

Minutes of St. George's Ward Partnership Meeting

24 November 2021

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- People Friendly Streets Update
- Ward Improvement Ideas / Local Community Plans
- Let's Talk Islington
- AOB

People Friendly Streets

- The ward partnership coordinator gave a written update on People Friendly Streets as a member of the PFS team was not able to attend.

General Update

- o The PFS programme was launched in June 2020 to implement the council's transport strategy and net zero carbon strategy by reducing levels of traffic in Islington for a cleaner, greener and healthier borough.
- o So far, 7 low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) have been implemented as 18 month trials under Experimental Traffic Orders – with final decisions on those schemes between December 2021 and June 2022. The PFS programme also delivers School Streets – phase 1 (13 schools) has now been consulted on – phase 2 (7 schools) will be consulted on in the winter of 2022. 2 School Streets on main roads will be implemented in the winter.
- o Engagement is about to start for Liveable Neighbourhoods, with an imminent phase of early engagement, which will be followed by co-design, public consultation followed by implementation. The four announced Liveable Neighbourhoods in the Executive Decision Report published on 14 October 2021 are Barnsbury, St Mary's, the Cally, Mildmay East and Highbury New Park.
- o The council also has the ambition of turning each LTN into Liveable Neighbourhood by providing greening and accessible measures, with similar improvements for School Streets.
- o The new Blue Badge holders exemption policy announced at October 2021 Executive is under way and will be implemented from the outset for future LTNs and Liveable Neighbourhoods. The exemption will apply to all other existing LTNs once the final decision is made and for all future schemes.

Blue Badge Exemption Policy

- o We know from feedback that some Blue Badge holders have been disproportionately impacted by longer journeys around LTNs. We understand that for other people who drive in the borough there may be some inconvenience when routes and access change, but every address is still accessible by motor vehicle.

- The policy will offer an exemption to eligible Blue Badge holders who live inside a low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) in Islington (this includes properties on the LTN side of the boundary roads). The exemption will only apply for the designated traffic filters within a single LTN. Eligible Blue Badge holders will be permitted to register a nominated vehicle that is used for their transportation and is registered to their home address. This will help disabled people who rely on their vehicles for short local journeys.
- We are also developing an exceptional circumstance dispensation to provide exemptions to people who cannot stay sat in vehicles for long periods of time and who might not be covered by the Blue Badge holder policy. The exemption would allow people to apply for an exemption to drive through a single traffic filter. More details will be communicated in due course.

People-Friendly Pavements

- The council announced the 'people-friendly pavements' programme at Executive on 14 October 2021. This programme will be introduced in 2022, and will improve conditions for anyone using pavements and footways, including those walking, using mobility aids, including wheelchairs or mobility scooters.
- We will provide additional dropped kerbs to make crossing the road easier, improve foliage maintenance and ensure level surfaces are kept clear of unnecessary obstructions. For this programme we would like to engage with communities in identifying areas which need improvements and what those improvements should be. More details will be announced next year.

Local Community Plans

- Planning Officer talked about how to find the local community plans: [Community plans | Islington Council](#)
- Officer talked about how funding is allocated for wards:
 - Developer contribution team meets with ward councillors every few months to discuss new ideas
 - Residents can fill out a ward investment form
 - Funding is approved at the borough investment panel
- Officer talked about projects that are currently being funded or in the pipeline:
 - E.g. Resurfacing Penderyn Way Estate
 - Hilldrop Community Centre – new planters
- Officer talked through planter projects throughout the borough
 - A resident raised the point that mopeds drive on the pavement because they know cameras are pointed at the road so their licence number won't be taken – suggested that ideally planters should be planted in places on roads which discourage this
- Moelwyn Hughes Court project – should start on 6th December. Letters have been sent to residents.
- Officer talked through completed projects e.g. Tufnell Park Close.
- A resident asked about how to apply for funding / submit ideas for Moelwyn Close.
- A resident remarked that the equipment in play areas does not enthuse children.
- A resident asked about who can apply for funding – the resident believed that this is not widely known.

- Cllr Gill: Virtually anybody can apply – councillors try to ensure even spread across the borough. Community groups can apply for funding directly from the councillors or the planning team.
- Cllr Ozdemir: Table tennis came from a resident for her teenage son – a lot of the time funding is to fund play equipment
- The Planning Officer shared link to the form in the virtual chat.
- A resident commented on his children tripping over the electric bikes left on the pavement, and suggested better storage was needed and should be incorporated into the people-friendly pavements plan.
- Residents asked the following questions which could not be answered by the Planning Officer or Councillors at the meeting, but were tabled to have a response for the next meeting:
 - In the 1980s PFS infrastructure was implemented here – how long did it take for people to get used to it? Were there protests / complaints initially?
 - Are there any leniencies towards first-time offenders (for those that make mistakes re new PFS rules)?
- A resident commented that the PFS signs are not always clear to understand, particularly in Highbury
- Councillor Gill clarified that because PFS is still in consultation mode, the service can't install trial items, e.g. planters, permanently.
- A resident asked about why the council is "digging up the road to install fibre optic cable"?
 - Councillor Gill responded that it is a priority infrastructure for the government so it has to be done.

Let's Talk Islington

- A Fairness and Equalities Officer presented on the council's new corporate engagement programme, Let's Talk Islington. A link to the council website was shared in the chat: [Lets Talk | Islington Council](#)
- There were no comments from residents.

AOB

- None.