

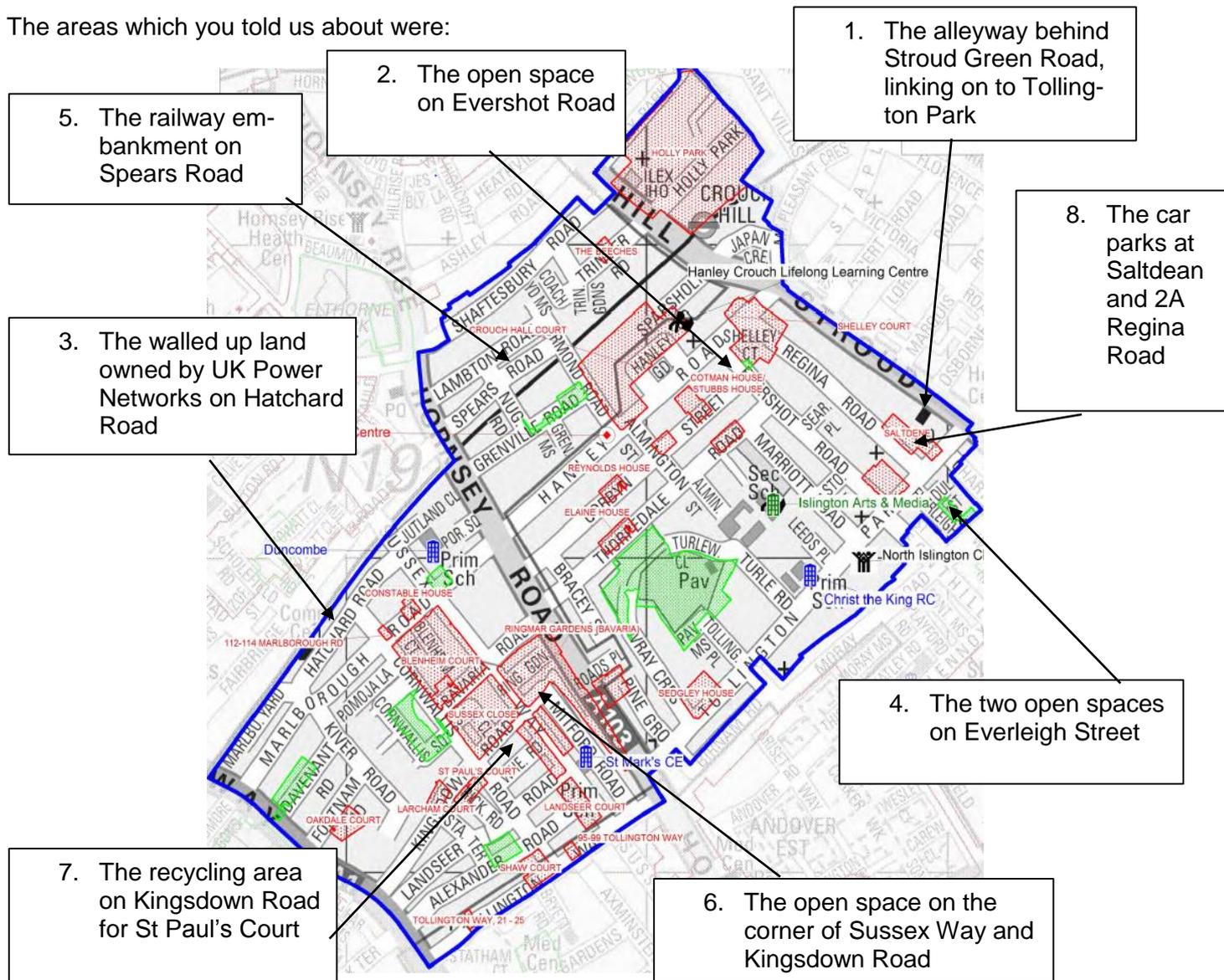


**Cllr Flora Williamson and Cllr Richard Watts**

Dear Tollington Neighbour,

In 2016 Tollington Ward Partnership, led by your local councillors, asked residents of Tollington Ward about which were the parts of the ward which you felt were underused, unloved and/or needed some care and attention. Our aim, at a time of significant cuts to council services, was to think of ways to look at these spaces differently and come up with some solutions to improve them.

The areas which you told us about were:



Over the last 18 months we have worked with council officers, local charities and community groups, local police, network rail, and UK Power Networks to either improve the space, or develop plans for longer term improvements to these areas.

## **1. Spears Road railway embankment (owned by Network Rail)**

### **You said the issues were:**

- Long standing litter and flytipping issues on the railway embankment adjacent to Spears Road. As this is a wide railway embankment next to a very quiet road, it could be put to a more suitable use.

### **Action we have taken and possible future plans:**

- We got Network Rail to clear the embankment of rubbish, and they have agreed to clean it regularly.
- We are currently researching the ownership of the road, with the aim, in the very long term, of seeing if this area could be developed into a community garden or small local park.

## **2. Alleyway at Stroud Green Road (privately owned)**

### **You said the issues were:**

- The alleyway had for a long time been a spot for anti-social behaviour, crime, street drinking, fly-tipping and abandoned cars.

