



## COUNCIL MEETING – 9 DECEMBER 2021

### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1 **Melissa Hetherington to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

The pedestrian crossing nearest the corner of Liverpool Road and Theberton Street (outside The Pig & Butcher) had its island removed some time ago and that has made the pedestrian crossing much harder for pedestrians to cross safely, and for drivers to see. As a family we cross the pedestrian crossing at least 4 times a day and have become increasingly alarmed at just how many drivers either ignore the pedestrian crossing or fail to see it altogether, including while pedestrians are crossing. We cross with a pram so are highly visible but this has made no difference.

The crossing is a major artery between Barnsbury and Upper Street and has been rendered wholly unsafe by the changes. I have raised our concerns with Islington Council via the "Roads" webpage and my local councillors, but have had no response.

So I am writing to ask the Council what steps a concerned resident needs to take to have action taken in relation to a pedestrian crossing that is currently failing in its purpose as a safe place for people to cross and for cars to give way? In our view, the pedestrian crossing is a terrible accident waiting to happen - there simply must be a way to improve its safety as a crossing, even if that means installing pedestrian lights.

2 **Helena Farstad to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

Buildings (commercial and residential) are the largest source of carbon emissions in Islington. Without addressing Islington's leaky properties Islington Council will not meet its 2030 net zero carbon target without major offsetting. When is the Councillor planning for the work to commence retrofitting the buildings and 25,000 homes under direct Council control; and how will he approach the challenge of convincing the remaining 78,000 or so households to do the same?

3 **Andrew Willett to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

My impression from the early months of the People Friendly Streets is that they have made a massively positive difference to the numbers of people walking and cycling around Islington, while it also appears that traffic on some of the main roads, for example the Blackstock Road, is starting to 'normalise'. Could the Councillors please confirm if this is in line with what the data is telling them?

4 **Lucy Facer to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

Islington Clean Air Parents would like to acknowledge the council's work and commitment to addressing air pollution in Islington, however children are still exposed to illegal levels of pollution in parts of the borough and air pollution monitoring shows all schools in Islington exceed the new World Health Organisation (WHO) targets. With evidence that there is no safe level of air pollution, will the council revise current air pollution targets in their policies to meet WHO 2021 air quality recommended targets?

5 **Caroline Royds to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

Does the Council agree with the Committee on Climate Change that "achieving significant emission reductions requires a step change, moving away from landfill and incineration and towards a reduction in waste arisings and reuse and recycling"?

**Questions 6, 7 and 8 will receive a joint response:**

6 **Jonathan Ward to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

In relation to the proposals for the redevelopment of Holloway Prison, are you happy with the poor-quality living conditions of the proposed homes?

A significant number of homes, especially social housing, will require air conditioning to keep them comfortable. It is unacceptable that the number of apartments affected is not confirmed, neither are the additional running and maintenance costs for residents, nor the additional carbon emissions. An expert has estimated that hundreds of homes will require this air conditioning. This goes against Islington and GLA policy. The extreme density and height of the buildings site also means that over half of the living rooms will fail to meet the applicable targets for annual and winter sunlight and that 208 of the rooms will fail to meet minimum daylight requirements. Are you happy with the proposed poor-quality living conditions for Islington residents, and the negative impacts on their lives?

7 **Richard Hope to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

In relation to the proposed Holloway Prison development, why do the flats facing on to Camden Road and Parkhurst Road need mechanical ventilation?

8 **Robin Nicholson to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

Given the overheating of so many new homes as a result of being single aspect without through ventilation, is the Council satisfied that the high proportion of flats without through ventilation is acceptable?

- There are no flats on the whole development which are ‘through aspect’ i.e. providing ventilation from front to back
- 484 flats or nearly half all flats are ‘corner’ aspect, i.e. with a front and side window and corner aspect flats will overheat if facing south and west
- 60 flats or 6% of all flats are single aspect – i.e. no through ventilation at all and subject to overheating, especially those on Parkhurst Road who will not want to open window because of the noise and pollution
- 441 flats, or nearly half are what they call ‘stepped/double aspect’ or what amounts to a bay window and to all intents and purposes single aspect and contrary to the London Plan.

