

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING - 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1
2UD - Islington Town Hall on 20 September 2018 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Bell-Bradford	Graham	O'Halloran
Burgess	Hamitouche	O'Sullivan
Caluori	Heather	Picknell
Champion	Hull	Poyser
Chapman	Ismail	Russell
Clarke	Hyde	Shaikh
Comer-Schwartz	Jeapes	Smith
Convery	Khondoker	Turan
Cutler	Khurana	Ward
Debono	Klute	Watts
Fletcher	Lukes	Wayne
Gallagher	Mackmurdie	Webbe
Gantly	Nathan	Woodbyrne
Gill	Ngongo	Woolf

The Mayor (Councillor David Poyser) in the Chair

15 MINUTE SILENCE

The Council observed a minute's silence for former Councillor Gary Doolan, former Councillor and Freeman of the Borough George Durack, and local housing campaigner Eleonora Schinella.

16 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 July 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Clarke-Perry, Chowdhury, Kay, Poole, Spall and Williamson.

(ii) Order of Business

No changes were proposed to the order of business.

(iii) Declaraton of Discussion Items

No items were declared.

(iv) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had attended many events since the last Council meeting, including the very successful Angel Canal Festival, the Hillrise Summer Festival, the Rosemary Gardens Funday and the "Go Islington" sports festival on Highbury Fields, to name a few. The Mayor said that attending Islington's community events always made him proud to live in such a diverse borough with a strong community spirit. The Mayor was pleased to see so many newly elected councillors at these events, commenting that they had already become a key part of the communities they serve.

The Mayor was pleased to open the Islington in Bloom Awards and thanked everyone who participated for helping make sure the borough always looked its best.

The Mayor congratulated the young people of the borough on a fantastic set of exam results. Islington's young people achieved their best-ever GCSE results. Islington schools had come a long way in recent years and it was great to see the benefits of that improvement.

The Mayor was pleased that the anti-suicide measures on Archway Bridge had received permission to go ahead, commenting that it was a great result for the local community.

The Mayor encouraged everyone to attend the borough's Remembrance events in November. 2018 was the centenary of the end of World War 1 and the centenary of the Royal Air Force. In addition to the usual events at Islington Green, Spa Green, the Royal Northern Gardens, a beacon would be lit at Dartmouth Park at 7pm.

(v) Length of speeches

The Mayor asked all members to be mindful of the timer and keep within the permitted length for speeches.

19 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Watts passed on his warmest wishes to the borough's Jewish community on the conclusion of Yom Kippur.

Councillor Watts congratulated Islington's young people on achieving the borough's best ever GCSE results. Only ten years ago Islington was in the bottom 20 lowest performing boroughs in the country for GCSE results; this year Islington was in the top 20 for the progress that young people make in secondary school. This was a remarkable turnaround and Councillor Watts thanked the borough's schools, teachers, pupils and their families for their hard work, commenting that they had achieved outstanding results during a time of chaos in the country's exam system.

Councillor Watts said that the new Council administration had hit the ground running; delivering genuinely affordable new homes, extending the school music tuition service to make music tuition accessible to all, delivering the UK's first affordable workspace strategy to create good quality jobs for local people, and progressing the de-carbonisation of the council's pension fund. Councillor Watts advised the Council was determined to keep up the pace of delivery.

Councillor Watts said his thoughts were with the family of the man murdered in Tufnell Park earlier the same week. Councillor Watts wanted to reassure everyone that the Council would continue to work closely with the Police and City Hall on tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Watts paid tribute to Gary Doolan and George Durack. Gary was Islington born and bred, representing St Peter's ward for over twelve years and championing policies that had been a hallmark of the borough; including universal free school meals, bringing services back in-house, opposing blacklisting and introducing the London Living Wage. Councillor Watts noted that Gary's memorial service at St Mary's Church was very well attended by members of the trade union movement, the Labour Party, the local community and council staff. At the service warm tributes were paid to former Councillor Doolan, who changed hundreds of lives through his union work, his community work and his political work.

Councillor Watts said it had been a privilege to know George Durack, also a former Councillor and Freeperson of the Borough. George had a life well lived, he had been a soldier, a postman, a trade unionist, a councillor and a community activist. His work in his community changed hundreds of lives, he was always honest, straightforward, and charming and his humour and support was touching. It was a remarkable achievement that George was able to campaign for so many years, well into his nineties.

Councillor Watts called on everyone present to reaffirm their commitment to ordinary working people, as Gary and George did every day of their lives.

Tributes to Gary Doolan and George Durack were also made by Councillors Burgess, Russell, Heather, Clarke, Klute, Gantly, Debono and Champion.

20 PETITIONS

Kate Elander and pupils from Hugh Myddleton Primary School presented a petition requesting the Council to resettle ten child refugees a year, over the next ten years.

Sebastian Sandys presented a petition requesting the Council to welcome representatives of the "City State of Totnes" and take an oath of allegiance to the European Union.

21 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question (a) from Sebastian Sandys to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council:

Could the Leader please outline what (if any) formal connections he has made over the summer on behalf of the Borough with the City State of Totnes?

Response:

Thank you for your question. The answer is none.

Question (b) from Natasha Cox to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

The other day on a 390 bus I was sat in front of a couple saying how much they were looking forward to using the cycle path down Holloway Road when it was completed. With the new protected cycle lanes at Archway and Highbury Corner they and their friends had assumed there were plans to join them. Will you contact TFL and push them to provide protected cycle lanes on Holloway Road connecting Archway and Highbury Corner?

