

## **Annex 1**

### **Question 1**

Having attended the East Area Committee meeting on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Cllr T. Martin attempted to raise a long going issue of the fact that there is no provision at Hendon Beach of life saving equipment and this has been the case for a number of years now? Yes it was raised during a long meeting but the issue seemed to be hurried/brief.

I also attempted to support Cllr Martin about this very serious situation but also wanted to raise the issue of that there is far more serious situation developing at the Beach. As an example at this moment after a series of heavy seas the action of the waves has damaged the railings and their supports! This is at the very points that fatalities have occurred that Cllr Martin referred to! (This is the location at the ramps both at North and South of the promenade down to the actual beach)

Further information on this situation:- I photographed the damage 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and emailed the evidence to the Hendon Councillors and the Resort Manager plus Cllr heron who is to my knowledge the Chair of the committee to scrutinise this situation. I have had no response to the information supplied or photographs.

In previous discussion with Cllr Martin I have also reminded the Councillor that there was a major health and safety problem raised by the Council's own health and safety department and this was to be a separate project entirely, to the regeneration project. This was the problem as identified of longitudinal travel along the whole length of both Hendon and Grangetown beaches in fact this is the areas of beach which are safeguarded by the promenade.

This longitudinal travel was to be solved by removing the upper parts of groynes and then cutting gaps in the concrete groynes with the necessary capping. This capping has not been carried out to the south of the breakwater leaving dangerous sharp edging with scraps of steel sticking out.

The required construction of a ramp over the large operational sewer pipe which is one of the major obstacles to the longitudinal route this has not been carried out at all.

The access on and off the beach was also defined as a major problem both at the 3 ramps and the 2 steps accesses, in fact the steps accesses are actually railed off, and it is still the case as even after the new railings have been installed as part of the regeneration project.

So these questions to be carried forward are:-

When is any life saving equipment going to be provided at Hendon Beach?

When will the damaged railings and equipment be repaired or replaced?

When is the longitudinal access problem going to be rectified? Suggestion:- Remove some of the 'rock armour' at groynes to expose the originally fitted steps over every groyne and sewer pipe.

When is capping to the groynes going to be completed and made safe?

The new railings still obstruct access to the steps to and from the beach.

**The response and Officer contact details will be included as Annex 2a which will be circulated in advance of the meeting.**

## **Question 2**

We are part of the Long Street Action group and we are asking this question now to the East Area Committee as part of 'Its your Sunderland' brochure as provided by Councillors.

Why does Sunderland City Council not use, implement or even enforce the powers that they have to control the empty houses within the city?

Our concerns are within the long streets area of Hendon. St. Leonard Street is causing great concern to some of our members especially a lady member who has lived opposite and virtually next door to another of these properties.

Photographs have been sent to all of the Hendon Councillors and to housing officers, all of them are aware of the serious condition of these empty properties. The pictures were also provided as part of the selective licensing dossier provided earlier this year as evidence of the housing conditions in the long street area.

We are aware of some enforceable powers such as Empty Dwelling Management Orders, Enforced Sale and Compulsory Purchase that could possibly be employed as in other parts of the country.

We realise that these are not easy to carry out but the delay is a problem.

Why do we just have to accept this? It seems that the situation is becoming the norm as these properties have been in this condition for over a year now.

The rear of No. 76 has no garage door and is known to be a problem for the Council, Police and Fire Brigade and No. 78 has no rear wall at all. These houses also have plywood bay windows.

Why have residents got to put up /live with these properties in these conditions? It is embarrassing to admit to living in an area that contains these derelict properties.

**Please see annex 2b for the response and Officer contact details**

### **Question 3**

Can anyone answer why the long streets in Hendon do not have road cleaners, the same as Ryhope Road and other areas as we are supposed to have? I understand that we get one every six weeks which is less than we used to. The streets to me are rapidly going from bad to worse. There is broken glass everywhere, rubbish left for days unless we ring the cleansing department to pick it up and dog fouling left.

**The response and Officer contact details will be included as Annex 2c which will be circulated in advance of the meeting.**