street cleanliness (graffiti) and house hold waste reused/recycling. What plans have been put in place to remedy this?

*Councillor Fletcher will be provided with a written response.*

### **4. From Councillor Anderson to Councillor Halden**

Can the Cabinet Member update the chamber as to the effectiveness of our Youth Offending Service?

## **Mayor**

Councillor Halden.

## **Councillor Halden**

Thank you Mister Mayor, thank you Councillor Anderson.

Our Youth Offending Service which helps to ensure young people who become in trouble with the law, have their lives turned around is incredibly effective. The national reoffending figure for England stands at 41% in the last

year. The south east are slightly lower – 38.4%, in Essex, lower still at 32.8% but in Thurrock, our reoffending rate is only 29.5%.

So, all in all, if you are a young person entering statutory services in the borough of Thurrock, we will far more likely help you to turn your life around and ensure that you don't reoffend again, helping to change lives and making sure our communities are safer.

### **Mayor**

Councillor Anderson do you have a supplementary question?

### **Councillor Anderson**

Can the Cabinet Member assure me that this service is well-funded and well supported?

### **Councillor Halden**

Thank you Mister Mayor.

Insightful question Councillor Anderson.

Unfortunately, the Youth Offending Service at one stage did have a slight cut. In fact, half of its staff sacked in 2011 to 2012 under the previous Labour administration, the previous Leader of the Council, much like a butcher who doesn't quite know what he's doing, the cuts were just random and violent. But fortunately, the Conservative of this administration, at the direction of the Leader of the Council and myself, additional posts have been created to support Officers to deal with gang related issues, new posts have been put in place jointly funded by the Council and the CCG. And the Council and the National Probation Service to additionally help young people turn their lives around. And thanks to this, the Youth Offending Service has got greater capacity to day and has got more positive outcomes today than it had when we took office three and a half years ago.

### **Mayor**

Councillor Anderson, do you have a second supplementary question?

### **Councillor Anderson**

No thank you.

## **5. From Councillor Akinbohun to Councillor Maney**

Residents in the Mayflower Road Chafford Hundred area have complained about parking due to the number of cars which collect or offload school children at two schools. Can you look into the possibility of parking controls to alleviate problems for residents?

**Mayor**

Councillor Maney.

**Councillor Maney**

Thank you Mister Mayor, thank you Councillor Akinbohun for your question.

The first thing that I would say is it is recognised and it is a particular problem in Mayflower Road with during school pickup and drop off times. You ask whether additional parking controls could be put in place, I would say that there are already extensive waiting restrictions in Mayflower Road. Having looked at this, in my view and it is the Council's view too or Officers' view that it is hard to see how it could be extended without adversely impacting upon residents in the road also. Obviously we are open to any ideas that you have and we'll gladly receive them. But as I say, there are extensive waiting restrictions in the road already.

The Council's Civil Enforcement Officers carry out regular patrols, they have been very proactive in doing that but it has been agreed that we'll step up the activity in Mayflower Road but there is a caveat to that. We have a very small team of officers and of course, the problems in Mayflower Road are not just limited to the schools there, it is a problem across the borough and I say that as a Councillor, it is a particular problem in my ward as well. We'll carry out enforcement activity, we'll step that up but as I say, that's limited too.

There are other options, I don't want to go into them too much because they are at a very early stage but I think we are looking. There are potentially options for physical changes for the road layout, there are two options which I know Officers are looking at. Both of them would have considerable cost implications but as I say, work is underway to explore those. I can't say whether they will come to fruition in the near future but I hope that gives you some reassurance nonetheless that we are looking at a wide range of options. Thank you Mister Mayor.

**Mayor**

Councillor Akinbohun, do you have a supplementary question.

**Councillor Akinbohun**

Yes Mister Mayor. The residents of Mayflower Road really don't want a vague answer, we just want something that is more specific. If we can have some resident bay on that road, that is what they are actually asking for.

**Mayor**

Councillor Maney

## **Councillor Maney**

Thank you Mister Mayor.