Response:

Thank you for this very helpful question. In our 2018 manifesto Islington Labour stated we will campaign for TFL to support our ambitions for protected cycle routes on the Holloway Road corridor and Upper Street. I am pleased to hear that this aspiration is shared by local residents like yourself. This administration is firmly committed to making cycling safer and more attractive for all. We are campaigning for this new cycle route and we have made some headway with the Mayor of London and TFL. A few key junctions are currently being considered for re-design to make them safer, including the dangerous and outdated junction at Drayton Park as well as the junction at Hornsey Road and Hornsey Street. We of course await further details on these proposals from the Mayor of London and TFL and we hope to share this

information with the public very soon. It helps that those junctions were in the Mayor's Transport Strategy, as that document sets the direction of travel.

However, Holloway Road cannot be made safer for cyclists just through improvements to individual junctions. The Council remains firmly committed to campaigning for a comprehensive safe cycle route, covering Holloway Road and Upper Street.

We are very pleased to have secured formal commitment from the Mayor of London through Will Norman, London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner, for TfL to fund the development of a new 'quietway' route paralleling the A1 corridor and connecting Regents Canal near the Packington Estate to Highgate north of Archway. While this parallel route does not replace the need for improvements to Holloway Road and Upper Street, it will at least give inexperienced cyclists a safe and quiet alternative to Holloway Road, and this will be much sooner than improvements could be delivered on Holloway Road itself.

We hope to turn Will Norman's formal commitment into some real cash, so that development of this parallel route can commence sooner rather than later. I hope to be welcoming very soon TfL's planned improvements to Holloway Road itself. We will stand with you, we will campaign with you, we believe this route is very much needed.

Question (c) from Liz Eversole to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Residents of the St Lukes' Community have grave concerns about the current St Lukes' development design's impact of dividing and blocking off much needed community open and green space important to improve health, biodiversity and air quality for a growing local population. The proposal for the site by Islington Council would mean reducing the leisure centre site by over 35% to develop private and social housing and reducing the football pitches by almost 50%. Therefore, can the Executive Member for Planning provide evidence that specifically demonstrates how the current design for the development of the Finsbury Leisure Centre site will improve, insure and maintain the council's policy of Open Space, leisure space and green space of the Finsbury Leisure Centre site, crucially required for the densest populated borough in the UK?

Response:

Thank you for your question. This Council is determined to tackle the housing crisis. Too many people do not have a place to live that is decent, secure and safe. That is why we are committed to building at least 550 new council homes, as we deliver 1,900 new genuinely affordable homes by 2022.

The St Luke's development is the Council's ambitious plan to redevelop the Finsbury Leisure Centre site to deliver at least 60 much needed council homes, a new leisure centre and community facilities including a GP practice. This will help to ensure there

is adequate social infrastructure available for the borough's growing population in this area, including incorporating Bunhill Energy Centre into the homes to provide affordable and greener energy for our residents.

The design of the site is currently being finalised. Local residents will have the opportunity to review the proposals when the planning application is submitted as part of a formal consultation process. I can confirm that the proposals drawn up so far include almost exactly the same amount of leisure space, in fact there is almost a 3% increase.

The proposals also deliver significant improvements to the leisure provision in a brand new high quality building designed with modern and inclusive facilities, including new leisure facilities with improved accessibility for those in wheelchairs, the sports hall will increase in size by 44%, or 298 square meters, the configuration of the squash courts is considerably improved so they are side by side and can actually host tournaments. The amount of changing room space will increase by 93%. The number of classes at the centre will not be affected and the proposals will include the same number of football pitches, four. The new pitches will meet Sports England standards for five-a-side pitches. The current pitches are bigger, but do not meet Sport England standards for larger seven-a-side pitches.

The proposals provide for similar levels of public realm on the site. However, it is important to note that the designs provide for significant improvements, such as improved public space at Paton Street, clearer sight lines along Norman Street that provide visibility of Ironmonger Row from Central Street, the creation of a new accessible link across the site from Paton Street to Mitchell Street providing a viewing area for the football pitches, and improvements to Helmet Row, Norman Street and Mitchell Street.

We appreciate that development in the borough can be disruptive for residents. The council has very clear rules on how construction should be managed to minimise disruption on neighbouring residents and these are set out in the Council's Code of Construction Practice.

Supplementary question:

Thank you. Residents of the St Luke's area and Bunhill House would like to know how we will be compensated for the detrimental effects to wellbeing, health, fuel bills, air and noise pollution, and the stress of living of a construction site for four to six years if the proposals go through as currently planned.

Response:

Myself and Councillor Webbe have already met with local councillors and discussed things we can do to help residents. We are very happy to keep talking to you to see what we can do.

Question (d) from Benali Hamdache to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety:

How many people are currently receiving council tax rebates for "mental disability" in Islington right now?

Response:

There is an exemption in council tax called 'Severe Mental Impairment' and 410 people have been exempted from payment on those accounts this year.

After Council Tax Benefit was abolished by the Coalition Government in 2013 we established our own Council Tax Support Scheme, we will be hearing more about that later under the motions item. We were asked to do this with significantly less money. We created a Council Tax Support Scheme that disregards disability-based income such as Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments and War Disablement Allowance. Our scheme has also kept personal allowances relating to disability, including disabled children, meaning that a disabled person can have a higher income and yet receive the same entitlement as a person without a disability. Unfortunately, it is not possible to identify the broader numbers with a mental disability benefiting from the scheme, but we have ensured that they receive extra protection once their illness is identified.