### **Action we have taken and possible future plans:**

- Council officers held an onsite meeting with the multiple freeholders to discuss concerns and agree a way forward. There was also a site visit with a dedicated Police Officer from the MET's Designing Out Crime team. As a result, following action was taken:
  - Parking signage has been installed and parking fines issued.
  - Parking permits have been issued to some tenants by freeholders.
  - Lighting to the rear of shop 95 Stroud Green Road in the alleyway has been reinstated
  - New managing agents for the area have been appointed and they have been clearing the area of waste/litter on a frequent basis.
  - Area has continued to be monitored, the local Police team have reported that anti-social behaviour issues have reduced in this location, however they continue to patrol.
- Fly tipping remains an issue but will continue to be monitored by the managing agent. Islington Council's Compliance Team can take enforcement action if required.
- Further lighting to be considered along the alleyway by the Freeholders.

## **3. The car parks at Saltdean and 2A Regina Road**

### **You said the issues were:**

- This is a large space, which isn't landscaped. The car parks are separate so it isn't the most efficient use of space.

### **Action we have taken and possible future plans:**

- This area has been prioritised for future investment to brighten it up and make it look more attractive.

## **4. The recycling area on Kingsdown Road for St Paul's Court**

### **You said the issues were:**

- The site had had a lot of fly tipping

### **Action we have taken and possible future plans:**

- Council officers investigated the fly tipping at the site – which included CCTV of the area. They were able to take enforcement action, including in one case issuing a large fine against a take-away which was dumping commercial waste at the site.
- We are currently reviewing funding options to see if it would be possible to enclose the large recycling bins to improve the look of the area and make it look tidier.

## 5. The open space at corner of Kingsdown Rd and Sussex Way

### You said the issues were:

- This is an open space, with limited rarely-used play equipment. In addition, bins at one end of the site (which is the recycling area for Ringmere Gardens estate) act as a magnet for fly tipping.

### Action we have taken and possible future plans:

- The recycling bins were placed in a new enclosure to make them tidier, and to reduce the magnet for fly tipping.
- Initial plans have been drawn up to see if the space could be improved with a new playground and improved planting. This is very much a long term plan, and source of funding is currently being reviewed. If funding is found, then we will have a wider consultation on the prospect of a new playground.

## 6. Evershot Road Open Space

### You said the issues were:

- This is a very small bit of open space. A lot of the time it is effectively used as a “dog’s toilet”. As it is very small it isn’t really used as a park, but because it is designated as a park it also can’t be redeveloped into something else, like social housing.

### Action we have taken and possible future plans:

- We are working with Fulfilling Lives in Islington and Camden (FLIC), who are a local charity who work with people who are homeless or have multiple complex needs. £1,000 of funding has been granted by the Local Initiative Fund to set-up a small scale gardening project to help with some of FLIC’s clients’ rehabilitation. Planting will hopefully begin in the spring, but meanwhile the council’s park services have cleared the area of the particularly thorny rose beds and shrubs.

## 7. Everleigh Street Open Space and Everleigh Street Garden

### You said the issues were:

- Everleigh Street open space, and Everleigh Street Garden are two very small bits of outside spaces. As with Evershot Road open space they aren’t used very often. Everleigh Street open space had few plants, and poor tarmac surface. With Everleigh Street Garden the opening hours are very limited, and require contacting the council’s park service – this was done historically to reduce ASB, but also means the park isn’t used much.

### Action we have taken and possible future plans:

- We initially contacted some local groups in the areas to see if they might be interested in having a community garden at Everleigh Street Garden, or in using the space more regularly. So far no one has come forward interested in doing this – but we would be happy to hear from anyone who is.
- The hardstanding area has been improved with a new tarmac surface.
- Refurbished heritage bin has been placed at the site.
- All beds replanted with plants and bulbs where needed.
- Depending on how the project with FLIC goes at Evershot Road, we may look to extend this to the two open spaces at Everleigh Street.

## 8. The walled up open land on Hatchard Road next to the sub-station owned by UK Power Networks

### You said the issues were:

- This is a large bit of land on Hatchard Road which is closed off and not used.

### Action we have taken and possible future plans:

- We contacted UK Power Networks to find out if they would be interested in having a conversation with the council to purchase it (with the view of possibly building some social housing). While UK Power Networks didn't want to sell the land, they have said they will look into developing it for housing themselves.
- UK Power Networks have advised that site is a fully operational substation supplying over 40,000 customers and they have own development plans for this site in order to reinforce and enhance the security of the local network.
- We also asked UK Power Networks to consider options for improving the look and feel of the site, for example some inexpensive climbing plants would alone make a considerable difference.

## What do you think?

Over the next few months and years we will continue working on these sites. If you have any comments, or views, or ideas of your own we would love to hear them. You can contact Cllr Flora Williamson on [flora.williamson@islington.gov.uk](mailto:flora.williamson@islington.gov.uk), or Cllr Richard Watts on [Richard.Watts@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Watts@islington.gov.uk) or you can write to us at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2QD.

You can also meet with Flora or Richard on this "Grot spots and forgotten corners" project, or on any other issues you might have at our regular advice surgeries. Flora's is on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm-7.30pm, Islington Chinese Association, 21 Hatchard Road, N19 4NG, or Richard is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 11am-midday at the new Brickworks Community Centre at 42 Crouch Hill. No appointment is needed to come and meet either of us.

With best wishes,



Cllr Flora Williamson  
Chair of Tollington Ward Partnership



Cllr Richard Watts  
Councillor for Tollington Ward