

Junction Ward Partnership Meeting led by the Junction ward councillors (Janet Burgess, Sheila Chapman)

Tuesday 9 March 2021, 7pm to 8.30pm

Remotely held on Zoom, hosted by Islington Council

Attendees

Councillor Janet Burgess : Junction Ward Councillor

Councillor Shelia Chapman : Junction Ward Councillor

Karen Sullivan: Service Director, Planning and Development (LBI)

Kevin Turner: Voluntary Sector and Equalities Development Manager (LBI)

Andrew Younger: Customer Operations Manager, Financial Operations and Customer Service (LBI)

Rosamund Harris: Community Safety Officer, Public Protection (LBI)

Trish Keating: Outgoing Junction Ward Partnership Officer (LBI)

Shenell Vrioni-Wright: New Junction Ward Partnership Coordinator (LBI) (Minutes)

Apologies: Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz : Junction Ward Councillor (Maternity Leave)

In total, 22 people attended the meeting.

1. Welcome, introduction and housekeeping

- Councillor Chapman – housekeeping rules about being on mute and questions to go in the chat
- Councillor Chapman is going through the agenda

2. Local Planning Issues (Karen Sullivan)

Vorley Road

- Previously a bus stand but buses have been relocated. The site is being taken forward for development by the council's new build team, they are also undertaking public consultation with residents and key organisations.

- Proposal is for 72 new homes, including 50% affordable housing. Site will develop new GP practice and public library. The proposal is for 3 interlinked blocks. This site was previously identified as being suitable for a tall building after looking at potential developments across the borough, currently talking about 13 storey building.
- Design changed after it went through design panel, these are currently being discussed. Application to be submitted in summer 2021 (Around May). Subject to planning permission, they will start on site in Summer 2022 and should complete in 2024.
- **Resident:** Decision was made that there would be no more tall buildings there but 13 storeys would be quite high.
- **Response from Karen:** In terms of historical position this is correct but as part of preparation of the new Local Plan that is currently going through adoption process, they had another look at all development sites in the borough with external developers and this concluded that this site would be acceptable for tall buildings. Went through a difficult long process before the decision was taken to choose this site.
- **Resident:** Scheme looks good but bit concerned about the impact on the nursery and wondering if scope for developer to support some of the work that needs to be done for the children's centre, what is the best way to do this?
- **Response from Karen:** knows there are concerns about how construction will impact on children's centre but happy to have a conversation about this with senior colleagues/housing colleagues.

Ocado

- Unable to say a lot about this as there is currently judiciary review, unable to go into the detail of the case. Touches on other issues related to the site – has been application for sub station for electric vehicles that are going to serve the site but placed consideration of this proposal on hold until review has taken place. Ocado are still fitting out the site.
- There has been complaints about about light columns on the site but looks like they have been there for a long time, roughly 10 years. Keeping an eye on what is happening on the site to make sure they do not extend their activities on what they have permission to do as their certificate has been revoked. The Local Plan is effectively the council's land use plan, it is an important document that is currently going through the adoption process. Last summer we had submitted the plan but the progression of the plan did not happen for a number of reasons. Had to go back and amend the plan, looked at additional amendments that they could make. Ocado planning application – have made some minor amendments to the site specifics for Bush Industrial Estate, hopefully starting on 19th of March these amendments to site policies will go out and be available to residents (aiming for this date). 7 week consultation period.
- **Resident:** In 2015 there was a proposal to put a cycle way on Junction Road but because Junction Road is classified as a road network, ruled against as it would impact on bus

journey times going down this road, wondering whether Ocado's vans, etc will have impact on bus timing, due to this will TFL have a say in this if it affects buses?

- **Response from Karen:** It is difficult because do not have access to this information as do not have planning application so avenue is not open to them. If using Junction Road as it is council or TFL will not be able to object against this.
- **Resident:** Lights at site have recently been switched on.
- **Response from Karen:** Did go back through historic street view to see about the lights but they were there previously since 2019. But right that lights were never previously switched on due to use of site. Lights should not be on and affecting residents, issue of the lights are being picked up with Ocado to ensure lights have been installed properly and not facing/angled towards residents. Lights not being operated in the way that they should be.
- **Resident:** On the inspections that you will be doing, are these announced in advance or unannounced? Do the inspections include internal within the building (especillay robotics)?

Response from Karen: Do have power to do unannounced visits but currently a construction site and have to arrange with Ocado to get permission for access.

- **Resident:** Next time colleague is there – if they go down to Station Road by Royal Mail building and look to right, there are three masts that look very new, encourage you and team to double check these for compliance.
- **Response from Karen:** I was in warehouse at the end of January and saw that there was a lot of air conditioning equipment and tracks for robotics but they had not been installed, based on what I saw and questions at the time it did not seem they these were installed. Will go down and check the lights and lamp columns.

