

Council: Tuesday, 16 December 2014

14.1 – Motion in the name of Councillor Caroline Stock – Mayor’s Primary School Fitness Award

Amendment in the name of Councillor Arjun Mittra

Add after 6th sentence:

Council notes however that the government has a patchy record on school sports programmes which has not helped, having abolished the funding ring fence for School Sports Partnerships, cut its funding, and ended the minimum requirement that all children do at least two hours PE in schools each week.

Add after 7th sentence:

Council also notes that unfortunately since the Olympics in 2012 the government has approved the sale of at least two playing fields across the country every month, and that locally in Barnet open spaces like Pavilion Way Playing Fields are either being left without investment and unused or are being cut down in size and sold off for development instead on the pretext that this will bring the open space back into use.

Council also notes the proposal to re-locate the Finchley Lido by building on a green space next to Finchley Memorial Hospital which has caused consternation amongst local residents.

Add after the last sentence:

Council also calls on the Conservative administration to withdraw both the proposals to sell-off Pavilion Way Playing Fields and to re-locate Finchley Lido.

Substantive Motion to read:

Council is concerned that obesity is a rapidly growing problem nationally among children of primary school age, noting that 1 in 5 10-11 year olds are obese and 1 in 3 are overweight. Council further notes that obesity leads to a range of health problems including the premature development of cardiovascular disease, stroke, heart attacks and heart failure, which together are the most prevalent causes of death and disability in the UK. The health costs of obesity and Type 2 diabetes currently stand at over £29 billion annually and are continuing to rise.

Council believes obesity in primary age children is preventable and that we must try to help curb its rise. Council notes that by the age of 7 most children have decided if they enjoy being active. The council can encourage this choice and work to help reverse the current trend of limited exercise.

Council notes however that the government has a patchy record on school sports programmes which has not helped, having abolished the funding ring

fence for School Sports Partnerships, cut its funding, and ended the minimum requirement that all children do at least two hours PE in schools each week.

Council also notes that the borough has some of the best areas of open space in all of London and believes they comprise a great resource and opportunity in getting people active.

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Council also notes the proposal to re-locate the Finchley Lido by building on a green space next to Finchley Memorial Hospital, which has caused consternation amongst local residents.

Council therefore calls for the introduction of a Mayor's Primary School Fitness Award to encourage Barnet's 92 primary schools to make the most of local open spaces in promoting outdoor exercise. Pupils would walk to their nearest park or open space, be introduced to what it has to offer – including play / suitable gym equipment, marked and measured routes and other features – and tasked with devising an exercise circuit of at least 500m for each year group to complete. It is also an opportunity to help children experience all the excitement and stimulation that our parks and open spaces have to offer. The best ideas and programmes would win the award.

Council also calls on the Conservative administration to withdraw both the proposals to sell-off Pavilion Way Playing Fields and to re-locate Finchley Lido.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 23.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.