Supplementary question:

According to Islington Evidence Hub there are over 1,000 people living with dementia and Parkinson's in this borough, there are over 2,000 people who have suffered a stroke, there are over 700 people living with learning disabilities. Not all of those will be eligible for the discount, but what is the Council doing to address this big shortfall of people who might be eligible for the discount but who are not receiving it.

Response:

Thank you Benali. You obviously have to satisfy certain criteria to be eligible for the discounts, if you think you are aware of people who might be eligible but who are not receiving a discount please write to us as soon as possible. If you have information from the Evidence Hub that suggests they might be out there somewhere, then I'm happy to take a look.

Question (e) from John Gabriel to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

This is a question about the management of the contract between Source London and Islington Council in relation to the location of Electric Vehicle or EV charging units and the and discriminatory access to pavements. The footway on the top of Melgund Road was 1.5 metres before the EV charging equipment was installed and met the Inclusive Mobility guidelines developed by the Department of Transport to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. After the EV chargers and 400volt

feeder pillar were installed, the footway was reduced to 1.28m. The Council have stated that all new EV charging points will allow a footway width of 1.5m. Can the Council instruct Source London to move the Melgund Road chargers and feeder pillar so that residents and pedestrians on Melgund Road have the same rights as those with new EV charging stations and full disabled access is restored to our road? Otherwise the Council will have a two tier set of rights which is not fair or defensible.

Response:

Thank you for your question. Islington is facing an air pollution crisis. This public health problem is a life or death situation. That's why I'm pleased that Islington is leading the way in rolling out electric vehicle charging points as part of our efforts to encourage local people who require a car to switch to more sustainable and environmentally friendly options. By 2022 we hope to install an extra 400 electric vehicle charging points across the borough. We do so unashamedly. We do so to tackle the harmful particulates produced by diesel engines that pollute our air and reduce our residents' quality of life.

However, you are right. We want to ensure that our footways remain accessible for all pedestrians and I am aware that some charging equipment has not been ideally positioned, creating restrictions for some residents who may not feel confident navigating the pavement. Therefore, we are currently investigating the potential to carry out remedial work at some of our locations, to improve pedestrian access, including a number of roads in that location. I note that electric vehicle charging equipment at Meglund Road is 230 volts, but nonetheless, the charging points on the road were installed following a request from a resident, and consultation was undertaken prior to the installation.

I have taken a look at Meglund Road and I agree with you that the chargers have not been located correctly. It is one of the small number of charging points I have asked to be removed, and that is what will happen.

That said, we will continue to install electric charging points, because electric vehicles are the future. We want people to move away from diesel and petrol, we want our air to be cleaner, and we want our residents to have a quality of life that is fit for the future.

Supplementary question:

Thank you for your answer. That is extremely reassuring to hear that the charging station will be removed. I certainly want to reiterate your point that we fully support the council's policy to reduce CO₂ emissions by promoting green vehicles, it just shouldn't be at the expense of the environment for disabled people. So, when these decisions are made to locate charging units, Sourced London should be advised of the DDA regulations that limit the width of pavement space. There are many alternative locations, we walked around the borough and we found there are locations that are on wide pavements and away from the vicinity of residential

properties, rather than within inches of the bedroom windows of the property. I am delighted that you are taking a second look at it.

Response:

We as a Council are rolling out electric charging points and we will work with a number of providers. There will be many contractors working and we expect them to operate in a way that makes sure our streets are healthy, that we have space for everyone and that we enjoy where we live. That is our general principle. We want electric charging vehicles to operate alongside walking and cycling, so that cars still remain the lowest form of travel and people engage in more active travel, better for the environment, better for our health, and better for our children's future.

Question (f) from Margaret Wolfe to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Does the council believe that, since most of the activities at Sotheby Mews will be transferred to the new Highbury Roundhouse Community Centre, it is appropriate that most of these activities will take place in the main hall which has no windows set into the walls, with natural light being provided only by 4 sky lights - is there not a concern these elderly vulnerable people will suffer from SAD or depression having to spent considerable lengths of time in this room "without a view"?

Response:

Thank you for your question. The first thing to say is that the scheme will deliver more genuinely affordable housing. We have a clear mandate to do so, it's the right thing to do, there is a severe housing crisis. Too many people don't have a decent place to live.

We can deliver some of that much needed affordable on the Sotheby Mews site, whilst also ensuring that services from Sotheby Mews move to a brand new state of the art centre without any reduction in the level of service. The Council is committed to ensuring the transfer of services from Sotheby Mews to Highbury Roundhouse is handled sensitively and with the full involvement of service users. We want to be fully confident that the new centre and services provided there are suitable for all residents who use it. The new centre on Ronald's Road will be a fantastic community facility. The quality of the community space was assessed and considered acceptable by the Planning Service at the time the Highbury Roundhouse planning permission was considered and granted.

A community centre with roof lights can be very generously lit by natural light given the aspect towards the sky. Such a facility will be used by varying groups each with different needs, and the centre has been designed to meet the needs of as many different groups as possible, including the users of Sotheby Mews. Council officers have been working closely with service users to assess Highbury Roundhouse's plans for the transition of services. We have noted a number of legitimate concerns and have asked Highbury Roundhouse to respond to these as soon as possible.

As part of this work, Highbury Roundhouse have committed to working with all of the service users at Sotheby Mews to actively involve them in any transition plans. We will continue to assess and evaluate any planned transition of services to ensure that it meets our dignity for all commitments and expected standards. We will continue to ensure that the needs and views of service users are fully considered by Highbury Roundhouse who are funded to provide the services so valued by the community.

