

COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2023

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

a James O'Doherty to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

Please explain the legal basis for parking e-bikes on pavements in Islington. I am asking for the explicit legal permission that e-bike companies have that allows the dumping on e-bikes on pavements. How does this reconcile with Rule 64 of the Highways Code which states "You MUST NOT cycle on a pavement." I understand the need to promote cycling however why does the Council allow this kind of irresponsible dumping on pavements of e-bikes and why do residents have to deal with this nonsense?

b Rebekah Kelly to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

The latest proposals for the Barnsbury and Laycock Liveable Neighbourhood shows clear winners and losers, where some benefit from a "Liveable Neighbourhood" and some do not. How does this create a more equal borough?

c Siobhan Cartwright to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

I'd like to address the problem re LTNs, road closures, left and right turn changes that are causing huge traffic jams on Islington main roads:

- Upper Street
- Holloway Road
- Seven Sisters Road
- Caledonian Road
- Tufnell Park Road

How are the emergency services expected to reach an emergency situation when the traffic is jammed throughout the day on the above roads listed above?

Emergency services are hampered by road and turning changes as none (to my knowledge) are indicated on GPS systems. Reliable GPS is absolutely vital for Emergency Service vehicles, along with access on ALL roads. Cars are unable to move out of their way due to traffic jams, cycle lanes and parked cars. Has there been enough consideration in the planning discussions re: Emergency Services response routes re: the latest road closures? It is apparent to anyone living, working, walking, driving and trying to navigate a way out of the latest traffic nightmare in Islington that planning consideration was not given to the points listed above.

d Patricia Niclas to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

Regarding all the LTNs currently in operation and planned for the borough and the method for recording and presenting data and statistics for use in consultation results.

Please confirm whether such data recording has ever been carried out during school holidays and if so, when and which LTNs has this applied to and if data has been collected during school holidays would she agree that this data cannot be considered as a true reflection of actual traffic counts?

e Antionette Fernandez to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities

What support is given to smaller charities and CICs to bid for council funding and to deliver council services?

f Rose McDonald to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

We're aware that the council and Peabody plan to put out a tender for the managing agent and operator of the Holloway women's space early next year. It's key that these are chosen with the unique character of the site and the ethos of the Supplementary Planning Document in mind. What support will be offered to smaller organisations, who may have less experience but may have a connection to HMP Holloway? How will the council ensure that the bidding process to manage and operate the space is transparent, widely publicised, and managed in a fair and equitable.

g Susanne Lamido to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

The Community is really looking forward to seeing much needed council homes on the Holloway Park site. At least 40% of the flats will be sold privately. The last thing our community needs is a ghost development where flats are sold to overseas investors and remain empty for most of the year or let as Airbnb Peabody has offered assurances that private leases will stipulate that flats can not be sublet for periods of less than six months and flats can not be left empty for periods of more than six months. There are strong concerns that these assurances might not always be met: what power does the council have to ensure that they are?

h Pete Gilman to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

Across Britain many local authorities are in a dire financial position with some rumoured to be close to bankruptcy, and Islington council is facing an almost impossible situation. The reason is the withdrawal of government funding from local authorities on a massive scale. With next year's probable change of government will Islington council, preferably in alliance with many other local authorities, press for the restoration of government funding?

i Naomi Peck to Cllr Khondoker, Executive Member for Equalities, Culture, and Inclusion:

It is my understanding that the only way that an Islington resident can ask a question at Full Council and be given a verbal response, along with the opportunity to ask a follow-up question is to attend in person. However, attending in person is simply not possible for many: those with caring responsibilities, those who work in the evenings, those who would find the formal setting challenging for all kinds of reasons, those who cannot afford the travel fare, those who do not feel safe leaving their homes in the evenings etc etc.

I know that the meetings are streamed but given that, since the pandemic, so many meetings in so many organisations are of a hybrid nature, does the Council not agree that it is somewhat behind the curve on this issue and it should implement a policy that offers an option for its residents to ask a question and optional follow-up question by Zoom (which seems to be the best option for meetings with external participants).

This would help to make the process a bit more inclusive than at present and this step towards an 'equalisation of access' would be in alignment with what seems to be a goal of the Council's Islington Together 2030 plan. If the Council does agree, could this policy be implemented by the next Full Council meeting?

j Gill Shepherd to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

How aware is the Executive Member of the cumulative impact on boundary roads of more and more LTNs/LNs extruding traffic onto the same fixed number of boundary roads? This will shortly become a major problem for Upper Street and the Holloway Road if Barnsbury and Laycock LTN goes ahead. And if Highbury New Park goes ahead this will have massive impacts on St Paul's Road and the Blackstock Road.

k David Twine to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

Climate Emergency UK assessed all UK councils on the actions they have taken towards net zero carbon and the findings were published in October 2023 - Council Climate Action Scorecards | Climate Emergency UK (councilclimatescorecards.uk). The assessment found that Islington scored more poorly than its neighbouring boroughs of Camden and Haringey for the following three questions on Buildings and Heating.

What lessons have the council learned from this Climate Emergency assessment for Buildings and Retrofit - especially in relation to at least matching, and ideally exceeding, what Camden and Haringey have achieved, and what actions will it take, and by when, to address these lessons?

l Phillipa Dowswell to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families

Whilst we, at the NEU, appreciate that the council has no wish to close any school in the borough, we are very concerned that the time for the proposed merger between Montem and Duncombe (which in practical terms is a closure of Montem) is too short for there to be time to explore alternative options. We are also concerned about the likelihood of academisation of our primary schools - Blessed Sacrament is already exploring this option. Will the council consider a longer time frame for consultation, ensure that the borough NEU reps are consulted at an early stage in any future changes, and will the council take a collaborative approach, involving all the schools in the borough, not just those with the lowest rolls? The Council and NEU should challenge the Department for Education on the school funding formula, to address the funding gap facing our schools.

m Caz Royds to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

How is the Council responding to Islington's recycling rate falling from around 30% to 27%, and in the light of this fall will its representatives on the NLWA board press for an urgent exploration of the potential for advanced mixed waste sorting to extract recyclables from residual waste?