

NZC Scrutiny Committee

17 March 2021

18:21

Housing, Buildings and Infrastructure

Notes

Breakout 1

14 participants

SK: We're here to listen

All buildings in Islington within scope

Raise hands to invite comments/questions

Cllr Gary Heather

- a. We should look to identify what major commercial buildings could undertake significant improvement and we should concentrate on those. Launch an initiative to target those
- b. Improve messaging and getting buy-in around the challenge to deliver improvements to accommodate the 92% non-council owned/managed

Bill Eyres - Environment Officer (Labour) and day job - sustainability manager

- a. Critical challenge of behaviour change. Could we have a net-zero commitment - could businesses and house-owners commit to the initiative and help to mobilise people
- b. Opportunity for businesses to show that they are socially responsible
- c. Support environmental employment/opportunities

Linda Clarke

Environmental Officer (Islington South - Labour) - day job (researcher in construction)

- a. Large scale retrofit needed and could offer training opportunities to undertake important works

Aaron Hay - Bevin Court resident

- a. Supplier contracts are available and could be delivered quicker through direct interventions
- b. Some council stock really run down and falls below energy standards - wasting money and generating carbon
- c. Are Islington taking the opportunity working hard enough with the top 15/20/30 businesses/employers/building owners operating in Islington?
- d. Concerned about fuel poverty and because of inefficient buildings

Nick C - concerned individual

- a. Referred to UN statement on 7% carbon emissions year on year
- b. Is there scope through Planning to encourage creative approaches to insulation/imaginative designs
- c. Get more people insulating their own homes? Could there be an open home scheme to show residents what can be done
- d. Can Planning set a 2030 target within the local plan even though it is at odds with Central Government 2050 target?

Hannah Staab - Fossil Free Islington

- a. How the council engage with residents/businesses and reflecting on the green homes grant - which showed the level of interest but was a poor role out
- b. Could LBI have a grant based scheme to encourage take up of greener options?

Breakout 2

14 participants

Steve Woods (Harry Weston)

- a. How social housing can be used as an example
- b. How the council can drive its own workforce and not miss opportunities
- c. Suggested they didn't get the necessary support for the retrofit they sought to introduce

Cllr Phil Graham

- a. Have control through the planning committee and no roofs should be allowed through the planning process without solar panels/green roofs
- b. Whilst roof works are ongoing - lets install solar panels. Lots of under-utilised roof space

Cllr Satnam Gill

- a. Planning legislation de-regulation is a problem/barrier to local policies
- b. We can find ways to encourage but no longer have the power through the planning process

Cllr Tricia Clarke

- a. What is the possibility of residents adding solar panels/green roofs to their properties on estates
- b. Utilise Islington Life to publicise what is being done

Tom Danning

- a. All residents need to receive regular and pertinent communication about the 'emergency'
- b. Either what the council is doing or what private individuals can do themselves
- c. Individuals can be reminded that they can have an impact

Ray O' Halloran current TRA Chair St Luke's Estate

- a. Could the council communicate the performance of existing buildings (how the estate is performing) from an energy perspective

Chris Proctor - Architect

- a. Islington is 50% conservation area but solar panels can be installed in conservation areas
- b. Lots of flat roofs - underutilised
- c. Council should take a lead on facilitating resident initiatives

Cllr Tricia Clarke requested an update on retrofit plans

Cllr Phil Graham - asked for update re: future heat networks such as Bunhill

SK feedback:

Acknowledged some general frustration with the pace of retrofitting programme

Much greater challenge than for construction of new homes

There isn't a one-size fits all solution

Priority is making the buildings more energy efficient prior to introduction of low-carbon heating solutions

Debate around the right approach and this needs careful balancing – i.e. fabric first, scale or worst performing?

Summarised technologies available and some of those emerging i.e. Hydrogen

Summarised consortium approach through Green Scies initiative and commitment to delivering future heat networks