Supplementary question:

My question is simple. My original question said that the users will be in a room where there are no windows on the walls. My question is, do you work in a room with no windows on the walls? There are skylights, but in the winter it will be very gloomy.

Response:

The hall has four giant skylights. It's a lovely, bright, airy room. Let's meet at Highbury Roundhouse, the coffee is on me, come and see how lovely the centre is, seriously.

Question (g) from Jacqueline Noone to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Have the executive members of the council reconsidered keeping a community centre and social housing at Sotheby Mews?

As Jacqueline Noone was not present at the meeting the Executive Member issued a written response following the meeting:

Thank you for your question. As Islington is facing the severe effects of a housing crisis, the Council has to make considered decisions about new sites where we can deliver much-needed genuinely affordable homes.

The Sotheby Mews site is one of those sites with this potential. In February, the Council confirmed the closure of Sotheby Mews would be postponed by 12 months to further work with Highbury Roundhouse and service users and meanwhile, services would continue to run at Sotheby Mews.

The Council has not reconsidered keeping a community centre and social housing at Sotheby Mews, as it would not be possible to accommodate both.

A previous design of the community facility on the ground floor and housing for over 55s in flats above was not favoured by planning. This was due to various site constraints, including difficulty in managing the levels at Sotheby Mews and the number of storeys proposed being too high.

I do appreciate this answer may be disappointing but I would like to repeat my reassurance that we are committed to continuing to work with service users so they continue to receive the same level of service at Highbury Roundhouse, whilst also delivering much-needed social housing.

The Mayor accepted questions from members of the public from the floor:

Question to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

Are you adding car parking spaces in Islington now or not? How many a year have been added since 2012?

Response:

We have made absolutely clear our intent to make sure we have a borough that is engaged in active travel. We are one of five boroughs that currently meets the target set by the Mayor in the Mayor's London Transport Strategy of having 80% of travel within Islington by walking, cycling or public transport. That means we have introduced progressive policies over time that seek to reduce car ownership, from car sharing clubs, to electric charging points. We are actively enabling people to switch to alternative means of travel, or cycle, or use public transport. Our policies are working. We have transformed our streets into healthy liveable streets, but there is more work to do. That's why we are seeking investment to support our residents to walk, cycle and use public transport.

Question to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

At Sotheby Mews you can fix everything, but how will you fix the location? It is impossible for me to walk across Highbury Fields and attend my classes. Highbury Roundhouse is beautiful, it is good for children, but please think of us. How can I go across the field? A lot of people have disabilities, how can they get across the field?

Response:

Thank you for your question. You raise some very valid points and you have been constructive throughout the process, we want to keep working with you. My response is very simple; we will not move the services unless these issues have been resolved, unless services are just as good as Sotheby Mews, and that includes the transport issue.

The Mayor advised that there was no time remaining for questions from members of the public, and encouraged members of the public with outstanding questions to submit them in writing for written response.

22 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Question (a) from Councillor Clarke to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs:

As the Council's reading champion I have noticed that Islington libraries do not provide small tables and chairs for very young library users. When I travel around this country and Wales and visit libraries in other towns I notice the children's section in most libraries do have at least one small table and chairs. I think it would be good if Islington would try out using small tables and chairs as librarians in other places say they are popular and well used. I have heard constituents ask for them as their children are not as safe on the bigger tables. Would it be possible to try introducing small tables and small chairs for our youngest library users?

Response:

Thank you for your question and thank you for being a fantastic Reading Champion. I thank you for all the support you are giving to our libraries. As you know, libraries are one of our biggest assets. Providing not only a place for reading, but also learning and supporting the community, from our Baby Bounce classes to the events for our older residents. I'm proud that this Council administration has kept open all of our fantastic libraries despite severe government cuts.

In answer to your question, in our experience, the biggest requirements for tables and chairs comes from older children for whom very small furniture would not be suitable. These tables are used by children doing their homework as well as for our homework clubs, which take place weekly in all of the libraries. The Fair Futures Commission reported that young people need more space to read and do their homework, our libraries have an important role to play in that, which is why we have introduced homework spaces and computers are provided in all libraries.

Another reason why we don't see a number of small tables and chairs in our libraries is space. When we carry out refurbishments or design new library spaces, we always look to maximise the use of space and provide furniture that can be used by children and adults of all ages, so they can enjoy the space together. This has included zoning areas in libraries so that young children can sit with their parents or carers on sofas. We also try to maximise floor space so we can accommodate larger groups on school visits and also Baby Bounce sessions.

We do have a few small tables and chairs in Finsbury Library because the space allows for this, and to date we have not received any requests from residents or reports of children falling off bigger chairs. I thank you for raising this issue, and in response to the question I would like to survey library users about the layout of the children's section in each of the libraries, and invite residents to make suggestions on how we can make better use of that space. I'd like to invite you to take part in those discussions in more detail.

Supplementary question:

Thank you very much. I've been speaking to library workers and parents in Islington, and they enthusiastically agree that small tables and chairs would be a welcome addition to the wonderful facilities we have in our libraries. Why is there a resistance to providing facilities for our youngest library users?

Response:

We are really keen to provide the services that are needed for all of our library users. You've raised an interesting question and going forward we would like to survey our users and find out more about what they want from their libraries.

Question (b) from Councillor Heather to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

Can you please reassure me that in relation to the installation of electric vehicle chargers in the borough that the council is adequately addressing public concerns regarding:

1. Location and health and safety for users and the general public.
2. Noise generated.
3. Light disturbance.
4. Payment for charging a vehicle.
5. Public and resident consultation.

