

Pauntley Street Environmental Improvements Officer Decision Report

Officer Decision

Date: 10 February 2023

Ward(s): Junction

1. Background and context

- 1.1 This report outlines the proposal, consultation, and recommendation for environmental improvements at two locations on Pauntley Street in Junction ward. The first is the footpath which runs parallel to Archway Road and the second is the car park towards the north of Pauntley Street.
- 1.2 The recommendations follow a public consultation which ran from 30 November 2022 to 28 December 2022. The consultation emerged as a result of the council's awareness of issues of air and noise pollution along the footpath running parallel to the Archway Road bus stand which was relocated as part of the roundabout removal at Archway in 2017 as well as incidents of fly tipping and antisocial behaviour at the car park to the north of Pauntley Street.
- 1.3 To engage residents on the Pauntley Street footpath we invited comments on a proposal to install a 50m long living, 2.2m tall green screen comprising hedges of ivy and star jasmine grown onto frames in moveable surface planter boxes. The proposal was aimed at addressing residents' desire for greening to screen nearby properties from buses parked on the stands below the Pauntley Street footpath as well as vehicle traffic on Archway Road while preserving access to underground utilities along the footpath. To engage residents on improving the Pauntley Street car park, we posed an open question inviting ideas for improving the space.
- 1.4 Islington is one of the six London boroughs most exposed to the impacts of climate change. As part of our efforts to tackle the climate emergency and create a more sustainable future, the council launched the Islington Greener Together programme. The programme aims to develop and improve unused spaces within the borough through

introducing different forms of greening, increasing the boroughs biodiversity and improving air quality. The living green screen on the Pauntley Street footpath will contribute to the Greener Together programme by reducing the noise from road traffic on Archway Road, creating a more pleasant environment around Pauntley Street improving the air quality around Pauntley Street and contributing to the council's efforts to tackle climate change.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the consultation feedback to the original proposal to install a 50m long, 2.2m tall living green screen on Pauntley Street comprising hedges of ivy and star jasmine in moveable surface planters as well as the responses to the open question inviting ideas for improving the car park on Pauntley Street.
- 2.2 To note the recommended changes to the specifications of the Pauntley Street footpath living green screen included in the original proposal.
- 2.3 To agree to the installation of a living green screen on the Pauntley Street footpath with proposed changes to the length and height of the green screen.
- 2.4 To note respondents' priorities regarding the Pauntley Street car park to inform later decisions on environmental improvements to this site.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The consultation was comprised of a survey and two drop-in events on 30 November and 7 December where officers spoke with residents. The consultation was advertised via a leaflet drop and attracted 65 responses including 62 survey responses and 3 emails. Officers also met with ward councillors to discuss the proposals and consultation approach and attended the Archway Town Centre meeting with business representatives.
- 3.2 Responses to the consultation were collected through two engagement events as well as a survey accessible via the council's consultation page, with paper copies also available. The engagement events and survey were promoted via a leaflet which was distributed to 450 local properties around the project site. Copies of the leaflet were also put up on a local notice board.
- 3.3 As part of the consultation, Transport for London were notified of the intention to install a living green screen on the Pauntley Street footpath running parallel to Archway Road. The scheme does not impact on access for any emergency services; we did not therefore consult emergency services.

- 3.4 Feedback to the consultation suggests that most local people are supportive of measures to green the Pauntley Street footpath and car park. Most respondents agreed that a living green screen on the Pauntley Street footpath will reduce the noise from road traffic on Archway Road, improve the air quality around Pauntley Street, and create a more pleasant environment around Pauntley Street. Responses also suggest that local people are in favour of using timber as a material for the planters but have concerns over the length of the green screens in relation to the Archway Road bus stands, the vertical height of the green screens from the ground and the bins on the southern end of the Pauntley Street footpath.

Green screen length

Many respondents said that they wanted the living green screen to cover the full length of the bus stands on Archway Road and were concerned that a 50m long living green screen would not achieve this.

Green screen height

Many respondents said that they were concerned about the living green screen being too tall and making it difficult for people on the footway to be seen.

Bins

Many respondents reported that the existing bins on the southern end of the Pauntley Street footpath look untidy.

- 3.5 Finally, a range of suggestions were put forward for improving the space around the Pauntley Street car park greening interventions (including a green wall, trees, and other planting) and improvements to the bins were the most popular.

4. Proposals

4.1 Pauntley Street footpath

- 4.1.1 In response to consultation feedback, it is recommended that a living green screen be installed with the following specifications:
- **Planter material:** Timber.
 - **Green screen length:** 70m to cover the whole length of the bus stands.
 - **Green screen height:** 1.5m to allow people to see over the green screens.

- **Planting:** Hedges of ivy and star jasmine with base planting including prickly plants to deter the hiding of weapons or drugs in the planting.

4.1.2 In response to concerns over the untidiness of the existing bin store to the south of the Pauntley Street footpath, it is also recommended that the existing free-standing bins be replaced with a new bin enclosure.

4.2 Pauntley Street car park

4.2.1 In response to the consultation feedback, we recommend the following actions:

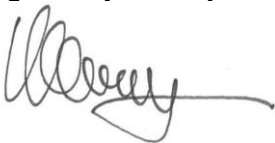
- Commission a parking beat survey
- Commission a utilities survey
- Produce a traffic study of Pauntley Street to understand how the car park is being used from the A1.

5. Decision

5.1 It is proposed to proceed with the scheme described in Section 4: Proposals.

5.2 Following the sign-off of this report the living green screen would be installed on the Pauntley Street footpath in March 2023 during half-term school holidays for a construction period of one week.

Signed by: Martijn Cooijmans



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