The measurements of overheating given are limited and don’t consider all flats. The social housing is particularly affected, which means they will need cooling systems, which will only add to tenants’ costs.

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9 **Anita Grant to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

Are you happy about the poor quality of the Holloway Prison proposal for children? It lacks a child centred site wide response, with fragmented play areas, some are shaded and windy, some are behind gates in residents’ only areas, and 0-4 year olds will be playing next to a 2-way road. It seems a shame when so much work has been done in Islington to put children first and when the need for excellent play is being recognised more and more, that this proposal for the prison site is being considered.

**Questions 10, 11 and 12 will receive a joint response:**

**10 Nick Clarke to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

The North London Waste Authority will decide on 16 December whether to build the Edmonton Incinerator. To put this project in context the entire county of Chad emits about 900,000 tonnes of CO2 per annum - not much more than the 700,000 tonnes annual emissions from this proposed incinerator. Lake Chad has shrunk to 1/10th its size due to climate change, affecting 30 million people who rely on its water. In the words of environmentalist Hindou Ibrahim from Chad: *"Climate change is real and its not about our future it is about our present... we need solutions, we don't have time. It's now the time for action and immediate action for those people who are getting impacted who didn't create this climate thing."*

On 9 July 2020 the Council passed a motion regarding Atonement and Reparations for the United Kingdom's Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans acknowledging: *"a great deal of the wealth of the United Kingdom was founded on this vile crime against humanity, and the legacies of chattel, colonial and neocolonial forms of enslavement are still prevalent in our society today"*.

Does the Council not recognise that postponing our move to a circular economy by 25 years because we do not have the will and imagination to see beyond our waste fuelled culture and economy is a perpetuation of this crime against humanity?

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

The Labour Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, is on the record saying "London is facing a climate emergency and I will continue to oppose new incineration capacity in London, which is not needed to manage the city's non-recyclable waste." Why does Islington Labour not agree?

**12 Ben Griffith to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

On 16 December, Councillors Champion and Gill, as the Council's representatives to the North London Waste Authority, will be voting on whether to award a contract as part of the plan to incur £1.2bn of council tax payer debt to build a new bigger waste incinerator and other facilities at Edmonton. They will be encouraged to vote in favour of the Edmonton Incinerator because it is claimed there is no better alternative; and yet we know this decade is crucial to reduce our CO2 emissions - the council has set 2030 as a deadline for net zero.

Instead of the incinerator, we can sort our waste into its constituent parts. We can educate, support and incentivise the general public to do this. We can pressure companies to reduce waste. We can invest in mixed waste sorting technology. In this view I find myself supported by the Chief Scientific Advisor to DEFRA who states 'incineration is not a good direction to go in'

The NLWA commissioned Ramboll to compare the carbon impact of incineration to landfill. But would Councillors Gill and Champion please describe what circular economy alternatives to incineration have been considered by the NLWA? Please detail any specific feasibility studies that have been commissioned by the NLWA describing circular economy alternatives to incineration?

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13 **Bridget Fox to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

Islington Council claims to support recycling, yet communal recycling bins and waste areas on our estates are regularly left overflowing. What measures is the Council taking to clean up its act?

14 **Filip Rambousek to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

With so many families in overcrowded or unsafe council accommodation, what is the average void time to turn around council homes between tenancies, and why is it taking so long to make these much-needed homes available?

15 **Melissa Herman to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

In relation to the proposals for the redevelopment of Holloway Prison, the SPD is referenced in the emerging plan site allocations document as a document that 'will be given significant weight in terms of future determinations' and states the following:

5.44 In reflection of the council's commitment to community cohesion and the value and vitality associated with diverse communities, the residential elements of a future scheme should be based on a layout which maximises tenure integration, with affordable and private housing built to the same standards and indistinguishable from one another in terms of design quality, appearance and location on site. There should be no separation of amenity or facilities according to tenure.