Finally, what are the actual environmental benefits of using electric vehicles as opposed to petrol or diesel vehicles in terms of the emissions created in each case by the generation of the power sources?

Response:

Thank you for your question. I know that you are as proud as me to be re-elected to implement our Islington Labour manifesto, which of course included our commitment to deliver 400 more electric charging points in the borough. I am pleased with the progress we are making on this. I want to be clear that the vast majority of these have been implemented to a standard that is beyond acceptable, but there are a small number that we are concerned about.

It is important that we clean up Islington's air. The air that we are breathing is not healthy and we have to do something about toxic emissions. As I said at our last meeting, and here again tonight, the concerns about the impact of electric vehicle charging points need to be addressed, so we live in an environment that is not only healthy but enjoyable as well. I want all residents to enjoy our streets.

Regarding safety, it is a contractual requirement that the equipment complies with relevant technical specifications and safety standards required by law. We are working with a number of providers and they are working across other boroughs as well. We are looking at the design of the equipment they are providing and we want

to work with providers that understand our narrow pavements and that we are one of the densest boroughs in London. We take on the challenge of electric charging points unashamedly, but we also have to ensure that our providers and contractors understand our pavements and our streets. They must understand our local environment and develop a design that suits. That's what we will work on, because we are pioneering this agenda. We are leading the way and making the changes that will benefit other boroughs too.

Supplementary question:

Thank you Cllr Webbe, I appreciate that you couldn't provide a full response to all the points raised and I would welcome further details. It is good to hear about the progress being made. You've been straightforward in saying that this is pioneering work; with any technology you have early adopters and by 2022 we have plans to scale up to 400 charging points. I am interested in the detail of how we consult people on this. It is an admirable move we are making; we just need to make sure that the reality is meeting our standards. I think that our residents can have a role in that.

Response:

I want to reassure everybody that for every single charging point that is installed, public consultation takes place. Whenever a resident requests a charging point on their street, we undertake consultation with their neighbours to make sure what we are putting in is right. The majority of the installations we have made are absolutely right, I can show you the audit we have done. I have been out and taken a look and there are a few, I think four, that need to be removed. The majority of the installations have been done right.

We are moving an agenda that is not just about electric vehicle charging, but about innovation too. We are looking to install electric vehicle charging points in our lamp posts. That is a clear innovation we are making for London. We are also ensuring that the rapid charging points, the larger units that can charge a vehicle in half an hour, are on build-outs. We are making progress and making changes that will deliver for all.

Question (c) from Councillor Khondoker to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

Can you please reassure me that in relation to the installation of cycling facilities across the borough that:

1. Location meets the needs of residents and borough users to facilitate cycling e.g. bicycle racks will be available across the borough including residential street properties and estates both internal secure storage and sheltered/cctv/roadside cycle racks outside estates and commercial areas. Harvist Estate is a prime example of lacking outdoor cycle racks near the shops by Citizens House.

2. Security and surveillance has been considered either using council run cameras or in conjunction with commercially owned cameras.

3. Public and resident consultation and/or survey has informed the placement of facilities.

Response:

Thank you for your question. This Council administration is committed to helping all residents to take advantage of the benefits of cycling. This includes installing cycling storage facilities across the borough on our estates and our streets. For the current tranche of bike hangars being installed, sites were chosen primarily by the quantity of requests by residents. Where some wards lacked a proposed site owing to low or no requests, sites were put forward as part of this round of consultation so that every ward had a proposal for a bike hangar.

I've made a commitment that whenever anybody wants a cycle hangar, we will deliver. That is a promise we will hold to. I am pleased to confirm that a bike hangar is being installed near the Harvist Estate on Lowman Road. Residents can apply for bike hangar places and suggest other locations for cycle storage using the council website. The Harvist Estate is currently the subject of a New Build redevelopment plan, with significant potential construction changes to the layout of Citizen Road. The new build proposals include improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, with cycle parking facilities for visitors.

In terms of security, I am pleased to say that we have not had any thefts from our bike hangars, and no anti-social behaviour has been reported either. At this stage we are not considering the use of cameras.

As always, consultation is key. We consulted on 54 on-street bike hangar proposals in July. I encourage any councillors and residents to contact the council if you would like to propose locations for future cycle storage facilities.

Question (d) from Councillor Khondoker to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

Can you reassure me that the recently agreed street cleaning procedure is being conducted as agreed, and the council is adequately addressing public concerns with:

1. Streets do not appear to be cleaned daily; streets are often seen with litter scattered along it.
2. Rubbish dumping and dog fouling are reported via the Clean Islington App but few responses are received to confirm if the issue has been addressed or if the littering still persists.

Response:

I would be keen to meet with Councillor Khondoker about any areas or streets in her ward that are causing concern so we can address the issues immediately.

During the summer months, the higher than normal footfall means that some streets need to be cleansed more than once per day. We did make note of the streets we felt were in need of additional cleansing to better prepare us for Spring and Summer next year. We also encountered a slightly longer than normal bedding in period for some operatives who took time to become familiar with their new cleansing routes. As you may know, we have recently implemented a new neighbourhood street cleansing service, which was championed by former councillor Doolan.

Overall, we are very pleased with the new local neighbourhood cleansing service and we continue to receive praise and compliments for local residents regarding the new cleansing regime. I encourage all residents and councillors to contact the street cleansing team if they have concerns about particular streets so we can work to address them.