I'm not sure if the Council has received any request for parking bays specifically for resident use but obviously, you've had that feedback from residents so I'm sure it's something we can look at.

Again, there is that option but there is the question of enforcement as well. I'm an optimist but I think, to be honest, without additional enforcement, those parking bays will very quickly be used by parents who want to park there for a few minutes to drop off their children. As I say, I think it is the prevailing view that some kind of physical alteration to the road network could be a more lasting solution.

Mayflower Road was never designed to originally be the road from which the schools would be accessed by. In fact, the school wasn't due to be there at all. It's another example of planning.

As I say, happy to look at any ideas. The Council is open to any solutions. The one point that I have to make though is that the Council has recently announced its Safer Routes to School policy. Schools have a part to play in that. Those schools that have a travel plan will be prioritised. There are about 10 schemes that have been prioritised for implementation this year so I say to any Ward Councillor who's in communications with their school, give them a nudge if they want something in return, because very often, schools are the ones that receive a lot of complaints. It would help their case greatly and the residents who live in harmony with them if they would bring forward a school travel plan and I say that will help them, help their particular scheme to be prioritised. Thank you Mister Mayor.

## **Mayor**

Councillor Akinbohun, do you wish to propose a second supplementary question?

## **Councillor Akinbohun**

No Mister Mayor.

## **6. From Councillor Jefferies to Councillor Halden**

### **Mayor**

Councillor Jefferies please read out your question.

### **Councillor Jefferies**

Would the Portfolio Holder for Health please update Members on what representations the Council has received from the medical profession on the proposed changes to health care in particular with regards to Orsett Hospital?

**Mayor**

Councillor Halden

**Councillor Halden**

Thank you Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor Jefferies for your question. As I have told the chamber in the past in May 2017 we signed a memorandum of understanding of our health partners outlining the construction of our integrated medical centre network will be predicated on Orsett Hospital only changing or closing when new centres are up and running so all services remain in the borough of Thurrock to be enhanced by being co-located with GPs, mental health services and public health services. That I know has been adhered to. In due course the overview and scrutiny committee and the People's Panel was established will see a matrix of services will be outlined each and every service at Orsett Hospital, where those services will be redeployed within the new network as the same time we roll out additional assurances regarding GP contracts for those facilities and our initial draft plans by how mental health services will be integrated across the four medical centres. Across the four individual sites members would already have seen that the Purfleet IMC is clearly outlined in the Purfleet Regeneration Master Plan and the Tilbury Regeneration Plan that Councillor Coxshall brought forwarded clearly has the IMC included in there. The Corringham IMC has already had planning permission passed and I attended a visit at the community hospital a fortnight ago with the Director of Health to see the progress. The matrix will come soon and funding is now in a very sound position. Overview and scrutiny did call in this decision to the Secretary of State which meant the decision was put on pause. It was very regrettable that the decision regarding our IMCs and Orsett Hospital was published in June 2018 and the overview and scrutiny committee took almost half a year to get around to calling it in. That has cost us about 14 months of progress, where other parties had to be recall out. But we are now pushing on, the independent review panel have now come back and judged the political merits of the case and are confident this is within the best interests of patients. I know that this scheme is still opposed by the Labour group but let's just quickly review the groups that are in favour of it. NELFT community health provider of the NHS, EPUT mental health provider of the NHS, the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England, Clinical Senate, Basildon Hospital, Thurrock Public Health, Thurrock Social Care, Thurrock CCG, Basildon CCG, Rochford CCG, Southend CCG, Mid Essex CCG. Basically the entire medical profession with the exception of the Labour party.

**Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Halden. Councillor Jefferies do you have a supplementary question.

## **Councillor Jefferies**

No thank you Mister Mayor.

## **7. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Maney**

### **Mayor**

Councillor Gerrish please read out your question.

### **Councillor Gerrish**

What action is Thurrock Council taking to minimise the impact of additional traffic from Purfleet's new secondary school?

