

# Minutes of the Mildmay Ward Partnership Meeting at Mildmay Community Centre, on 6 October 2022

## Attendees

Cllr Angelo Weekes, Mildmay Ward member (Chair)

Cllr Jenny Kay, Mildmay Ward member

Cllr Rowena Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality & Transport

██████████, Islington Council officer (Presentation)

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██████████████████, Islington Council officer

██████████, Islington Council officer (Registration and Minutes)

58 members of the public

## 1. Introduction and welcome by Cllr Angelo Weekes (Chair)

Thank you for coming to this meeting, which follows on from the last Mildmay Ward Partnership meeting on 20 July 2022. We are giving you an opportunity to share your views about introducing a liveable neighbourhood in Mildmay.

The Chair introduced the other councillors present.

## 2. Mildmay Liveable Neighbourhood presentation

██████████ gave a presentation about liveable neighbourhoods, explaining that the council is looking for as much local input as possible at this stage in order to refine the requirements of the scheme. At the next stage we will create and publicise draft designs for further comments.

Frequent comments of the last meeting were:

- Ideas about how we should improve the streets – the slides include an image indicating the locations of suggested improvements logged by attendees at the previous meeting.
- There is too much traffic on streets in the area – the slides include photos of the traffic that cuts through local streets in Mildmay at busy times, and an explanation about how we gather traffic data.
- Concerns about traffic filtering schemes – acknowledgment of some concerns people raised at the previous meeting and by email. Explanation of the rationale for traffic filtering schemes and a short overview of the council's monitoring data on these schemes and how the council seeks to address and mitigate these concerns.

## 3. Liveable Neighbourhood Question and Answer session

Questions from attendees, answered by ██████████ and some by councillors:

**Question:** We don't understand how the consultation process is working, it seems that the plan is in place already. Specific issues raised in the last meeting are being ignored. We know the streets better as local residents than the council does.

**Answer:** We have held these two meetings to hear people's views on a liveable neighbourhood in Mildmay. We are listening to people's views, taking these into account and reflecting them back to you. We understand that there are many different views and people travel around the area in different ways. Having taken on board your feedback and ideas so far, the next stage will be to present draft proposals for local residents to comment on.

Cllr Weekes: We as councillors care deeply about air quality and improving the environment in Mildmay. We are listening to your views. There are currently no plans in place until further meetings like this have occurred and feedback has been received on our draft proposals in the next stage.

**Question:** Exemptions for Blue Badge holders should be across the borough, why has this not been implemented?

**Answer:** Under our Blue Badge holder exemptions policy, if you live within a low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) then you automatically qualify for a free exemption to drive through the camera-enforced traffic filters within that LTN.

We have not exempted Blue Badge holders or residents from driving through all traffic filters in the borough, as that would mean that these neighbourhoods would no longer be low-traffic.

We are developing an individual exemptions policy to enable people to apply to be exempt from certain traffic filters in cases where additional time spent in a vehicle will have a significant negative impact on the individual's health. This is being discussed by senior officers and councillors and we will be introducing the policy in due course.

**Question:** You are carrying out traffic surveys so you must know where the traffic is being diverted to by these schemes. The LTN schemes are just moving the problems to another area and creating traffic congestion on the boundaries of the LTNs. This is creating pollution corridors. Most people in this area do not want change to the traffic network.

**Answer:** A common misconception is that traffic behaves like water, i.e. if you block it off in one area it will simply be diverted to somewhere else. However, it is important to recognise that traffic is the result of our everyday decisions about how, when and where to travel.

Evidence from LTNs suggests that there will be a degree of "traffic evaporation" as a result of the schemes, i.e. people change their behaviours and rationalise their trips. People may consider walking, cycling or using public transport if car travel is no longer the most convenient mode of transport and the streets are quieter and safer.

For example, following the implementation of the Canonbury East LTN, traffic on Southgate Road decreased rather than having traffic displaced onto it from the local streets within the LTN.

**Question:** You have identified busy and congested streets and neighbourhoods, but what are your goals and principles and is there a general policy about how the scheme will actually be implemented? What would be a successful version of an LTN?

**Answer:** As shown in the presentation slides, we want to introduce liveable neighbourhoods for a range of reasons:

- Create better and more accessible public spaces e.g. making pavements wider and smoother, better crossing points
- Increase urban green spaces and sustainable drainage systems
- Improve air quality
- Address and mitigate the impact of climate change
- Create safer streets and reduce overall vehicle use over time

We carry out an Equality Impact Assessment which is a statutory requirement before each scheme is implemented.

**Question:** Is there a plan to make Newington Green like Highbury Corner? (i.e. removing the gyratory system and creating new public space on one side).

**Answer:** We are not planning a similar scheme to Highbury Corner for Newington Green. That is beyond the scope of this liveable neighbourhood project.

