

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS****(a) Councillor McCaffery**

“This Council is responsible for the safety of children in our care. The number of children in care has increased from an average of 375 in December 2008 to an average of 460 at the present time, an increase of 25%. Would the Cabinet Member inform this Council of the increase in the budget necessary to meet this substantial increase in demand?”

**Reply from Councillor Brown, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

**(b) Councillor Kitcat**

“Can Cllr Geoffrey Theobald provide details on what is done with the biodegradable waste produced by the work of City Parks in particular where it is taken, how it is processed and whether this is done by contractors or the Council itself?”

**Reply from Councillor G Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment**

**(c) Councillor Kitcat**

“Can Cllr Geoffrey Theobald clarify for members the contractual arrangements with Veolia regarding municipal waste collection? Is it the case that any residential waste collected from the street must be processed by Veolia?”

**Reply from Councillor G Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment**

**(d) Councillor Davey**

“At the first full meeting of the recently formed city wide Transport Partnership the Cabinet Member for Environment who chairs the partnership suggested that he had been told to be there and thought that the meeting was a waste of time that would achieve nothing.

In light of this could the Leader of the council please clarify whether or not her administration is committed to cross sector partnership working to address the acute transport problems facing Brighton & Hove and whether she agrees or not that the council needs to bring about a widespread shift to sustainable low carbon transport across the city.”

**Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council**

**(e) Councillor West**

“In 2005 Peter Brett Associates conducted a study of potential park and ride sites. Of the 11 potential sites that were considered worth looking at in detail, Braypool Sports Ground, Waterhall, Waterhall (“the Borough Plan site”), Mill Road West (Green Ridge) and Patcham Place all now fall within the National Park. Patcham Court Farm is being marketed for business development, Woollards Field will be home to The Keep (records office). The former Gasworks and Roedean Miniature Golf Course are now at the wrong end of the new coastal bus lane. As an indication of the feasibility of finding suitable sites it is worth noting the two top scoring sites were shockingly Patcham Place and Green Ridge! Of the remainder, that leaves just Basin Road, Shoreham Harbour and Court Farm, neither of which were judged able to properly serve the important A27/A23 junction.

In the light of this can Councillor Theobald state which sites are being considered in the new study commissioned of Peter Brett into Park and Ride, and by what miracle he expects this to reveal any better conclusions about the availability of feasible sites, and how the expense of such a study is therefore justified?”

**Reply from Councillor G Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment**

**(f) Councillor West**

“The 2005 Park & Ride study (using Halcrow Demand Modelling) also revealed that 2 out of 3 morning peak hour car trips begin and end within the city. Of the remainder more leave the city than are incoming. This pattern is repeated for daytime traffic as well. Only a small proportion of traffic in the city is therefore in-bound, perhaps only 10% of total trips. Moreover, the scale of in-bound traffic is such that even given a park and ride capacity of 1500 spaces, only around 10 percent of in coming traffic could make use of such a service. In other words the impact Park & Ride could have on overall city traffic is slight, perhaps a reduction of only a few percent.

In light of this, would Councillor Theobald agree that the greatest challenge for our transport policy is to make it possible for large scale modal shift by the city's own population, and that a comprehensive city wide rapid transit system (most feasibly bus based), plus measures to reduce the need to travel, will be essential to bringing this about?”

**Reply from Councillor G Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment**