

## COUNCIL MEETING – 9 JULY 2020

### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

a **Helena Farstad to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

The Mayton street traffic improvement project - as documented in the Finsbury Park community plan - was consulted on through autumn last year and finally approved by the residents in early December 2019. Since then, a senior officer from the Traffic & Engineering team at Islington Council, confirmed that the scheme, that will stop motor vehicles, vans, and lorries using Mayton street as a rat run, leading to illegal levels of pollution in this residential street, was expected to be implemented by the end of that financial year (April 5th 2020).

On the 20th March there was still no date communicated for the scheme and a string of correspondence commenced raising concerns that due to the developments of the Covid-19 pandemic we might experience delays in the implementation. A response from the senior traffic officer was received on the 24th March that confirmed this concern, and we are now, albeit several written requests, repeatedly told that we need to wait for further information.

Lockdown is now easing, meaning traffic is increasing, and our street is rapidly returning to the unsafe, polluted, and noisy cut through that we so intently campaigned for with invaluable support from our local ward councillor, Cllr Heather. In a public health crisis, that is Air Pollution, augmented by the Covid-19 pandemic, we do not have the luxury of time and our patience has run out.

I therefore found it very difficult to celebrate the recent announcement of the conversion of St Peter's Ward, becoming a Low Traffic Neighbourhood during the first weeks of July, when 'our scheme', signed off last year, is still without a date.

Please can the Councillor explain how she thinks this is acceptable, why the Mayton street traffic improvement project and our health & safety is not seen as priority and confirm when we will receive a date for implementation of the scheme?

**b Roderik Gonggrijp to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development**

At the Community Plan for Holloway public meeting in the St George's church on March 7, you promised a genuine co-production consultation process for the Holloway Prison redevelopment. Given the disruption of the coronavirus crisis and the lockdown do you believe that the three week Peabody consultation, closing 3rd July, has been a genuine co-production' process with all the communities affected?

**c Ernestas Jegorovas to Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Executive Member for Children, Schools and Families**

This year's Children's Services Scrutiny Committee reported that BAME (Black Caribbean) students were significantly underachieving compared to their fellow students at the end of KS4. What are your plans to academically support BAME students going forward?

**d Dominic Martin to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport**

In light of the Secretary of State for Transport's statutory guidance to local authorities of 9 May 2020 to "make significant changes to their road layouts to give more space to cyclists and pedestrians", please would the Executive Member provide the following information: (a) the changes to road layouts in Islington already implemented as a response to this guidance; (b) details of further planned changes to road layouts (and the expected dates of implementation); (c) a timetable for the response to the Islington Commonplace consultation on People Friendly Streets.

**e Talia Hussain to Cllr Shaikh, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs**

As a student, I'm very fortunate to have library access through my university and, crucially, internet and a computer that I can use at home. However, councillors will know that many less fortunate residents in the borough rely on local libraries for internet access, printing, book lending and other services. Wisely, the council chose to close libraries at the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak. However, I wonder what plans the council is now considering for partial re-opening so that residents who rely on libraries can access their vital services?

f **Lucy Facer to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport**

Islington Clean Air Parents are impressed with the leadership and speed Islington Council are showing in their implementation of People Friendly Streets that will create low traffic neighbourhoods across half of Islington within a year. Please could the council comment on how they will communicate the positive effects of people friendly streets to the wider community?

g **Kate Pothalingam to Cllr Gill, Executive Member for Finance and Performance**

In light of the articles in the Islington Gazette of 10 June and 15 June, please would the Executive Member provide the following information:

- (a) the number of agency workers employed by Islington Borough Council in 2019 and 2020;
- (b) the daily rates paid to agency workers during this period;
- (c) the total cost to the Council of employing agency workers in 2019 and 2020;
- (d) the steps being taken to reduce the costs of agency workers.

h **Devon Osborne to Cllr Watts, Leader of the Council**

The Prime Minister has said that part of tackling a second wave of corona virus infections would be handled on a council level. Public health officials for other councils have begun to make suggestions and plans on how this could be done effectively. What plans has Islington Borough Council in place for a second wave?

**i Miriam Ashwell to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport**

Parks and greenspaces have been absolutely vital to Islington residents during the Coronavirus lockdown. We would like to thank the Council and Greenspace for keeping Islington's parks open, and commend their staff for their hard work in difficult circumstances. However, there has been a significant problem with litter in recent weeks as lockdown eases, which has upset many residents, and action is needed against those who abuse our parks by leaving litter, dog-mess, and damaged/burnt patches of grass. Local people have been litter-picking but our parks need your help.

Given the evidence that litter attracts more litter, antisocial behaviour, and crime, will Islington Borough Council increase anti-littering education and posters, and take action to address antisocial behaviours; and given the difficult financial situation, could the Council consider increasing fines and enforcement including patrols on sunny days and evenings?

Measures used in other cities include requiring repeat offenders to carry out litter-picking, and there have been good results from apps that share the fines with people who submit evidence of litterers via the app.

**j Chris Radway to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport**

We can all be proud that Islington has the lowest cumulative rate of lab-confirmed Covid cases in London, and I would like to praise the Council for its role in this achievement. But now, as we come out of the Covid crisis, we need to consider the unique opportunity it gives us to "build back better" in implementing a green recovery.

So I would like to ask how, in tackling the climate emergency, the Council plans to learn from the Covid crisis and exploit the many behavioural, awareness and policy changes it has brought us - from community self-help and homeworking, to massive state intervention and support by government.

**k Rachael Swynnerton to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport**

Islington is a densely populated urban location with the least green space of any borough. At this time we are seeing huge pressure on those vitally important green spaces for the whole community. With playgrounds and many schools remaining closed until the end of term, followed by a long summer break, what measures are the council putting in place to allow for more playstreets across the borough to allow children access to car-free areas to play safely?