The vast majority of reports via the Clean Islington App are addressed with 24 hours of reporting but on occasion some reports may take longer to resolve. For example, a report concerning a regular fly-tipped location may be directed to the council's Compliance Team for investigation as opposed to Street Environment Services for removal. In which case, the investigation of the fly-tipped waste may take a bit longer than 24 hours to investigate before it is removed. On other occasions the reported problem may be on non-public highway areas of land so the report is re-directed to other services to resolve, again this may take longer. What is clear is that we are delivering a convenient and easy way residents to report. Due to the high number of reports received by Street Environment Services it would take longer update each report with a message to residents. But those who have reported the issue should have confidence that the matter has been dealt with. I know that as councillors you will champion our Cleaner Islington App and champion our street cleaning services.

Supplementary question:

Thank you Councillor Webbe. I appreciate the answers and will send you an email. In terms of the App, I think that to provide it with credibility it requires that response to residents so they know that the App works, but I agree that it is effective overall.

Response:

The Cleaner Islington App was launched a couple of years ago and it received a lot of feedback from residents. We have tweaked it along the way and the service has become more responsive. Our revised street cleansing service allows residents to see that their streets are being cleaned five days a week and seven days a week on main roads. I have seen messages from our residents thanking their street cleaner for the job they are doing. We have also received praise on our Cleaner Islington App, which will only go from strength to strength. I look forward to your email.

Question (e) from Councillor Nathan to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs:

We're delighted to hear that Islington Council is actively pursuing options to make use of the former Fire Station in Clerkenwell. The short-sighted Tory cuts to the fire service, demonstrably are not in the public's interest, either economically or in terms of public safety. Half a million pounds over four years while an iconic and historically significant fire station lies empty. We support the view of local people who would like to see the site used for a mixture of social housing at council rent and affordable workspace. Could Cllr Shaikh give us an insight into how the site might be integrated into the existing affordable workspaces program and further how we could use such opportunities to provide a stepping stone into the prosperous nearby tech and design clusters for local people in support of the borough's inclusive economy strategy?

Response:

Thank you Councillor Nathan. It is a scandal that the former Mayor of London closed the fire station in Clerkenwell, along with others across the city, and the site remains empty four years on.

The former Clerkenwell Fire Station has huge potential to deliver much needed genuinely affordable homes along with genuinely affordable workspace. Last week the Council launched its trailblazing Affordable Workspace Strategy, a pioneering new approach which will ensure local businesses have the vital space and support they need to grow, at prices they can afford.

I hope that the former Clerkenwell Fire Station would form a key part of the Affordable Workspace Programme. It's located in the heart of Islington and London's premier design hub. We will seek to equip affordable workspaces with new technology to support businesses and increase productivity. I am pleased that we have already secured approximately 4,000sqm of affordable workspace, equivalent to three Olympic sized swimming pools, in commercial developments that will be let to local entrepreneurs and start-ups at genuinely affordable rates.

These below-market-rate workspace will become available over the next three years as office buildings are completed, with yet more space to be secured in future years through the planning process. We have managed to negotiate leases with developers at very low rents, and in a UK first, Social Value will be embedded into those contracts, to provide long-term benefits to local residents. This will provide education, training and employment opportunities.

In Islington we want every resident, regardless of their background, to benefit from Islington's economic growth. That's why we are committed to building an inclusive economy. A central plank of that is creating good jobs for local people and giving local start-ups and entrepreneurs an opportunity to thrive. We will support the networks that they need to function better. Most importantly, we will create opportunities so that businesses are not priced out of the borough. Clerkenwell Fire

Station has huge potential. We want to work with the fire service to explore how we can deliver this.

Question (f) from Councillor Smith to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Can I be provided with an itemised costing of the roof repair of 77-84 Rowstock gardens and a complete list of the agreed schedule of rates that apply to this contractor that it is proposed to provide this work to.

Response:

In the interests of brevity, I understand that a breakdown of the roof renewal works at Rowstock Gardens, including the schedule of rate items, has been provided to Councillor Smith.

Supplementary Question:

Thank you Councillor Ward. I would simply ask that Councillor Ward reviews the cost of the works, £16,500, and also considers the quote obtained by residents, £6,900, for the same work.

Response:

Yes, I will.

Question (g) from Councillor Russell to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety:

How many Islington residents are more than two months in arrears on their council tax?

Response:

Thank you. A person is not regarded to be in arrears with council tax until they have lost their right to pay by instalments and they are subject to enforcement action. For this council tax year there are 6,122 council tax accounts at enforcement stage but 2,242 of these have subsequently entered into a special arrangement with us, mainly by signing up to paying by direct debit. This means that the number we regard as being currently in arrears for this year is reduced to 3,880. To put this into context we have just over 103,000 council tax accounts in Islington. That is to say, under 4% of council tax accounts are currently in arrears.

Supplementary question:

Thank you. What is your best guess of how many of those 3,880 who are in arrears cannot pay?

Response:

I don't think it would be responsible for me to guess, but I will look into it.

Question (h) from Councillor Russell to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Thank you for your written answer to my question at the last Full Council meeting about how many front doors are non-compliant with fire regulations in council properties, tenanted and leasehold, in each ward.

You sent me a letter and a spreadsheet, but the answer to the question about the overall number of front doors that are not compliant with fire regulations was unclear as you gave numbers for directly managed homes but not for street properties managed by Partners for Islington, where you said you "plan to survey all tenanted flat front doors as part of a recently let contract to install interlinked heat and smoke detection and alarms" which will "take several years to complete".

My question is how many front doors are currently non-compliant with fire regulations in council properties, tenanted and leasehold, both directly managed and managed by Partners, in Islington? I'm looking for four borough level numbers at Full Council with a ward breakdown in writing.

