

Council
23 February 2022
Item 7 - Questions from Members of the Public

The following question has been submitted in accordance with Part 4 Section E of the Council's Constitution

Mr Singh has asked the following question of the Business & Transformation Portfolio Holder

"Camberley Sikh Association has been meeting at the IGC since 2010 for monthly prayers and social gatherings. It's an ideal place where the Sikh Community meet, pray and share our Guru's vegetarian communal food prepared at the Centre's kitchen facilities. The Guru's communal meal is an essential part of the Sikh Religion's practice and must be observed and sustained as part of the Sikh Guru's teachings.

Lately, problems with the kitchen's fume extraction system have left us unable to prepare the monthly religious Communal Meal for the congregation. Without this, monthly prayers are not complete and the Sikh Community feel very hurt and disappointed.

Please can you restore the faulty extraction system so we can continue to observe and sustain our religious practices and beliefs."

The Business & Transformation Portfolio Holder has provided the following response:

"The Council has obtained quotes for the essential works needed in order to bring the kitchen at Camberley Theatre to a safe and usable standard. These works include the removal and replacement of existing canopy and improvements to the ventilation extract system in the kitchen. A number of options have been considered including changing from gas to electric and even relocating the kitchen devices with costs being between £17,500 - £25,000.

The Theatre does not have the commercial or practical need for a kitchen of this nature, especially since the catering element of the business ceased in 2016. The Theatre does not earn income from hiring the kitchen to any hirers and there is no commercial demand for a space of this nature.

We have, this week, uncovered a further issue with the electrical points in the kitchen which we are investigating. This could incur further cost to the renovation of this area.

We are sympathetic to the challenges and difficulties this causes the CSA and are working with them to look at alternative venues in the borough to support the excellent work they provide the community. As the CSA (or any other hirer) do not pay rent for the kitchen we are not in a position to make such a significant investment into this space."