### **Councillor Maney**

Thank you Mister Mayor and Councillor Gerrish for your question and I think the first thing I would say Mister Mayor as it is worth nothing that the school only opened this month I think in terms of any additional traffic or traffic associated problems of parking problems I think the full impact of that will become evident in the fullness of time although I hope that the measures that are already in place will mitigate against that. Again another point I want to make before moving on it is not necessary the Council's responsibility to implement all the measures aimed at addressing additional traffic problems that actually rests with the developer, and come back to the point I made earlier about the planning process, it is bit late looking at measures when something like a secondary school is already in operation of course there are things that Council could look but fundamentally it is at the planning stage it is about holding the development to account and making sure that the conditions are in the planning consent. And turning to the planning consent I am sure Councillor Gerrish have read that as no doubt a number of us have I have picked out some things that are already in place which have come about as the Council's Highways Department recommendations to the Planning Committee and their contribution to the planning process. A developer is required to make a £20,000 contribution to the Council so to enable amendments to the existing parking controls in London Road there will be a new signalised pedestrian crossing in London Road which will serve the academy, a private bus service will be in place to transport pupils between Harris Academy in Chafford Hundred and the new campus in London Road. There will be a student drop off and pick up facility at Cornwell House car park which is 500 yards from the school and there are also provision for on-site parking, drop off and pick up facility. Again I come back to the issue of a travel plan the Academy is also expected to prepare and maintain a travel plan which will encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport and on that point of course it is worth pointing out the school does sit on a bus route and is only meters away from Purfleet train station so it is hoped that more pupils will use public transport given as they have access to these kinds of services. Thank you Mister Mayor.

**Mayor**

Thank your Councillor Maney. Councillor Gerrish do you have a supplementary question.

**Councillor Gerrish**

Thank you Mister Mayor. Yes I do. I thank the portfolio holder for the answer clearly we all welcome that the new school is opening in Purfleet that gives us huge opportunities in the areas but we do obviously we do need to ensure that we consider the traffic issues around that and to ensure the public are safe. I certainly do welcome that there is a new pedestrian crossing coming something that we talk a lot about in Purfleet and actually if you go down London Road in either direction of the school you have to go quite a long way before you get to a crossing. Would the portfolio holder would be able to confirm to us please when we would expect that new crossing to open.

**Mayor**

Councillor Maney

**Councillor Maney**

Thank you Mister Mayor. I would clearly love to but unfortunately I can't, that is a planning condition and my reading of that it should have been in situ before the school was open. Now I do know that officers in the Highways Team have been very active in reminding the developer of their obligation and they haven't as yet been forthcoming in filling that obligation but I understand that they do know the urgency of it unfortunately there are permits that need to be issued before such work can be carried out and there is inevitably going to be some delay because until they do apply no permits can be issued so I think I am right in saying again that we are looking at some time in October but ultimately if the developer does not meet this obligation or any of their obligations it this does fall to the Planning department to consider enforcement action and I do say that again for someone who represents a ward in which a school is in breach of a planning condition and there is a tendency that because it is a school that we won't hold them to it. I personally expect whether it is a school, charity organisation, a large corporation or large business if they sort planning consent with conditions they should adhere to it and enforcement action should follow come what may. Thank you Mister Mayor.

**Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Maney. Councillor Gerrish do you have a second supplementary question.

**Councillor Gerrish**

Thank you Mister Mayor. Could the portfolio holder just clarify that he seems to be speaking as though he is expecting the school themselves to build the crossing whereas I think most of us would have expected them to provide funding to the Council in order to enable to deliver a project to put a crossing in place. Could he just confirm the situation please?

**Mayor**

Councillor Maney.

**Councillor Maney**

Thank you Mister Mayor. It is not my misunderstanding and if I am wrong I stand corrected but it is my understanding is that the developer is responsible for ensuring that the crossing is put in place and use a contractor for that purpose. Thank you Mister Mayor.

**Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Maney.

**8. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Huelin**

How many senior permanent roles at Thurrock Council (Assistant Director or above) are currently occupied by temporary, agency or acting up staff?

*Councillor Gerrish requested a written response.*