



Together we can make
Islington net zero carbon
by 2030



ISLINGTON

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Net Zero Carbon Programme
Natural Environment

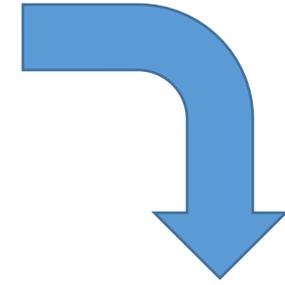
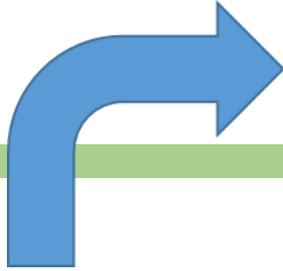
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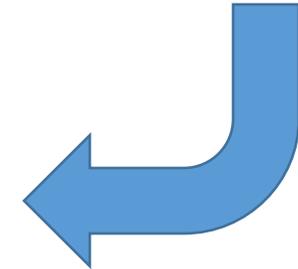
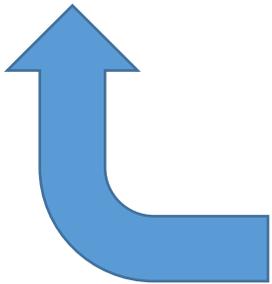
Sections

- 1. Scope** – What we are focusing on today
 - 2. The challenge** – What we are trying to address
 - 3. Our objectives** – How we will address the challenge
 - 4. Deliverables** – What we have achieved so far, and what we want to achieve in the next 12 months for the natural environment.
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1. Scope



The whole borough is in scope. We need to look at how we can create greening opportunities and developments across every part of the borough. This included parks, Highways, housing (private and council owned) and commercial land.



2. The challenge – Why is this important?

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) , 9th August issued "code red for humanity" Without deep carbon pollution cuts now, the 1.5°C goal will fall quickly out of reach.

Climate Vulnerability Mapping produced by City Hall and Bloomberg Associates, Bloomberg Philanthropies' pro-bono consultancy for cities, shows that six London boroughs are at particularly high risk from the effects of climate change. Islington is identified as one of those boroughs at high risk.

At a time when concerns about climate change is the strongest it has ever been, we need to remember the important role that biodiversity and the natural environment plays in climate control. Greening the borough will cool microclimates, absorb carbon and aid in flood risk mitigation as well as offering up many more benefits.

While it is understood that Islington doesn't have the open space to significantly capture the carbon emissions within the borough, making the borough greener will ensure it is a healthier and more enjoyable place to live and will provide increased habitats.

A greener borough will also build climate change resilience, we're aiming to increase the canopy cover in Islington **from 25% to 27% by 2030 and to 30% by 2050** by protecting our existing trees and open spaces, increasing tree planting on public and private land in line with the targets set in Vision 2030.

3. Our objectives

- Identify new opportunities to increase the amount of green infrastructure on all council public realm developments.
- Condition appropriate recommendations in ecological submissions from developers.
- Provide guidance to developers on how to comply with planning policies that seek to maximise biodiversity gains
- Identify new opportunities to increase the amount of green infrastructure on all council public realm developments.
- Increase tree canopy cover in Islington from 25% to 30%



4. Deliverables

Key priority: Improve our natural environment as outlined in the Biodiversity Action Plan (2020-2025)

What we have achieved so far:

- Launched consultation of the new BAP in spring 2020, receiving 175 responses.
- Published final BAP September 2020.
- Successful partnership working with local communities to conserve and enhance wildlife habitats.
- Provided opportunities for local residents to learn about and enjoy nature, through events, volunteering and education, e.g. 6,500 children benefitted from activities provided by The Garden Classroom during the past year.

What we want to achieve in the next 12 months:

- Complete a review of progress at the end of the first year of implementation of the BAP.
- Seek to maximise benefits for biodiversity through the emerging Greening the Borough Programme.
- Engage with new audiences to ensure equal access to nature for all, e.g. through a new programme of activities aimed at improving mental health.
- Work with Bright Lives to deliver environmental education activities for under fives plus a training programme to skill up the Bright Start team with accredited forest school training.



