



# ISLINGTON

Canonbury Ward Partnership

Almorah Road Community Centre, 58 Almorah Road, London, N1 3EU

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## AGENDA & MINUTES FOR CANONBURY WARD PARTNERSHIP PUBLIC MEETING

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Enquiries to : Alastair Hannah  
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Date and time : 17/07/2018, 19:00-21:00

### Attendees:

#### Councillors:

John Woolf Canonbury Ward Councillor  
Clare Jeapes Canonbury Ward Councillor  
Nick Wayne Canonbury Ward Councillor

#### Council Officers:

Alastair Hannah Canonbury Ward Partnership Coordinator  
Chris Loughran Senior Engineer  
Peter Cook Community Safety Officer  
Dave Bamford Assistant Parks Manager (South)

#### Other:

Officers from Cadent were also in attendance with regards to gas works in Canonbury.

### Agenda Items

1. 19:00-19:05 Welcome
2. 19:05-19:50 Northchurch Road
3. 19:50-20:05 Canonbury gas works
4. 20:05-20:40 Rosemary Gardens
5. 20:40-20:50 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
6. 20:50-21:00 Any Other Business

## **1. Northchurch Road Traffic Management Scheme**

Presentation by Chris Loughran, Senior Engineer.

No final decision taken on proposals and no final decision to be taken tonight. The purpose of this discussion is to hear feedback in addition to the formal consultation process and feedback already provided. All options remain on the table including not proceeding with the scheme.

### **Background to proposal and key information:**

- LBI officers received complaints regarding through-HGV traffic on Halliford Street & Downham Road.
- Rather than just look at those two roads LBI officers commissioned an area wide traffic survey to determine the extent of the problem.
- Proposals were drafted up to ensure that the issue wasn't pushed from Halliford Street & Downham Road to adjacent roads.
- Northchurch Road j/w Southgate Road closure. Closure is a key part of proposals. The roundabout would be removed as part of the closure for safety reasons.
- Possible trial closure if feasible.
- The consultation provided us with positive opportunities to address a few other points raised including:
  - Investigating the displacement of traffic to Oakley Road and how we can mitigate it – LBI officers are considering a resident's access only if feasible.
  - Investigate the reduction of traffic outside Rotherfield Primary School – LBI officers are consulting in September/October on a restricted timed zone outside the school where only cyclists, pedestrians and those who live in the area will be able to access it during school pick up and drop off times (Not including school holidays).
  - LBI officers have also opened dialogue with Rotherfield Primary school in regards to improving paving facilities outside of the school.
  - No decision has been made on the proposals as of yet.

### **Comments, questions and answers:**

Comment: concern about the environmental impact of the scheme and concerns around air pollution.

Question: where is the traffic expected to go?

Chris: it is accepted that there will be a small increase of traffic in Southgate Road but there will be an overall reduction in air pollution in surrounding roads.

Cllr Wayne: has there been a marked increase in the volume of traffic following the Hackney scheme? Has this change been gradual or dramatic?

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Comment: the attitude seems to be that living on a main road means that impacts matter less.

Resident query that unless you aim to reduce the total number of vehicles in the area, there will always be some areas which have less pollution and other areas where there is more.

Cllr Wayne: in order to reduce pollution, we want to reduce vehicles in the East Canonbury zone. Will this have an impact on lorries using roads as a cut through?

Chris: It will reduce the pollution.

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Question: Has the scheme taken into account the increased pile-ups likely as a result of the Highbury Corner works?

Question: Will anything be done to improve the environment along Southgate Road such as planting trees?

Chris: if there is scope for it, that is something we can include in the scheme.

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Cllr Wayne: the issue is the volume of traffic, so it is about two aspects: (1) reducing the volume of traffic and (2) improving the environment. Chris, is there anything you can think of which would reduce the volume of traffic?

Chris: we can compare traffic surveys from before and after in order to assess the impacts. If there are changes to be made, we could look at changes to reduce the volume of traffic on Southgate Road. Hackney would share the costs of this.

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Question: of the 139 Other Goods Vehicles, how many were HGVs?

Chris: Chances are that 90% of OGVs are HGVs.

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Question: it is a residential street, and with a young child the traffic is dangerous and busy. I feel worried about the change. Another daughter goes to Rotherfield school. I think it is important to talk to Hackney parents as well. Consultation and joint thinking also needed with Rotherfield School.

