



COUNCIL MEETING – 25 FEBRUARY 2021

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

At the Full Council on the 27th June 2019 when Islington Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency, I asked the Executive Member for Transport and Environment at the time, Cllr Webbe, about Islington Council's plans with regard to communicating this important decision of reaching Net Zero by 2030. The answer was satisfactory and promising, however, nearly 20 months later it is deeply disappointing that so little seems to have been done to inform the residents of Islington that we find ourselves in an emergency. An emergency that has in fact caused, and will have even greater implications than, the Coronavirus pandemic. It is of course understandable that a communication campaign setting out in detail what the council is planning to do to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 would need time to develop, however, communicating the basic, why we are in an emergency, why it matters and why the council needs to take new measures, would not be dependent on a plan. Other than a two page spread in Islington life promoting a shift to EV and calling for more recycling, I cannot recall seeing anything meaningful or comprehensive.

I wonder whether Cllr Champion thinks it is about time Islington Council and the current Labour administration starts telling the truth, unpalatable as it may be, about the Environmental Emergency we are all facing?

b **Lucy Facer to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development**

The Islington Council draft transport policy shows the Councils' commitment to reducing air pollution through greening initiatives such as 'Seek opportunities to use trees and planting to separate residents, pedestrians and cyclists from motor traffic'. The removal of mature trees at Dixon Clark Court at Highbury Corner, where there are illegal levels of air pollution, will remove this important barrier of trees for council tenants and Canonbury primary school. In addition, new homes will be built directly onto the road, exposing these residents to dangerous levels of pollution that cause chronic health risks.

Why is the council continuing to allow the removal of mature green barriers, in a particularly toxic location in the borough, when your transport policy highlights the importance of improving the green environment in Islington in order to reduce air pollution and protect the health of its residents? New homes are needed in the borough but is it acceptable to implement new schemes that will have long lasting detrimental effects to residents health caused by increased exposure to illegal levels of air pollution?

c Harry Nugent to Cllr Lukes, Executive Member for Community Safety:

With yet another increase of knife crime in Islington recently, what have the council done in the budget to help educate people of the realities and effects knife crime has?

Questions (d) and (e) will receive a combined response

d John Hartley to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

The recent report from Transport for All, "Pave the Way", rightly made the case that any changes to road infrastructure should always be designed with people with disabilities in mind. People can be disabled in many different ways: not all drive and not all use mobility scooters. The designers need to speak to the disabled to discover what works and doesn't work for them. What is the Council doing to ensure that People Friendly Streets delivers the most benefit to people with disabilities?

e Pierre Delarue to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

Will the Executive Member list all the Disability Equality Impact Assessments that were carried out before the implementation of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN) schemes over the last year? How did those assessments affect the design of the schemes and improve the mobility of those residents who because of age, illness or disability find active travel more difficult?

Questions (f), (g) and (h) will receive a combined response

f Rachael Swynnerton to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

It is fantastic that the Council have committed to reducing traffic across the borough to improve road safety and air quality through with the introduction of the People Friendly Streets scheme. We are very much in support of these measures. The council have confirmed they are monitoring the impact of these schemes as they go in. Please can they provide details of their monitoring process and confirm when data will be made available for public consumption?

g Helen Redesdale to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

In Tufnell Park, barriers were installed some years ago on Huddleston and Dalmeny Roads to exclude through traffic. Residents now enjoy quieter, less polluted streets. Collecting and sharing data on new Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) will help residents understand the environmental benefits of these schemes. What data has been used to design the recent schemes - and what metrics are being used to monitor impact on for example, air quality and traffic volume in the surrounding area and will the Executive Member commit to publishing all data the Council holds on air quality and traffic levels in and around LTNs?

h Jeremy Drew to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

When does Council expect to release its first report on monitoring of the St Peter St People Friendly Street, which ended its first 6 months on January 3rd?

i Kate Pothalingam to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

Islington Liberal Democrats welcome the news that the Council will be consulting residents in Mildmay about the proposed new Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) in that area, as we have proposed. Will the Executive Member confirm that Islington Council will take a consistent approach and will commit to consulting residents and community groups, for example by using Citizen's Assemblies, before any other new LTNs are implemented, e.g. in Barnsbury?

j **Maria Gallastegui to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

We are very alarmed at the persistent tree felling program that appears to be spreading, not just in Islington, but all over London and beyond. This seems to be driven by the lack of social housingor is it? I feel that the council are acting in a reckless manner as we are in a confirmed Climate Emergency. The very poor re-modelling of the Highbury Corner roundabout has left it 17 trees less, and a higher pollution level. This lack of planning is unacceptable. Dixon Court stands to lose 7 trees, which is on a school run.

We say HOMES AND TREES! There is huge empty capacity in London to rehouse everyone. Many Europeans are returning home and Londoner's leaving London. With Covid, so many buildings will become disused. Why destroy what little open space we have left and fell trees for no REAL reason?

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

Successful Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) schemes require the support of the people who live in the LTN area. The Council plans to consult residents about the recently rolled-out LTN schemes in St. Peter's, Canonbury and Highbury within 12-18 months of implementation. If the feedback from that consultation indicates that residents would like to see exemptions to camera filters using Automatic Numberplate Recognition (ANPR) technology, and/or if Disability Groups request this, will the Executive Member commit to (a) introducing ANPR technology in existing LTNs and to (b) using ANPR technology in future LTN schemes in Barnsbury and elsewhere, as Islington Liberal Democrats have proposed?

l **Zak Vora to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

The ill-planned Highbury Corner road system has seen continual road works for several years leading to no improvement in traffic flow. With the intended new flats being built on the corner, where currently stand much loved trees, leading to further traffic disruption and congestion, what assurances will the Council make regarding the building work and its impact on local residents and businesses along with traffic flow?

m **Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong to Cllr Gill, Executive Member for Finance & Performance:**

How has the council supported its employees who are working from home?

n **Devon Osborne to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

In line with the Mayor of London's 2017 initiative and with special reference to the pollution benefits of mature verses sapling trees, what are the councils current plans to improve Islington's tree canopy?

o **John Ackers to Cllr Lukes, Executive Member for Community Safety:**

There have been reports on nextdoor about bikehangars being broken into e.g. Battledean Road on Nov 18th, 2020 and also Aberdeen Road on Mar 19th 2019, Arlington Square. I believe that bikes are being removed by thieves using cordless grinders to cut the owners D locks. How many bikes have been stolen from bikehangars?

p **Eilidh Murray to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

Can the council explain how chopping down mature frees in different locations in the borough delivers to their declaration of a climate emergency delivered publicly with such conviction in June 2019 on the steps of the Town Hall with our two MPs in attendance ?

q **Meg Howarth to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

How can the loss of the Dixon Clark Court 'little forest' of 52-year-old mature trees - a Highbury Corner public-realm amenity - be justified for a maximum additional 25 council homes on the estate, a number likely to be further reduced by the Right to Buy?
