

CABINET – 25 FEBRUARY 2014

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Public Questions

Question (1) from Mr Mike Sawyer, Vice-Chairman of Banstead Village Residents Association to ask:
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In the context of the current PSP review and impending closure of the London Fire Brigades Purley Station, we recognise the need for, and benefits of, siting a fire appliance in the Burgh Heath/Banstead area with direct access to the A240 or A217. With regard to the change of “preferred location” from Burgh Heath to the busy Banstead High Street as a site for a fire appliance we deplore the inadequate “consultation” in our immediate area and ask that we be told:-

1. Why, given the length of time that it has been known that the LFB’s station at Purley will close for at least 18 months from this summer without short term replacement cover, has it not been possible to secure a site that meets the fire service’s requirement (as stated at the public consultation meeting in January 2013) of direct, or virtually direct, access onto the A217 or A240?
2. Why was the only public meeting to discuss this proposal held in Ewell Village when siting only affects Banstead Village and its surrounding area, when Banstead has many meeting rooms that could have been made available for a vastly greater public response?
3. Why has the former Ambulance station adjacent to the A217 not been secured as the long term, or even interim, site, when it has existing garaging and the potential for re-opening the access onto, and across, the A217, and shared messing with the retained Ambulance HQ buildings? This is especially hard to understand as the site owners are known to be moving the main headquarters establishment from this location.
4. What practical research has been carried out on the delays inherent in siting the new station in the High Street – other than theoretical computer based modelling? We were told that this modelling does not have information specific to the congestion in Banstead High Street. Whilst it is practical to expect a fire tender to gain access to an emergency in the High Street, it is an entirely different practical problem to make all calls from the High Street – with its’ and the surrounding roads’ congestion as the starting point for each journey.