In Peabody's plans for Holloway, many of the homes for social rent will be on the main road in the tallest block planned for the site and there is no pepper potting or tenure mixing with the blocks. How will the council ensure tenure integration and equality of standards (e.g. space, aspect, materials used) between tenures on the Holloway development?

16 **David Lincoln to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

Advancing the health and wellbeing of residents is an important role of Islington council. There is strong scientific evidence that incorporating physical activity into their daily routine helps people live healthier and happier lives.

Does the Council agree that extending the roll out of People Friendly Streets will enable more people to choose to walk or cycle more often which will have a significant positive impact toward improving public health, perhaps greater than any other intervention available to the council?

17 **Rebekah Kelly to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

People are eager to know about the final decision for St. Peter's People Friendly Streets scheme as the ETO expires and the council must now decide whether the scheme becomes permanent, is removed or adjusted, and what adjustments may take place.

As it is not on the agenda for this council meeting, how and when will that decision be announced? Please provide a specific date.

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

What is the average time taken to repair a streetlight once reported, and what percentage of street lights were fixed within one week?

19 **Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

How many residents engaged in Let's talk about a greener future two week festival? What is the council going to do to make sure more residents get involved in Islington Together festival in 2022?

20 **Devon Osborne to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

Does the council know how many estate intercoms are currently in need of repair and how many residents this effects? Does the council have a timetable for repair of intercoms on estates and a procedure with timings and deadlines that is followed after the first complaint? Does the council acknowledge the necessity of working intercoms for residents safety? And what is the council's plan to address anti-social behaviour in stairwells and supposedly secure common areas?

21 **Chuck Y to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

On Chadwell Street there is an island between the bike and car lane. This island has become a regular dumping ground for both household, commercial and building waste. This includes furniture and huge cardboard boxes among the other waste.

Given this happens on a daily basis, it was quite surprised when I was told by the Islington Waste Team that they would not be able to take any real actions to stop the fly tipping; I was told all they could do is send someone to clear the trash, which is unlikely to even be done given the number of items of litter regularly there.

My question to the council is what active steps are the council taking to prevent fly tipping? It seems at the moment that the lack of surveillance, the lack of a note or sign, and the response of the team when I called Islington Council, indicate that the Council are taking no steps to prevent fly tipping and simply addressing the after effects by cleaning up after these criminals.

Given the frequency and scale of fly tipping, is this not arguably easier to tackle than a one off occurrence of fly-tipping? If the council won't even bother with an easier case of trying to stop fly-tipping, is the council simply not trying to address fly-tipping at all?

22 **Guilene Marco to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families:**

Most of the equipment in the playground in Arundel Square has been removed following a safety inspection in May. Residents, parents and children have been waiting for 6 months now for a reopening of their favourite playground. Will you be able to let us know when the Council will secure a supplier and a budget to fix the equipment in Arundel Square? Do you have a timeline for the works, and can you guarantee a reopening before May 2022?

23 **Dominic Martin to Cllr Lukes, Executive Member for Community Safety:**

What are the 2021 figures for bicycle theft in Islington, and how do they compare with other London boroughs? What percentage of reported bicycle thefts result in successful prosecution; and what is the Council doing to reduce levels of bicycle theft in Islington?

24 **Question to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

Does the Council feel confident it will meet the Net Zero 2030 plan and how much does it anticipate having to offset to be net zero by 2030?

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

Following COP26, everyone must now agree that we are in a climate emergency, and we all must reduce our emissions urgently. Islington has also committed to Vision Zero for London - to eliminate all deaths and serious injuries from our roads. Air pollution in London is killing 4,000 people every year. Tackling global heating, road deaths, toxic air - three essential, unarguable, goals. Discouraging the use of private vehicles by rolling out People Friendly Streets across the Borough will go a long way to achieving all three aims.

