

COUNCIL MEETING – 22 SEPTEMBER 2022

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

a **Rebekah Kelly Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:**

Between July and December last year, Islington Council ran the Safer Spaces consultation. I believe there was an insufficient amount of publicity and promotion to call it the largest community safety consultation of its kind. The results were broadcast in a series of community events at which the former Executive Member for Community Safety presented the Safe Haven scheme and stated the results of the consultation would be published and available, although I'm struggling to find evidence of this publication so am dubious of its existence.

Will the newly appointed Executive Member for Community Safety continue the Safe Haven scheme, working with communities to make the scheme effective, and actually hear our concerns?

b **Hilary Green to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:**

Is the planning department at Islington Council willing to undergo a public review of its policy on mansards, taking into consideration the complex needs and wishes of residents?

c **Max Campbell to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:**

Islington Boat Club provides vital services to the whole community from children, young people, the older generation and those with Special Educational Needs. It's closure over this summer has had a devastating effect.

In the last Council meeting in June, the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families stated that "Islington Boat Club has been closed due to failing a health and safety audit and needs significant repairs". However, upon investigation it seems that redevelopment was highlighted in Site Allocation from 2019. Why hasn't the Council helped more to keep the Boat Club open?

d Helena Farstad to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

As part of the Dixon Clark Court negotiation process (when the site was occupied by tree protectors), one of the conditions for leaving the site was that Islington Council would hold a Citizen's Assembly on the Environmental Emergency in Islington. While not defined the idea was to focus on how to address the Housing Crisis in Islington alongside achieving the commitment of Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

The agreement was signed on 21st October 2020 and the occupation of which negotiation parties belonged, then ceased. Since that point, several attempts to get a confirmation on when such a Citizen's Assembly should be held has taken place. The Councillor has not yet responded providing any clarity on the matter and already two years have passed.

Is the Councillor intending to hold this promise, and if so, when will they deliver on it?

e Leyla Boulton to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

The UK has signed the Paris Accord on climate change and enshrined its objective of carbon neutrality in law. Now, the double whammy of soaring energy bills and Russia's use of gas as a weapon of economic warfare make the development of renewables and increasing energy efficiency more urgent than ever before.

Islington's grade 2 listed properties are numerous and among the most energy-inefficient in the borough. Yet current planning regulations are preventing the landlords, tenants and residents of such homes from taking steps to radically reduce their carbon footprint, including the installation of solar panels and double-glazing.

For instance, a resident who installed sensitive double-glazing that is invisible from the street has been refused planning permission while secondary glazing on a neighbour's house, which is visible from the street, is allowed. Listed homes were mostly discouraged from joining the Mayor's now-closed Solar Together scheme on the grounds they would not get planning permission from Islington Council.

Councils such as Kensington & Chelsea are adapting their planning rules to help. With its strong record on the need to tackle climate change, will Islington Council quickly change planning regulations to facilitate the installation of solar panels and double-glazing on grade 2 listed homes and help make street properties in Islington warmer in winter and more affordable to heat for all tenants and residents?

f **Lucy Facer to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:**

100% of Islington exceeds the World Health Organisation's (WHO) air quality guidelines. The guidelines provide evidenced, health-based standards that cities should adopt. Last year, an estimated 74 people in Islington died from diseases caused by air pollution.

There is far-reaching evidence that shows how air pollution affects many aspects of health, even at low levels. Air pollution particles reach unborn babies through the placenta and children are being exposed daily to unsafe levels of air pollution on their journeys to school, the park or the local library.

Islington Clean Air Parents would like to know does the council have a comprehensive plan for the borough to meet WHO's air quality guidelines?

g **Zak Vora to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:**

Islington Council have once again failed to conduct adequate consultation, this time with the residents of Braithwaite House and Quaker Court, the residents most directly impacted by any potential development on the Podium and surrounding area behind Braithwaite House on Bunhill Row. Will the Council commit to a full and thorough consultation with defined thresholds for objections to nullify plans and, if it somehow passes these thresholds, commit to all properties being offered for social housing given the desperate need for such confirmed by the Council itself?

h **Claire Davies to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:**

Regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Banner Estate (Braithwaite house and Quaker Court EC1Y) for Private and social housing-

What steps have been take to fully investigate nearby alternative sites for redevelopment, namely the properties and sites in close proximity to the already densely populated Banner Estate, that have been left vacant, empty and disused for numerous years and could be feasible for compulsory purchase? For example the site at Oliver's Yard on City Road.

i **Pete Gilman to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities:**

As a proportion of income rents in Britain are the highest in Europe and high rents are a major cause of poverty and deprivation. There is an understandable fear among council tenants that on top of the huge rise in the price of food and fuel we will see a huge rise in council rents in Islington.

Can the council give an assurance that there will be no such rise? In addition, many housing associations operating in Islington are planning big increases in rents and service charges. Can the council give an assurance it will use its power and influence to stop and/or curb such increases?