4. Deliverables

Key priority:

- **Condition appropriate recommendations in ecological submissions from developers.**
- **Provide guidance to developers on how to comply with planning policies that seek to maximise biodiversity gains.**



What we have achieved so far:

- Planning applications are carefully scrutinised for their biodiversity impacts and developers are challenged to improve their contributions to the natural environment.
- Proper consideration for tree protection and tree mitigation through the planning process, with a dedicated tree officer commenting on planning applications and strong tree protection policies in the Local plan.

What we want to achieve in the next 12 months:

- The adoption of the new Local Plan will include clearer and more robust biodiversity requirements for developers.
- New legislation on Biodiversity Net Gain comes into force in 2023 and the Council will provide guidance to developers on how to comply with this.

4. Deliverables

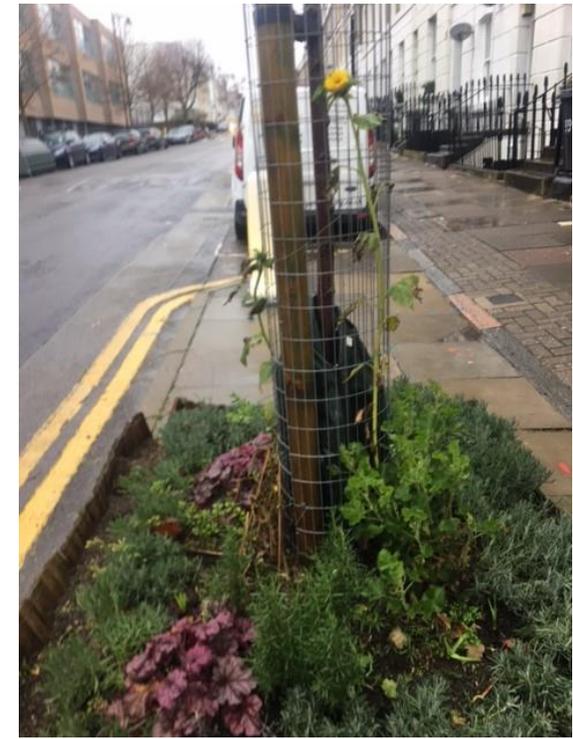
Key priority: Identify new opportunities to increase the amount of green infrastructure on all council public realm developments.

What we have achieved so far:

- Set up a Greening the Borough Task Group to develop an action plan with the aim of accelerating the delivery of greening the borough.
- Completed a review of Community Gardening and Food Growing in the borough which will support the development of the Greening the Borough Action Plan.
- Secured funding and appointed a new dedicated Project Greening the Borough Programme Manager.
- Secured funding to develop a master plan of greening opportunities on the public highways.
- Secured an addition £140K per year to invest in greening improvements on the highways.

What we want to achieve in the next 12 months:

- Finalise and agree the new Greening the Borough Policy and Action Plan.
- Identify and deliver training programs for current staff to support the delivery of more green infrastructure in Public Realm Projects.
- Deliver improvements to all website to better promote community opportunities for greening and support for those getting involved.
- Complete the Master Plan of greening opportunities in the public realm.
- Deliver physical green infrastructure improvements on the ground.
- Secured £150K of funding for a new Housing Community Gardening Team to improve the planting/biodiversity on estates and supporting/develop community gardening.



4. Deliverables

Key priority: Increase canopy cover from 25% to 30%

What we have achieved so far:

- Commissioned reports to understand the baseline tree data and allow for focused tree planting
- Secured a central tree planting budget to enable a minimum of 430+ trees annually to be planted on public land via Capital Program.
- Worked with Clean Air Parents to secure 161 trees from the Forest for Change initiative. The Clear Air Parents secured £23K for planting and maintenance through crowd funding.

What we want to achieve in the next 12 months:

- Continued tree mitigation for tree loss to development. Example: 63 trees planted for tree loss at DCC
- 161 trees planted in conjunction with Forest of change and clean air parents
- 680+ trees planted in the 21-22 tree planting season
- Implement online tree planting donation process
- Develop a tree warden scheme to encourage resident engagement and promote private tree planting
- Seminars on tree management and tree walks delivered for the climate festival



Thank you and questions