Is the Council aware of any alternative which is likely to be as effective in meeting these three critical goals?

26 **Question to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health & Care:**

NDP (Neuro Development Pathway) wait times are on the Whittington Trust's risk register. As the parent of a severely distressed child, whose 15 month wait for a Neurodevelopmental Pathway Assessment had already exceeded the 52 week wait time given, I was recently told that the wait time has now been extended to 32 months. Can you satisfy me there is a robust recovery plan in place rather than one that is creating systematic churn?

27 **Roderik Gonggrijp to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

The proposed Holloway Prison development is for 985 housing units to accommodate 3,450 new residents. Based on data from the Mayor's Office, this will give St George's ward the 12th highest population density of all 624 wards in London. Yet, no new amenities or even a community centre are planned, nor does the 300 document planning application appear to contain any tested impact assessment for the existing amenities in the area that the new residents are expected to use.

What assessment has been made to ensure that there are adequate health, education and sport facilities, along with green space to support the residents moving in to the new homes?

28 **Linda Clarke to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

The proposed environmental design for the redevelopment of Holloway prison, intended as a net zero energy building development, falls far short of the London Borough of Islington Net Zero Carbon targets:

- The heating demand is 72-162% more than the Islington target;
- The building airtightness mean the buildings will be 5 times more leaky than the Islington target;
- The upfront embodied carbon emissions are 650kg/CO2/m2, more than double the 300kg/CO2/m2 target for 2030;
- Not a single item from the site is proposed to be reclaimed for re-use;
- The renewable energy generation is only 62% of the Islington Council target;

In the light of the Climate Emergency, the Council's 2030 Net Zero carbon targets and recognising that the project will be completed close to 2030, surely the proposals for the site cannot be accepted by the Council given that they are at odds with its own environmental policies?

29 **Jill Ellenby to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

What would be the financial implications for Islington Council if the new north London incinerator operates at respectively 80 per cent, 60 per cent and 40 per cent of capacity, given the impact on its cost-effectiveness as well as the income from burning waste and from supplying heat and electricity?

**Questions 30 and 31 will receive a joint response:**

30 **Claire Zammit to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

The Holloway Prison Site is a generational opportunity to tackle the housing crisis in our borough and build hundreds of new good quality social homes on the border of Holloway ward.

We know the site has a strong legacy as it was the largest women's prison in Europe before it was closed, providing extensive services to and for the wider community. Can you tell me what the Council is doing to ensure that, if the plans are approved, the legacy of supporting women will continue and what type of services you believe the Women's Building will provide for the greater community? Also will the Women's Building be women-only and how will you ensure it will be financially sustainable?

**31 Niki Gibbs to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

HMP Holloway is a site of huge historical national importance to the struggle for women's rights, and part of Islington's built heritage.

When the planning department was preparing its Design Brief for the Women's Building, 24 of 28 expert individuals and organisations said they did not support the draft plans for the HWB. The useable room space offered is approximately 920sqm within the 1500sqm floor plan; the remainder is corridors and WC facilities. Yet even the draft brief recommends approx.. 1,200sqm.

Peabody's plan is effectively disrespecting half the population with a tokenistic offer of a Women's Building on a unique legacy site for women. Is the Council willing for this important history to be erased, and its legacy reduced to a single floor under a tower block, when no feasibility study or needs assessment has been done to quantify the space, services, service delivery, viability or governance, meeting the needs of women as laid out in the SPD?

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**32 Debbie Humphry to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

Are you happy that there are no London Living Rent homes (suitable for low income households such as key workers who will not be able to access social rent housing) but that all 18% of Intermediate housing is shared ownership with minimum required household incomes of over £65K for a 25% share of a 2-bed Peabody property in Islington?