Chris: this consultation site includes the school and they will be included.

Cllr Wayne: the school are absolutely involved, including and especially the head teacher.

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Question: Southgate Road is a great place to live in lots of ways, but the more traffic that goes down there the less people will want to sit on the pavement, etc. Lots of parents cross the road from Northchurch Road from the Islington side across Southgate Road to the deli. Parents cross with their kids but there is no zebra crossing, is there potential to turn that into a zebra crossing?

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Resident query: in de Beauvoir Town they have done road closures with negative consequences. This leads to crossing the road, turning cars and danger for cyclists.

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Question: I am not convinced about the evidence for the changes, no evidence has been given which justifies it as a proportionate response. What is your response to the issues which have been raised in relation to Oakley Road? Currently it is sufficiently quiet that children play on that road, but this will be a dangerous increase in traffic for kids.

Chris: we first received complaints and then surveyed the whole area in relation to HGVs. In terms of Oakley road, we've looked at different solutions including resident access only with permit holders only allowed to drive up the road. Also considering a no-entry at Southgate Road into Oakley.

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Comment: my main issue is pollution. The mini roundabout at the junction is dangerous as well.

Chris: there have been 7 accidents at the roundabout and we would look to remove the roundabout. We would be looking at a tiger crossing potentially as well.

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Question: if proposals are implemented will it be on a trial-run basis?

Chris: we have looked at that as an option.

Cllr Wayne: a trial will allow us to look at evidence but could also prevent us making a decision. Time and money could be wasted on a trial which is going nowhere. What is coming out loud and clear are concerns about the volume of traffic going down Southgate Road. There is a concern that this scheme will displace traffic rather than address the volume of traffic.

We do need to have a conversation with Hackney and that is something we can do over the next few weeks. We need a better vision for the junction at Northgate Road and Southgate Road and how concerns will be addressed around safety and the environment. Having a trial can be something to be looked at with a preliminary discussion to look at feasibility, length, the criteria to be applied, etc.

Another way of approaching the problem is if the scheme is viable to first implement and then have a review after 6 months. Chris, is there any difference between a trial period and a formalised review?

Chris: with a trial period we could tell after 3 months before making a final decision. For cost and proportionality – it would cost a bit for the trial.

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Question: what is the reason for closing Northchurch Road? Was the fact that it was a cycle route considered?

Cllr Wayne: as a cyclist who uses Northchurch Road that junction is not as good as it could be.

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Question: I largely support the scheme, I think it is a good idea and will cut down on goods vehicles coming through Islington. Has any thought been given to putting a segregated cycle path down Southgate Road which would enhance cycling and further discourage goods vehicles?

Chris: that is something to be looked at alongside improvements to the environment down there.

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Question: I drive into Northchurch from Essex Road - where do I go when I want to leave in the morning? I feel there is not space on alternative roads for cars and cyclists.

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Comment: I do not think the reason for the closure of Northchurch Road is valid. It seems that one problem is solved and others are created.

Comment: If you come in at Essex road and come down, you go straight on to Southgate. You have to turn to Cleveland. Cycles will come from Southgate and they'll go round to Cleveland. The whole area of Cleveland and Northchurch will be increased with cycles and cars.

Comment: one of the points made at the beginning was acknowledging the strength of concerns from Oakley Road. Don't seem to have offered anything in response to those concerns.

Comment: I'm not impressed with the communication.

Comment: The topic of this meeting is about a burning issue, please come along to other meetings.

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## **2. Canonbury Road gas works**

### **Comments, questions and answers:**

Question: what is the reason for the gas works?

Cadent: safety – the pipes are over 100 years old.

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Question: what is happening to the 271 bus?

Cadent: Buses will still go in both directions. Work will be done without affecting it because of the width of the roads.

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Question: one of the biggest causes of potholes in roads is when they are dug up and not put back properly. What are you doing to mitigate against this?

Cadent: we replace whatever is taken out with the same. Islington Council hold us to a high standard. We do get fined and called back if things go wrong.