Response:

Thank you for your question. This Council takes fire safety incredibly seriously and residents' safety is our number one priority. We are continuing our programme of fire safety improvement works and will respond quickly to any concerns about fire safety.

I can confirm that there are a total of 35,475 front entrance doors in our whole housing stock. 25,265 of these are in tenanted properties for which the Council is responsible. The 10,208 leaseholders in the borough are responsible for their own doors. Of the 25,265 tenanted properties, 20,813 are directly managed and 4,444 are managed by Partners for Islington.

The number of tenanted units that still require surveying, upgrading or replacement is 11,004. Many of these units are included in a recently-let contract to deal with fire safety in all the street properties in the borough (those managed by Partners for Islington and those which are directly-managed) as well as some older-style mansion blocks. Details of the numbers by ward will be supplied in due course.

Supplementary question:

When will your plans be fully implemented so all council residents on estates and on streets are reassured that smoke and fire will be properly contained so residents can either leave the building or stay put in safety?

Response:

As soon as we can do a thorough job to make sure it is done properly and safely. I know that's not the answer you wanted, but I'm very happy to sit down with you and officers and talk it through in more detail.

Question (i) from Councillor Mackmurdie to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

As a Clerkenwell councillor, I have been approached by a number of residents about the implementation of Quietway 10. It is welcome the Council is encouraging more residents to take advantage of the benefits of cycling, but it is important that cyclists and pedestrians coexist without fear of harm within our transport infrastructure. Can Cllr Webbe therefore please confirm that a full and proper consultation on the implementation of Quietway 10 will be conducted with Clerkenwell residents and the community before any decision is made?

Response:

Yes. I want to reassure you that safety of pedestrians and cyclists is of equal importance to the Council. The manifesto of this administration commits us to deliver a successful quietway network throughout the borough so more people are safer and feel more confident cycling on Islington's streets. I want to see all residents, and councillors, lead active and healthy lives. We want to reduce the risk of accidents and make Islington a fairer place. There is a reason why walking is our number one transport priority. We want people to co-exist and work together.

You will know that at a recent community meeting this was a subject of much debate, there were many questions and conversations about the scheme. We need to bring the community with us, that involves consulting with residents and businesses along the route and exploring all options. The quietway network will go out to public consultation later this year and we will focus on ensuring pedestrian safety at all times.

Supplementary question:

Thank you for your question. Could you please look into Quietway 2 and the issues around Clerkenwell School. Children are going to school at rush hour and have to avoid cyclists and cars. I would like to see us improve road safety.

Response:

Yes.

The Mayor advised that the allocated time for questions from members of the Council had ended and that any outstanding questions would receive a written response.

Question (j) from Councillor Graham to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

While we all welcome the outstanding exam, results achieved by students across Islington we must not forget those in greatest need who may be being left at the wayside and, in my opinion, permanently excluded from our schools in the push for improved Ofsted results. Students, who are subsequently diagnosed as having ADHD or as being on the Autism spectrum, are regularly being permanently excluded from our schools prior to diagnosis, being seen as 'naughty' or 'disruptive'.

There seems a reluctance on behalf of our schools to recognise underlying problems students may have. This can happen despite children demonstrating clear symptoms of autism. Things such as refusal to make eye contact when being spoken to by teachers, covering the head and face and avoiding noise and crowds due to sensory issues. Thankfully, some children are moved to an alternative provision unit that encourage people to get a proper diagnosis and ensure they receive the support they should have got all along and go on to flourish.

However, if schools are more aware of the signs to watch out for, this support could be given sooner and would avoid the devastation exclusion can cause. I have been contacted by several parents going through similar experiences with autism and with ADHD. If signs of these conditions were recognised earlier and school staff were made more aware I believe we could drastically reduce the number of our children going through the trauma and stigma of permanent exclusion. And let's not forget, studies have shown that children who are permanently excluded from mainstream education can be 4 times more likely to wind up in the prison system.

I therefore ask Cllr Caluori to lead the way and push our Islington schools to ensure staff are given the proper training in how to recognise these conditions, so they can be supported earlier and that we avoid more of our kids are not left on the scrapheap.

I also call for an investigation into how many Islington students who have been excluded are later diagnosed with autism, ADHD or similar conditions.

Response:

Thank you for your question at Full Council on exclusions and supporting children with complex needs. I am writing to respond to your question as there was insufficient time to do so in the meeting.

I fully agree that we must work with all schools to ensure that they are delivering the best education for children and young people in our borough, no matter what their circumstances are. The Council works closely with schools to ensure that exclusions remain a last resort and do not disproportionately affect any particular groups. We are also continuing to provide intensive support through our alternative provision and Pupil Referral Unit, New River College.

As you might be aware, the Government recently published its Green Paper for transforming children and young people's mental health provision. The Green Paper includes plans to incentivise schools to identify a Designated Senior Lead for Mental

Health, and fund new Mental Health Support Teams to provide extra capacity for early intervention and ongoing help. I am pleased that Islington has been invited to apply to be a 'Trailblazer Site'. This would mean receiving funding, training and support to develop an effective model for Islington children and young people. All schools would be required to identify a Designated Senior Health Lead for Mental Health as part of this bid. The opportunity to be part of this Trailblazer pilot is an exciting one and would benefit our schools and children, including those with ADHD or who are on the Autism spectrum. While I hope we are successful in our bid, the Council has plans to move forward with this agenda even if it is unsuccessful, as it is the right thing to do to ensure children with complex needs are not excluded from education.

