



COUNCIL MEETING – 27 JUNE 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- a Gulus Egilmez to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

Why are there no traffic signals at two crossings on Holloway Road (Palmer Place N7 and Drayton Park) for pedestrians? Pedestrians attempt to cross the road safely when they perceive a safe gap in traffic but also quickly (not everyone can cross at the same speed). This presents a high risk of accidents. It also seems the council is giving higher priority to cars over pedestrians.

- b Tanya Vyshniakova to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

Dog owners in Islington ignore all warnings and don't clean up after dogs. The reason for this is that the Council fail to prosecute and fine in practice.

When I walk out of my door and I am getting surrounded with dog mess. I saw a little girl with her mum. The mum was pushing a buggy and the girl was playing around as all children do, one moment and this girl ran behind the tree, picked up dog mess and played with it like it's clay. Her mum called her pretty quickly. Is this what we want our children to play with?

What is your view on this issue and how do you prosecute dog owners in practice? How many cases have you investigated and how many penalties have been paid around Islington in the last month?

- c Sebastian Sandys to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

Extinction Rebellion Islington are proud to live in a Borough with the country's first female Somali Mayor. We are proud too of the several hundred people who signed the petition demanding a Citizens Assembly. Would the Leader of the Council tell me when he will be in a position to meet that demand?

- d Jackie Noone to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:

From the annual public health report released by the Town Hall earlier this year it highlighted the challenges that Islington had with a rising population and ageing demographic. It showed a predicted 60% increase in the predicted number of adults over the age of 65 in the borough in the next 15 years. I'd like to understand how the Council propose to support this when Community assets are being lost through "consolidation" or closure such as Sotheby Mews Day Centre and the increasing reliance on the voluntary sector?

- e John Dear to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:

Despite the windfall of 1000 dwellings at HMP Holloway of which 600 will be deemed affordable or for social rent and Islington Council exceeding its GLA targets for new housing why has the Council not considered a compromise with mixed use at Sotheby Mews Day Centre as the site currently, from Planning, will only accommodate 10 dwellings?

- f Christopher Procter to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development

In light of the new evidence from the IPCC that we have only 12 years to save ourselves from runaway climate change does the council plan a new Local WWII style 12-year EMERGENCY Supplement to the revised Local Plan?

- g Helena Farstad to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

Islington Council's Climate emergency declaration and commitment to become net zero carbon by 2030 is demonstrating that you are taking the Climate Emergency seriously and are a truly progressive Council.

How will the Councillor look to communicate (channels e.g. social media/ printed press, advertising, collaboration with local groups & partnerships and frequency e.g. daily social media, weekly press, continuous marketing & advertising campaigns etc.) this important message to its residents, and the many future changes that will be required as part of meeting the target, recognising that behaviour changes and involvement of Islington's residents and businesses is required to be successful in its quest?

- h Kate Pothalingam to Councillor Burgess, Executive Member for Health & Social Care:

I would like to submit a question about the works to repair Highbury Pool which was so badly damaged in a fire on 25th September 2018. This much loved and well-used community resource has been out of action for months and no information on the timetable for repairs is being provided to users - including the many Islington school children who now have to travel across the borough to alternative pools for their swimming lessons. It is also worrying to observe that the holes in the roof of the female changing rooms and over the main pool are not covered, but remain exposed to the elements, perhaps allowing further damage (e.g. from recent heavy rains). It would be helpful if the Council and management of the Leisure Centre could provide regular updates and take steps to keep residents better informed - particularly since we no longer have useful Ward Partnership meetings in Highbury East. Is it correct that an inspection of the roof steels only happened in mid-May, some 8 months after the fire, and that there is still no start date for the repair project?

- i Lucy Facer to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

Islington Council has only committed to installing 100 electric car charging points per year over the next four years. Do the council think this will make any impact on improving air quality or could they implement a much faster rate of installation like other London boroughs to facilitate a much more significant number of EV cars in the borough, and discourage petrol and diesel ownership by implementing higher parking tariffs?

- j Sophie Talbot to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:

How many disabled people live in secure housing managed by the council?

- k Mx. A Doodle to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council:

Does the council provide documents in appropriate alternative formats for people with a range of reading impairments?

- l Rachael Swynnerton to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

Air pollution from transport is of huge concern in particular to people living in inner city borough's like Islington. About 15% of Islington overall CO2 emissions stems from traffic and the annual legal mean limit of 40µg/m³ NO₂ exposure is not upheld. Please note that the World Health Organisation guideline is for no human exposure to NO₂ over 200 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m³) measured over one hour. The EU legal limit for exposure to NO₂, also in UK law, is 18 hours in a calendar year. According to Clean Air in London (<https://cleanair.london/legal/breathtaking-breach-of-no2-annual-legal-limit-in-eight-days/>), London is exceeding the legal limit of NO₂ exposure within the first month of the year.

Recognising that reducing air pollution is not exclusively within the Local Authority's control, it is however understood that local initiatives can have material positive impact. e.g stopping rat-runs through residential streets by introducing Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, regular borough-wide road closures, significantly increasing parking charges for all fossil fuel vehicles, reducing the number of parking spaces available, stopping endorsement of residential car use by the Islington roaming policy, actively and seriously targeting idling, banning wood burners, introducing outdoor air filtration systems at most polluted roads (eg red routes), setting up green screens and overall greenery etc. Informing and educating the residents is also seen as effective as many still do not know the impact air pollution has on their health.

Can the Councillor identify what measures need to be taken, to reduce air pollution across the borough below EU legal limits before 2025?

- m Justin Portess to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

Islington Clean Air Parents is a fast growing network of parents and carers concerned about the effects of air pollution on the health of their children. We welcome Islington's initiative to implement the first 10 school streets, but parents all over Islington want to see school streets outside their children's school and don't want to wait until 2025.

Please can councillors respond to parents' concerns across the Borough and consider how to install School Streets outside all schools by the end of the next academic year?

- o Ernestas Jegorovas to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance, Performance & Community Safety:

How important is it that every citizen is enfranchised to take part in the democratic process does so without barriers? What percentage of European citizens in Islington were denied their vote in 2019 European Elections?