

WRITTEN QUESTIONS - JUNE 2007

No	Rec/9 wd target to respond	Question by	Response from	Sent to Cllr	Published
1	<p>Received 5th June 2007</p> <p>Target response by 15th June 2007</p>	<p>Councillor E Lynch</p> <p>Can the electoral officer responsible for elections please ensure that as soon as any dates are known for General, European elections, County, District elections along with any I may have missed, That the relevant dates are communicated to any School that MAY be needed for the purpose?</p> <p>The last B D C elections the Schools; apparently only had a short notice to make the decision to close the "Schools" due to safety of pupils. Would Democratic Services further agree that this is only reasonable, and courteous, to give advance notice?</p> <p>It would then be possible, if this advance notice is given, to plan a NON pupil day.</p>	<p>Allan Reid, Returning Officer</p> <p>Schools and other bodies that could be affected by the elections, are given the maximum practical notice to enable them to plan for any disruption and for polling station availability to be planned.</p> <p>An example is the last election where all schools were written to on 8th November 2006, which gives six months notice.</p> <p>We shall publish any anticipated election dates for the next 12 months on the understanding that such dates can change.</p>	E Lynch 6 th June 2007	11 th June 2007
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2	<p>Received 18th June 2007</p> <p>Target response by 29th June 2007</p>	<p>Councillor Dr R Evans</p> <p>At the Cabinet meeting of 4 June 2007 in response to comments raised by myself re Neighbourhood Action Panels it was stated that such a Panel had been set up in Braintree and that this Panel includes 3 elected members.</p> <p>However, the situation for the Witham North and Witham South Panels is that elected members have been specifically excluded from</p>	<p>Chief Inspector Mark Schofield:</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Action Panels are in their infancy and will need a number of months to become established as part of the Community Engagement Process. There is considerable current activity to identify the groups of people to form the Panels and none throughout the 14 Neighbourhood Policing Teams within the District are either complete or closed. Membership of the Panels should always be a fluid thing and will never be without opportunity for inclusion.</p>	29/6/07	29/6/07

		<p>membership in both cases.</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member please clarify this position where it appears that different Panel membership criteria are being applied in Braintree to that of Witham ?</p>	<p>Specifically in answer to the question, District Councillors are NOT excluded from membership of the NAPs, and will be welcome.</p> <p>I have outlined in a variety of meetings over the previous months some principles that I am keen to maintain: NAPs are Community Meetings for local people about local issues and have no place for party politics. The majority of members will come from the local community and community groups and not 'elected' as such, but there is certainly a place for Councillors. The NAPs cannot become a 'mini' District, Town or Parish Council meeting, for example where there are a number of Wards covered by the NAP it may be more efficient and effective for a single Councillor to attend rather than all.</p> <p>Once established and used in the right way, the NAPs will be an excellent vehicle for the Partnership to both give and receive information to local communities.</p>		
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3	<p>Received 18th June 2007</p> <p>Target response by 29th June 2007</p>	<p>Councillor Dr R Evans</p> <p>The case for "Meeting Community Needs" has been recently publicised as a Council Corporate Theme with the emphasis this year on "educating members of the public on Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour issues by raising awareness of intervention and enforcement. This is most welcome news.</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member please say whether or not a similar emphasis and education programme will be put on to educate Elected</p>	<p>Councillor Mrs Schmitt, Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Healthy Living</p> <p>A programme specifically on Community Safety is being developed for Members. This will consist of a series of workshops covering varied aspects of work the Community Safety & Development Team are involved in. These will be arranged on the predetermined Member Training dates for 2007.</p> <p>Action has been taken on the Report produced by the Public Safety Policy Development Group. This was reported upon again at the 4th June 2007 Cabinet. Further guidance is awaited from the Home Office with regards to implementation of the CADAR</p>	29/6/07	29/6/07

		<p>Members so that they too can gain the skills needed to fully represent and engage with the community in these key areas ?</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member also now give a progress up-date on the Cabinet's decision on 19th June 2006 to delay acting for at least 3 months on the PSPDG Report " The Role of the Elected Member when dealing with Anti Social Behaviour " and say whether this report has or indeed ever had any value ?</p>	<p>2006. The latest information received is that this should be with Crime and Disorder Reduction Panels in the summer of 2007.</p>		
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4	<p>Received 18th June 2007</p> <p>Target response by 29th June 2007</p>	<p>Councillor Dr R Evans</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member please give the current position below of New Affordable Housing developments in the District :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Witham - Bridge Hospital: (42 units) completion expected in May 2007 ? (b) Braintree Bus Garage, Fairfield Road 10 units for shared ownership expected to be completed July 2007 ? (c) Halstead – Abels Road: 1 shared ownership unit expected to be completed in June 2007 ? <p>Would the Cabinet Member also please give the estimated start of the housing development on the Witham Spring Lodge Site ?</p>	<p>Councillor Mrs Beavis, Cabinet Member for Community Support and Engagement</p> <p>(a) Witham - Bridge Hospital, (42 units) 15 units handed over to date with phased fortnightly handovers planned for the remaining units, completing mid July.</p> <p>(b) Braintree Bus Garage, Fairfield Road, (10 shared ownership 1 beds) 9 expected by end of July, 1 in separate block expected mid September.</p> <p>(c) Halstead, Abels Road, 1 x 2 bed bungalow expected mid August.</p> <p>(d) Witham, Spring Lodge based on recent dialogue with developer it is hoped that start on site can be achieved during August but not directly within our control.</p>	29/6/07	29/6/07