In answer to your question on the number of Islington students who have been excluded, of the 23 young people permanently excluded during the last academic year, none have been assessed and diagnosed with autism or ADHD post-exclusion. However, one young person with a diagnosis of ADHD prior to exclusion was permanently excluded from a non-Islington school.

However, late diagnosis, particularly of Autism Spectrum Conditions and mental health needs, can become more apparent during adolescent. Commissioners of education and health and care provision are aware of this challenge and currently exploring where further improvements might be made to identify conditions earlier on and therefore avoid the need for exclusions. Islington has a higher number of children with Special Education Needs Disabilities (SEND) compared to other local areas and the age of identification has reduced year on year, in part due to increased understanding of SEND. 94 per cent of children and young people in Islington with Education, Health and Care plans had those plans issued before the age of 11, helping them to thrive in school. However, local SEND budgets are under increased pressure due to insufficient funding from central government. I am sure you will share my pleasure that councillors voted in support of a motion at Full Council on this very issue, so that our schools can fully support all children with complex needs. I would be pleased to keep you informed of the progress of the Council's bid to become a 'Trailblazer Site', to ensure schools can better identify and support children with complex needs and reduce the need for exclusions.

You may also be aware that the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is conducting a review on permanent and fixed period exclusion from both primary and secondary school. It will then make recommendations that aim to enable more children and young people to remain in mainstream education. I am sure you will share my interest in the findings of the review.

23 ISLINGTON ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT: ANNUAL UPDATE

Councillor Watts moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Burgess seconded. Councillor Russell contributed to the debate.

RESOLVED:

That the activity over the past year to celebrate and support Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families be noted.

24 LONDON COUNCILS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - GOVERNING AGREEMENT AMENDMENT FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Councillor Webbe moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Burgess seconded. Councillor Russell contributed to the debate. Councillor Webbe exercised her right of reply.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That authority be delegated to LCTEC to exercise the further functions, set out in paragraph 3.8 of the report submitted;
- (ii) That the Council's acting Director of Law and Governance be authorised to sign any necessary documents to give effect to the variation of the LCTEC Governing Agreement dated 13 December 2001 (as amended), and as attached at Appendix A;
- (iii) That a subsequent decision will be needed before the Council can formally agree the details of LCTEC's actual exercise of this new function of managing and delivering electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

25 CHIEF WHIP'S REPORT

The Mayor advised that a revised Chip Whip's Report had been circulated in the second despatch of papers.

Councillor Gill moved the recommendations in the revised report. Councillor Hamitouche seconded. Councillor O'Sullivan contributed to the debate, welcoming Councillor Kay's appointment as Private Renters Champion.

RESOLVED:

Committee Appointment

- (i) That a Camden and Islington Joint Health Scrutiny Committee be established, as required by Regulation 30 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013;
- (ii) That the terms of reference of the Camden and Islington Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, as set out at Appendix A, be approved and incorporated into Part 5 of the Council's Constitution;
- (iii) That all members of the Health Scrutiny Committee be appointed to the Camden and Islington Joint Health Scrutiny Committee;

Amendment to Executive Portfolios

- (iv) To note that the Leader of the Council has amended the title of the Executive Member for Economic Development to the 'Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs';

Other Appointments

- (v) That Councillor Picknell be appointed Social Enterprise Champion for the remainder for the 2018/19 municipal year or until a successor is appointed;
- (vi) That Councillor Kay be appointed Private Renters Champion for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

26 NOTICES OF MOTION

MOTION 1: SINGLE USE PLASTIC – UNFLUSHABLES

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillor Webbe moved the amendment circulated in the additional despatch of papers. Councillor Russell exercised her right of reply.

The amendment was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

The motion as amended was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To build on the Council's existing PSHE work by working with head teachers to develop culturally sensitive period positive education as part of the Healthy schools initiative; and to use period positive language to reduce stigma around menstruation enabling students to more easily discuss opportunities to cut the cost of managing their periods with reusable products and binning not flushing single use plastic wipes and period products;
- (ii) To use contact with parents through the council's Brightstart Early Years provision to raise awareness of the opportunity for people to save money via the council's reusable nappy voucher scheme, potty training at an early age and by using reusable period products; and to raise awareness of the importance of binning not flushing wetwipes and disposable period products;
- (iii) To explore providing "bin it, don't flush" it labels for toilet doors along with bins in men's toilets for single use plastic unflushable items across buildings the Council is responsible for, including schools.

MOTION 2: COUNCIL TAX RELIEF

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillor Hull moved the amendment circulated in the additional despatch of papers. Councillor Russell exercised her right of reply.

The amendment was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

The motion as amended was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

To continue the Council's practice of annually reviewing its council tax support scheme to explore how the Council can best support residents from the poorest households. This will include requiring any proposals to amend the council tax support scheme to be fully costed and funded.

MOTION 3: PROTECT PER PUPIL FUNDING AND SEND FUNDING IN ISLINGTON SCHOOLS

Councillor Caluori moved the motion. Councillor Cutler seconded. Councillors Russell and Graham contributed to the debate.

The motion was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To write to the Secretary of State to urge him to reverse the £2.7 billion cuts to schools' budget in England, protect per-pupil funding in real terms and fully fund the pay increase for teachers recommended by the School Teachers' Review Body;
- (ii) To continue to work closely with Islington's SEND Forum to ensure the needs of Islington's SEND children are met;
- (iii) To work with parents, teachers, unions and the local community to make representations to Government to ensure Islington's schools receive the funding they need.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm

MAYOR