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## **3. Rosemary Gardens and green spaces in the ward**

Presentations from Dave Bamford, Parks Team & Pete Cook, Community Safety Team

Cllr Wayne:

- It became clear through door knocking and other feedback that there were issues around Rosemary Gardens and in particular at dusk. These were: safety concerns, ASB, and perhaps more serious criminal activity.
- A taskforce was put together involving police, community safety, parks and councillors to look at how we could improve the space, design out the ASB, tackle underlying issues, and at

same time members of community thought about how can we contribute to Rosemary Gardens and the environment around this area.

Dave Bamford, Parks:

- I met with residents a few weeks back to discuss the idea of creating a “Friends of” group. At the moment things look positive and we have planned a fun day for August 4<sup>th</sup> as a Parks department with support from residents volunteering their time. The idea is to advertise Rosemary Gardens as a community space.
- We have also heard 6 or 7 proposals around CCTV, patrols and around reviewing physical environment and changes to heights of trees, sightlines, etc.

Pete Cook, Community Safety:

- We have reviewed CCTV in the area which currently looks at the football pitch. We have made sure that it was fit for purpose so they can be viewed, cleaned and pointing in right direction.
- With regards to the physical environment we have been working with Parks team to raise canopy so that it will give the feel of being lighter. In the bushes and plants around that area, where criminal items have been found before, it has been requested to cut back the bushes so that the hiding places are removed.
- Dave confirms that the bushes have been cut back and the Trees team were in there this morning. All the work was stuff that would benefit trees as well as improving the sightline.
- Signs have been put up to advertise ways for people to share concerns. Park guards can do sweeps of area. These provide ways to identify people which is crucial to providing a solution.
- We have looked at number of concerns reported and ASB – we are hoping to see a reduction. Also looked at encouraging Arsenal to use the area.

**Comments, questions and answers:**

Question: what time of day do problems occur?

Answer: the issues occur around dusk.

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Cllr Wayne: we would like to throw the meeting open for people to talk generally about this area, for ideas about parks, and what can we do generally in the environment to enhance it?

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Resident: I just want to say a big thank you to all involved – I have seen a massive difference in the past couple of months. Friends of Rosemary Gardens is in early stages, but welcome and open for anyone. We have a Facebook page.

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Ramsey Flowers and Friends of St Pauls Park – This example is shared which has reduced ASB and improved the area.

Dave Bamford: this is a great example of work which can be done to make an impact.

Rose Bowl Youth Centre: since the association and friends have been there, it's helped change people's perception and a strategy to address ASB and fly-tipping.

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Cllr Wayne: The council and police are reliant on people in the community telling us what's going on.

Police: the more information we hear, the more evidence we have to take action such as issuing ASB notices, etc. There have not been many crimes occurring in Rosemary Gardens, it is mostly ASB.

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Question: what is the best way to contact you? What we have experienced at Rose Bowl is scenarios which are not ASB but which appear that they could escalate.

Police: We recommend that as a 101 number. We have an email address and a ward mobile number.

Pete Cook: if it is a non-emergency matter about ASB – there is the council's ASB line which you can ring – 4pm-2am.

Dave Bamford: that number also is what the parks use to get reports.

Cllr Wayne: the response is not just about enforcement, but also about working with people.

#### **4. Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a source of funding from new development which will help support the delivery of local infrastructure. The council has adopted a CIL to fund infrastructure that will support the development of the area and to ensure that future housing and employment growth envisaged in its Local Plan can be accommodated sustainably. Funding raised through the levy can be used to pay for improvements such as parks, play-spaces, education, health facilities and the transport network.

Cllrs:

- Our Canonbury plans requires a review which the three of us will be working on over the next month.
- Each year we anticipate to receive £30,000 as part of the CIL, but larger sums would be available if bigger developments take place.
- It is important to spend the money otherwise it goes back to the developers.

Question: does it have to be on capital expenditure?

Cllr Wayne: it has to be spent on capital expenditure. Another pot of money – Local Initiatives Fund (LiF) is for local charities and organisations.

#### **5. AOB**

Question: What happens next with regards to Northchurch Road consultation?

Answer: the councillors will discuss and then meet with relevant officers. It seems that there are a number of matters raised tonight to be taken away, particularly with regard to Southgate Road. These points are to be given more consideration.

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Comment: What struck me was the lack of a breakdown of vehicles – there needs a breakdown between what is white van, lorries delivering, etc. Request for a breakdown of traffic analysis.

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Date of next meeting – look to October/November time. This will be sorted out in the next couple of weeks and notices will be sent early.