Archway Campus

- As you all know, the site has been vacant for a few years, where we are at with the site at the moment, the council are unable to support the development of the site unless 50% affordable housing is provided. Peabody no longer proceeding with development of this site. Made some minor changes to site allocation in the Local Plan so encourage residents to look out for this. Allocation is to provide some flexibility around student accommodation.

Archway Methodist Central Hall

- Flowervale Properties appealed against the refusal of their planning application but the appeal has been dismissed. The refusal was due to a loss of listed buildings and the impact on the St John's conservation area. The Better Archway Forum have submitted a proposal for this site and this is currently sitting with planning officers.

Navigator Square

- Highways issue that relates to Navigator Square, concerns from residents about how scheme has been implemented by TFL. It is not the great asset that we would want it to be, problems with parking and trees. Looking at this being transferred from TFL to Council so there is better maintenance of that space.
- **Resident:** Issues with Navigator Square – no posts or signs put up by TfL to discourage parking or vehicles and visitors getting parking tickets, not happy that it is in hands of TFL, want it to be in hands of council.
- **Response from Karen:** What will undertake to do is to get a more precise update from Highways colleagues regarding this and will share with the Archway Town Centre Group and councillors.

3. General Anti Social Behaviour and Crime Statistics (Rosamund Harris)

- Community Safety Team overview – work closely with partners, uses a problem solving approach, links closely with with different services and partners such as the police, environmental health.
- Crime in Islington stats: pedal cycle crime has gone up, hate crime has increased 17.4%, domestic violence down 0.6%. Rosamund advises to go through statistics in own time.
- Junction has seen an overall reduction in crime compared to 2019, across borough 29% reduction, Junction ranks 4th compared to other wards in the borough. Moped enabled theft has gone down massively in recent years.
- There has been a 75.8% increase in ASB calls in 2020-2021 compared to 2019-2020.
- Councillor Burgess and Councillor Chapman have been working closely with council and the police regularly to find out what is being done.
- Councillor Burgess has a briefing note about what is currently being done at Whittington Park – if you want this, please email her directly
- Councillor Chapman – street homelessness has been tackled due to Covid, unable to have shared accommodation, engaging more in helping them to get on street. Officers doing great outreach work and cleared up the back of Tesos which used to be a place for drug dealing and the homeless.

4. We Are Islington (Andrew Younger)

- Launched last March, in response to Covid (Council's response).

- Generally focused on the vulnerable and those self isolating – this was initially what it was about but has moved away from this. Moved towards food delivery services, medication delivery services, income maximisation, adult social care.
- Open 7 days a week 9-5 (take both calls and emails).
- In more recent days working with those who are seen as clinically vulnerable to support and provide any help they may need.
- Have had 17,500 support requests, the largest of these was food support. Most of these were in the early days.
- Peaks were April and May last year and some parts of December but has been steady since.
- Specific to Junction Ward, similar pattern as the above, shared experience across the different wards.
- We are Islington are now doing the Track and Trace for those who have a positive result that the NHS is not able to make contact with.
- Over last few weeks: scaling up, Covid 19 support payments, ongoing food support for residents, can call through for refers and for council to distribute own food parcels, vaccination appointments for any resident that requires help for booking their appointment and if there are mobility issues, they will book their transport to and from.
- As of today we are now assisting residents to make vaccination appointments to be held at the Finsbury Park Mosque 15th, 16th and 19th March next week.
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- The councillors commented on the positive community response to Covid by Islington residents and also on the high levels of child poverty in the borough.

5. Projects funded by the councillors through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the Local Initiatives Fund (LIF) (Cllr Janet Burgess and Cllr Sheila Chapman)

CIL

- Hargrave Road build out – active Neighbourhood Watch, if there could be build out this will stop traffic going too fast down the street, there will be planters there so it will look much nicer. Feel this will be make a real difference to this entrance. Due to start in next couple of months.
- Whittington Park water feature – opening this summer.
- Provisional locations for trees which are due to be planted before 31/3/21 were listed.

- Whittington Park Community Centre - planning permission is now approved to do lots of innovation, grant from charity to put in disabled lift. Raised money for this, hoping building work with start in near future.

Local Initiatives Fund

- Overview of the Local Initiatives Fund: grants can go towards a range of locally run activities such as local festivals, sports clubs, youth activities.
- Some examples of projects funded in 20-21:
SLOW (Surviving the Loss of Your World) supports bereaved parents and siblings – long term commitment to this organisation. Holds its Monthly Support Meetings in Junction ward.
Hornsey Lane Estate Community Assoc delivered 112 Christmas hampers to older people aged 65 or above.

6. AOB

- **Question from resident:** Pemberton Gardens - large trees covering pavement so difficult to walk along it. Pemberton Gardens also a Safer Schools Street and there are 2 zebra crossings but St John's Grove is badly lit and the humps are too low – concerns about being knocked over. Asked if the trees issue could be dealt with first.
- The councillors said they would follow up the above issue.
- Hope from Councillor Chapman that the next meeting will be in person.