

COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JUNE 2022

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

a **Julien Etienne to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:**

With a rapidly worsening climate crisis, Islington could soon experience an extreme heatwave such as that which affected British Columbia in Canada last Summer where temperatures came close to 50 degrees Celsius. The current Cool Spaces map lists no local indoor cool spaces in which Islington residents could take refuge in such an event. Does the Council have a plan to keep people safe in the event of a major heatwave?

b **Rebekah Kelly to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:**

Community safety is a serious concern for many residents, as most have been impacted in some way by crime or anti social behaviour. Would the £21,000 paid to change Islington Council's logo be better off spent toward tackling youth crime that is prevalent on the streets of Islington and what is the plan to address this issue?

c **John Hartley to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:**

I am asking this question on behalf of Low Traffic Islington (Barnsbury St. Mary's). Now that the May elections are over, we are pleased to see that the Council consists entirely of Councillors committed to the Policy of encouraging Sustainable Transport modes and reducing unnecessary motor vehicle usage and though traffic in our Borough by measures including the roll-out of Liveable Neighbourhoods.

Our area suffers terribly from though traffic, and you may have seen the Green Hearts of support for action to be taken, particularly in places such as Offord Road.

Our group has already submitted ideas on how the area bounded by the A1, Caledonian Road and Pentonville Road can be made a more Liveable Neighbourhood and we are keen to contribute to the Engagement and Design Process for our long-promised Low Traffic Neighbourhood. Please can you tell us when our Engagement and Design Process will start?

d **Ben Griffith to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:**

North London papers including the Islington Gazette report that Secretary of State Michael Gove has instructed his department to look into the North London Waste Authority and its determination to expand incineration capacity in north London.

Gove says: "I have asked officials in the department to engage directly with NLWA and its external auditor Mazars to better understand the arrangements the authority has in place for decision making, including governance, scrutiny and external audit.... Alongside this, I have asked that we ascertain how NLWA are managing and delivering the [project].... I expect my officials to make comparisons to other waste authorities and large capital projects to provide assurance the NLWA are meeting the standards we would expect across the sector."

To support this investigation, the Stop the Edmonton Incinerator Now (StEIN) coalition has written to Gove setting out 34 issues relating to the NLWA and in particular: issues related to the Edmonton incinerator contract (11 issues); issues related to Mazars' review of NLWA accounts (7 issues); NLWA governance issues (14 issues) and issues related to NLWA communications (2 issues).

For example:

- "An expert assessment shows the plant's emissions would be twice as bad [as landfill] for the environment from its first day of operation – and nearly 4 times as bad by the end of its operational life."
- "There will be insufficient waste to incinerate in Edmonton – whether from north London or elsewhere – due to enhanced Government legislation under the Environment Bill. Defra aims to halve residual waste by 2042."
- "NLWA efforts to borrow money for the Edmonton incinerator from the Treasury's Public Works Loan Board and the UK Municipal Bonds Agency (UKMBA) are based on misleading claims that the project qualifies as "green", although the EU and emerging UK taxonomies of sustainable finance exclude energy-from-waste incineration."
- "NLWA has dismissed the widely recognized need for pre-sorting technology to extract plastics and other recyclables from the incineration stream (pre-sorting reduces CO2 emissions and toxic air pollution, while simultaneously boosting recycling revenue and reducing waste arisings)."

Further detail is available at:

<https://stop-edmonton-incinerator.org/letter-to-secretary-of-state-michael-gove-issues-of-concern-related-to-the-north-london-waste-authority-nlwa/>

What consideration has Islington Council given to the issues raised in the correspondence from the Secretary of State and StEIN?

e **Jeremy Maher to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:**

We gather that Islington Council has now proposed two Councillors to represent Islington Council on the Board of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA). Could you kindly explain the process and reasonings for deciding who such members should be, including the following information:

- which persons are responsible for the selection process and, with whom else did they engage with in any discussions or voting regarding the decisions;
- exactly what qualifications, professional experiences and other skills were taken into consideration when deciding whom such members should be;
- once voted or otherwise confirmed as Islington Council's representatives upon the Board of NLWA, who exactly will they then on be held accountable to?