

**INFORMAL WORKING GROUP – THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2021
6.30 P.M**

Topic – How Council manages its Waste and Recycling

Present: Councillors: Tricia Clarke
Gary Heather
Roulin Khondoker
Clare Jeapes

Also Present: Cathy Cook – Re: London & Jan (Resident)
Tony Ralph, John Mootelaoa, Matthew Homer – Environment and
Regeneration
Peter Moore/Ola Adeoye/Thomas French - Clerks

Apologies: Councillor Angelo Weekes

The Chair welcomed everyone. Members, witnesses and officers introduced themselves

The Working Group received 3 presentations.

During discussion the following main points were raised –

- A local resident living in sheltered accommodation referred to problems that her estate were having with the ability to recycle. Many of the residents were elderly and the layout of the bin room and the weight of the bins to be moved (as the recycling bins were at the rear of the bin room), that this made it difficult for elderly people to gain access to the recycling facility and for the refuse collectors to empty them. She added that she had problems with reporting this due to long length wait call times
- Resident also noted that considering most of the elderly residents had incontinent issues, this meant that pads were often left in plastic bags by the bins. The estate was a Housing Association block
- It was stated that this could be a common problem in sheltered accommodation. In response officers agreed to investigate the issue immediately referred to by the resident once details are provided to either the clerk or the Chair of the committee and will investigate other estates just in case that may have similar issues

Cathy Cook Re London made a presentation during which the following points were highlighted –

- Work had been undertaken with LBI on the development of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan, the overall waste strategy and circular economy plans
- LBI were also assisting Re;London in a project to look at recycling in 2 new flats
- It was noted that energy from NLWA would increase costs; that LBI waste reduction and recycling plan is committed to reducing the level of household waste, and a commitment to expand food waste collection. In addition it was noted that there is a need to expand food waste collection especially with flats above shops
- Government consultation on Residual Waste services is the biggest undertaken in 25 years, and extends producer responsibility, introduces consistency in Housing and Business recycling, and introduces a deposit return scheme. LBI current service meets the requirements of the current proposals on recycling, food waste, residual waste and garden waste, however the proposal of removal of waste from flats above shops will present a challenge
- Opportunities for Islington were outlined including installation of drinking fountains, water refill stations, information on waste being available on the website, support to residents to remove bulky waste items, real nappy scheme etc.
- Biggest opportunity is to reduce residual waste by reducing capacity of containers, frequency of collections etc. Flat recycling package leading to increase in recycling rate
- Re:London resource support includes resource bank free service for London, Flat pack recycling package, involvement in innovation of knowledge projects, targeted London recycling campaign, individual support provided at cost
- In relation to a question as to whether the scheme introduced in Wales to recycle disposable nappies, it was stated that no real work had been done on this in London and the logistics and costs made this difficult, however encouragement was being given to residents to use real nappies
- In response to a question it was stated that incineration would take place in London for the foreseeable future due to the lack of landfill
- Noted that LBI did have a waste reduction and recycling plan in place and scrutiny committee recommendations had assisted in this and move in the right direction on increasing recycling

Matthew Homer made a presentation during which the following main points were made –

- Waste reduction and recycling plan 2018-22 – recycling rate of 33% by 2022, 36% by 2025. Set up and achieve LA collection of waste recycling targets
- The Council had a number of objectives – Reduce single use plastic, reduce food waste, circular economy, encourage reuse, work with NLWA. Also to maximise recycling by recycling from flats and estates, recycling on the go, expansion of food waste recycling, increase

commercial waste. Also to reduce the environmental impact of waste ULEZ and zero emissions fleet. Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces by responsible recycling, redevelopment of the energy from waste facility at Edmonton by 2026, and household reuse and recycling. Noted that food collection from flats above shops would be a challenge but solutions would have to be found if it was Government regulation

- Although £100000 is the budget for waste recycling and reduction however other funding sources are being investigated. It was also noted that some ward partnerships had contributed funds
- It was stated that the use S106 of SIL monies on estates, such as the recent scheme on the Andover Estate should be looked at. It was stated that on new builds, recycling chutes were being built into the design of the building but this was often very difficult to do retrospectively
- Noted the Octopus Energy event being held to reduce food waste and loss

Flytipping – Jon Mootealoo made a presentation during which the following points were made –

- LBI has the second lowest rate of flytipping in London whereas LB Camden has the highest
- Islington bulky waste collection – 3 items £30, 10 items £100
- Noted prosecutions and fines issued for flytipping
- Education and encouragement – noted CSI tapes scheme introduced at 5 locations in the north of the borough
- Working with Partners – Keep Britain Tidy, and colleagues in Housing, compliance teams and CCTV
- A Member referred to the continual problems of flytipping on Hercules Street and it was stated that this would be looked at
- It was stated that consideration should be given to planters being put in in areas of constant flytipping to discourage flytippers and show the Council cared about the area

The Chair thanked everyone for attending