

St Mary's Ward Partnership Meeting Thursday 4th February 2021

Microsoft Teams Notes of meeting

Attendees

Cllr Nurullah Turan

Cllr Angela Picknell

Cllr Rowena Champion

Eshwyn Prabhu - Team Leader, Strategic Projects & Transport Planning

Karen Thomas – Planning Officer

Katrina Campbell – Transport for London

Sgt Jonn Bown – St Mary's Neighbourhood Policing Team

Christine Lovett – Angel BID

Sarah Armstrong (Ward Partnership Co-ordinator)

20+ members of the community

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. St Mary's Police Ward Panel

Sgt Jonn Bown from the St Mary's Police Team attended to raise the need to develop a resident led ward panel meeting for the St Mary's Ward to drive policing priorities for the team.

2 residents expressed specific interest in sitting on the panel – any other residents interested in formally becoming a member to email stmarys.snt@met.police.uk

Residents queried how the policing teams would be adapting to the proposed council ward boundary changes planned for the future.

A document outlining the proposed changes is included with the minutes.

The police teams will ensure continuity of service by providing cluster based policing with a sergeant with responsibility for wards based on the new boundaries where possible.

Delivery Drivers

Residents and businesses raised concerns with the increase in ASB associated with delivery drivers – specifically at Highbury Corner, Compton Terrace and around the Angel.

It was explained that there is a specific working group currently looking at ways to address these issues at a borough wide level as well as in hotspot locations.

We are in regular communication with the delivery platforms to get messaging out to drivers although unless a driver has accepted an order and is in the process of collecting they are not considered in the employment of any platform or restaurant so taking action against them is difficult.

TfL are responsible for enforcing parking on the pavements and red routes around Highbury Corner and along Upper Street and we are encouraging them to increase patrols and feedback action to us.

The local police team are also taking action where possible and have recently issued tickets for driving on the pavement and taken 2 bikes off the road for driving in a way likely to cause ASB, harassment, alarm or distress.

Islington Council are also lobbying the GLA and Mayor's office to take action at a London wide level and to encourage the licencing of the delivery companies to take responsibility for their drivers and to improve the employment rights of those working in the gig economy.

Laycock Street

One resident raised ongoing concerns with motorbikes riding on the pavement to avoid traffic cameras on Laycock Street. This was raised previously and the council had plans to amend the road layout but these were postponed due to Covid.

ACTION: Cllrs and Community Safety to restart this conversation with the relevant officers.

St Mary Magdalene Gardens

ASB in St Mary Magdalene Gardens was raised – groups are gathering for drug dealing, drug taking etc.

Sgt Bown informed residents we have a specific police officer dealing with street population issues – she is working in this area identifying individuals and using police powers, ASB warnings, community protection notices etc. to address this.

3. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Eshwyn and Karen presented on the current status of LTNs and those that impact St Mary's Ward.

There is a [web based platform](#) for residents' comments related to LTNs and people friendly streets. Public consultation on each scheme as soon as the trial comes in to force.

The LTNs will be conducting air quality monitoring before and after each scheme.

The monitoring report for the first LTN scheme in St Peters Ward will be available in a month and should be indicative of the other schemes also.

Residents expressed concern at the delay of the LTN programme in St Mary's – this was supposed to be implemented in December and at present a date for the future schemes was not provided.

Has a mapping exercise been undertaken to identify the future schemes and is the funding available to implement them? – Cost for implementation is low so that is not a significant factor in the timescales.

Residents felt the assurance that traffic on the main roads will settle down after initial growth from the LTNs is over -hopeful- when the slides clearly showed the relentless growth on traffic in recent years. The increase in Uber and delivery driver traffic as previously discussed may also account for some increase in those C category journeys.

Residents would like the council to examine how the Borough sits with our neighbours – Hackney / Camden / Haringey in dealing with incoming and through traffic.

Queries raised over the impact on businesses and deliveries in LTN areas, will they be consulted. – Businesses will have equal opportunity to comment on the LTNs and can do so via the Commonplace web form above.

Residents have been contacting Councillors about their concerns re: the implications for local residents living in or off Upper Street and Liverpool Road needing to make east or west journeys if all the side streets between Upper Street and Holloway Road (the main A1 artery down the middle of the ward) and Liverpool Road, Canonbury Road and Essex Road were to be closed. This would make life very difficult for those who need to use a car (including disabled blue badge holders) make trips to Sainsbury's etc. If only some of the east/west connections are closed this would divert excessive amounts of traffic onto those remaining open.

4. Transport for London – Highbury Corner

Katrina Campbell attended representing TfL and responded to some points raised at the previous public meeting.

- TfL are currently awaiting feedback from the Sat Nav companies following their requests to amend suggested routes down busy secondary roads
- A signal timing review took place in November – due to Covid restrictions they do not have a further review planned at present
- TfL have reviewed the traffic build up at the junction of St Pauls Road and this suggests it is currently operating as best it can
- The review of signage is ongoing

ACTION: Chair requested the traffic and pollution monitoring data from TfL since the changes to Highbury Corner roundabout to include air quality and displacement of traffic to Liverpool Road. This should have been available 6 months following completion and further monitoring data should also be available.

Residents were understandably disappointed that there was no one from TfL able to answer their ongoing queries about air quality and traffic issues.

Although Katrina appeared to be attending the meeting, when called upon to answer questions from residents as the representative of TfL she did not respond and the chair and officers were also unable to raise a response from her.

ACTION: Cllrs to raise with TfL.

ACTION: [Find out how to communicate comments, concerns or complaints to TfL](#)

5. AOB

Parking – Islington Square

Residents are unhappy with the lack of response received from officers regarding their repeated requests for updates on a review of parking around the new Islington Square development.

Officers state they have done some further work on parking occupancy around the Islington Square development, but given that the development is not fully operational due to COVID 19 it is difficult to fully assess the impact that the development has had on parking within the vicinity. Once restrictions have been lifted further and the development is operational we will be in a position to undertake surveys to assess any additional parking pressures that the development has created and options to mitigate against these.

Residents feel that Islington is very lenient in its parking restrictions, especially compared to other boroughs and that the only way to encourage alternative transport methods is to reduce the opportunities for visitors to be able to park.

It was also raised that more cycle parking is needed at the Islington Square site – this was an agreement made as part of the planning consent many years ago and is felt that current provision is not sufficient.

ACTION: Cllrs to request additional cycle racks at this location.

END

Any questions please contact sarah.armstrong@islington.gov.uk

