

E&R Scrutiny 17th March

Natural Environment & Waste workshop

- Identify the behaviours we must change to achieve the outcomes set out in Vision 2030
- Identify the challenges we need to overcome to achieve the behaviours we want to see
- If time, prioritise the actions and behaviours we want to see
- Any other points

Workshop 1

Cllr Clarke – very little green space in Islington, the least in London. How do we increase green space? Can we green our pavements?

Lucy, Islington Cleanup Parent – how do residents make suggestions? Residents are keen to suggest opportunities and council takes comments. But how can we get proper discussions going? We want to make meaningful suggestions for locations for tree planting, rainwater gardens etc.

Andrew Bedford – some initiatives are underway. We're working with Islington gardeners etc. But yes, how to increase these opportunities?

Lucy - We need to have **more engagement**, better conversation, not just a chance to fill in a form.

Helena – can we repurpose pavements? Make spaces green. There are lots of opportunities if we are imaginative. How do we engage more effectively? The community doesn't feel that this is the Council's main priority.

There is a perception that nature doesn't have a space in the urban environment. Parks don't need to have manicured lawns. We need policies to support wilder green areas. We need to explain why we leave nature wilder, and support this with policies.

Lindy Sharpe – Transition Highbury – we have converted the Transition Highbury website into a website showing how local residents can reduce their climate impact. We are keen to support Council. Increasing **green spaces** is important, including wild green spaces. We also need to try to link them up.

Questions regarding the Council's use of pesticides... and deisel leaf blowers... both seem inconsistent with NZC.

Waste... it can be difficult to know what you can recycle. There is a comprehensive list on the website, but it is still confusing. We need more facilities to help get rid of waste.

Comms – We need to know why you're doing things. The signage around LTN was an example of how not to do it. Needs to be more helpful and more user friendly.

Tom – Suggestion around use of parking bays for **greening space**. **Is there** any monitoring of these applications? I see lots of parking spaces, and lots of gaps. Are there enough cars to use them? Could we reclaim some of this space.

Comms – need to emphasise this is an emergency... repeatedly... we need to understand why change is happening and needs to happen.

This meeting is great, but it needs to be more regular. You need to ramp up the comms.

Jackie Clarke – sec for Honor Row Gardens – 2 years ago I was walking the dog in a barron park – we have transformed the park, there is wildlife, we've enriched the soil etc. There's a woodland walk, community orchard. Lots of benefits. Great for community. Officers have been great! Can we do this in all parks? Needs local people to want to do it.

Hannah – comms very important. We need to know what to do and how to do it. We need to understand how the Council is supporting education and working in schools.

Needs to be a focus on food waste, and how can food waste recycling be made as accessible as possible on estates.

Chris – Islington Recycling Champion – question regarding waste issues and who is responsible for dealing with scope 3 emissions (from the products we buy). Also, how big a role does waste and resources have? Have targets been evaluated in terms of carbon? Are we working with NLWA, contractors etc...

Also, watched the Dispatches programme, it was very anti incineration. Is this a reason for low recycling rates? What is Council's view on incineration?

Tom (Elsa) - I see lots of empty parking spaces. Good example is Liverpool Road where the bays removed but there is still parking available.

Workshop 2

Una O'HALLORAN- I live on an estate, great recycling provision. How do we get more people recycling on estates? How do we get more people on estates growing food? Need to get started, it's urgent.

Kevin Fallon – Hackney planted new significant trees on Mare Street, this helps creating shade. We could do this to e.g. areas like lower end of Upper St.

Waste recycling in Holland - they have sunken bins in street where people can store without obstructing streets, more efficient method. Have we considered this?

Husen – We need to help young people to get involved with environmental issues through slogans and banners.

There needs to be more stronger and harder messages and greater use of social media.

Lauren – more social campaigning. Good examples from Australia and New Zealand

Kiss the ground – my recycling bin is half the size of my bin. Needs to be the other way round. Need to have free recycling, but pay for waste.

Mariana – I live in a flat, there's not enough knowledge of what to recycle and changes from Borough to Borough. Need to make recycling part of the curriculum so stronger messaging in schools.

Rachael – experience of local school, there's an eco committee that involves children and brings messages home. Shocking data should be part of the comms to drive the message home.

Jeremy – rather than just encouraging recycling go to source to change buying behaviour, target businesses to reduce packaging amounts.

CLlr Russell – trees and importance of shade to protect as many trees as we can. We should have a waste reduction target that we can work towards, not just target of proportion that is recycled.

We don't consider the amount that is taken away by the bin trucks. We need more focus on reducing waste. We need to work through children to reduce plastic use and purchasing. Need water refill points around the Borough to.

Nick – can we put amount going for incineration into the targets. How do we incentivise businesses. Need for a circular economy plan. Should be more accountable for waste targets.

Lauren – we need the biggest campaign ever to change behaviour – big priority

CLlr O'Halloran – planting trees together to enhance shared and greenspace. Agree education is so important. Need incentives for business, deposit schemes. Trying to get people to work together in neighbourhoods.

Rachael – lots of overlap with different strategies. LTN and active travel is a big priority. Now need to think about what happens with the reclaimed streets, linked to how businesses make deliveries.

Need to make connections and share vision for people.

Husen – lots of waste from fast food, need to encourage young people in eating more healthy and being more active.

Nick – what can we do to encourage people to eat less street. Trying to get food recycling bins but had problems

Rachael – get young people growing in parks and schools.

Summary

Lots of comms... and better, easier engagement, how do residents get involved – good example of Thornhill Rd Gdns and the difference that can be made when residents do engage

Harder hitting campaigns

Greening more space..., parking bays, more trees etc how do we develop a vision for reclaiming the road space that's freed up

Better connection of green spaces supporting active travel and biodiversity.

Carbon counting of our waste activities? Reduce waste, bigger priority than just recycling more

Engage young people, kids in schools plus 'youth opportunities to be involved in environmental initiatives

Engage with businesses, incentivise them to reduce waste, plastic etc

Importance of circular economy and challenge of how we can lobby government