**Question:** Cycle storage is too expensive. There is also too much focus on cyclists but there is no focus on pedestrian safety.

**Answer:** Liveable neighbourhoods do focus on pedestrian safety, by reducing the volumes and speeds of traffic on local streets, and planning to improve pavements and crossings.

Cllr Kay: We agree that cycle storage needs to be more affordable and more readily available. Cycle parking is free for estates.

**Question:** Pavements are particularly bad in certain areas, how will you improve this?

**Answer:** We acknowledge that in some areas the pavements are in a poor condition and we want to invest in improving this. We are introducing a programme called people-friendly pavements to improve pavement condition and accessibility.

**Question:** I am concerned that the changes that have happened in Hackney have caused significant traffic congestion within Newington Green.

**Answer:** As part of the Mildmay Liveable Neighbourhood we are proposing to restrict through-traffic from local streets in Mildmay, this will aim to address the impact of traffic cutting through the neighbourhood.

**Question:** How do you propose to improve Mildmay Park?

We are listening to your ideas and we want to make improvements to Mildmay Park. At the next stage of the project we will provide proposals that seek to address the issues brought up in these engagement meetings, so that you can comment on these.

**Question:** There has been a significant deterioration in the Newington Green / Mildmay area since LTNs have been implemented in other areas. We don't feel listened to.

**Answer:** We want everyone to engage in the process of generating ideas for a liveable neighbourhood in Mildmay and commenting on our plans once we develop them. The activity at today's meeting is an opportunity to tell us how you think we should improve the neighbourhood.

We will have a webpage on the council website where we will list upcoming opportunities to comment on our draft designs, and we will be sending out leaflets across the whole area, to give everyone an opportunity to give us their views.

**Question:** When will the scheme in the west part of Mildmay ward happen?

**Answer:** The potential to introduce a liveable neighbourhood in the west part of the ward (the area to the west of Newington Green Road and Green Lanes), is currently constrained by existing banned turns at the junction of Highbury Grove and St Paul's Road. If measures were introduced to restrict traffic on the local neighbourhood streets in this area, these banned turns would prevent traffic from being able to circulate around this neighbourhood on the main roads. We are working to explore whether these banned turns can become permitted movements, which we believe would make a liveable neighbourhood feasible in the west area.

**Question:** How will the liveable neighbourhood scheme be paid for?

**Answer:** Cllr Kay – funding is being provided from the council's capital budget. £1 million from the council's budget was publicly announced in February 2020 for Mildmay Liveable Neighbourhood. This was because the community came forward with concerns about road safety and air quality in the area. We delayed the project due to the pandemic in order to fully involve the community in the project, as we are doing now.

**Question:** The best way to improve air quality is to improve the facilities for electric vehicles, we need more charging points. What is your policy on this?

**Answer:** We are underway rolling out electric vehicle charging points across the borough. We acknowledge that there can be a long lead time for these and we are working to address this.

**Question:** Why is King Henry's Walk railway bridge still closed to traffic?

**Answer:** The bridge is closed for works being carried out by UK Power Networks (UKPN). UKPN recently announced the extension of these works until December 2022. Councillors have petitioned UKPN to speed up these works.

**Question:** You should enforce the Road Traffic Act to penalise cyclists on the pavement, this is constantly an issue.

**Answer:** Enforcement against the minority of cyclists who break the law is a matter for the police to enforce.

Cllr Kay: We will take this up with the Met Police to action and ask if they will implement more enforcement and fines.

**Post-meeting note:** Following the meeting, Cllr Kay contacted PC Craig Goodall of the Met Police branch that covers Mildmay, to highlight the issue of people cycling on the pavement and enquire as to whether any Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) have been issued for this in Mildmay. PC Goodall responded that having carried out a data search, the police do not have data on record for any FPNs having been issued in Mildmay Ward

for cycling on the pavement. PC Goodall acknowledged the complaint raised at the meeting about this issue and confirmed the local police will endeavour to patrol the area to catch individuals, however he noted that they do have stretched resources in terms of officers on the ground in the ward.

**Question:** I represent people who support LTNs. Is this programme going far enough to address climate change?

**Answer:** We hope that liveable neighbourhoods will help change people's travel behaviour over time. This approach is a key part of the council's Net Zero Carbon 2030 strategy.

#### 4. Map Exercise and Feedback

An engagement exercise took place, in which attendees sat at tables with maps showing Mildmay Ward, and discussed in groups what issues they are aware of in the area and identified improvements they would like to see. There was a council officer or councillor at each table to help facilitate the discussion. The facilitator and/or attendees recorded these issues and proposed improvements on paper. This partly repeated the exercise that we carried out in our first Mildmay Liveable Neighbourhood meeting in July 2022, to enable those who could not attend the first meeting to give their views.

The council will take this feedback and analyse what improvements attendees would like to see in the area. This will be used in developing outline plans for further engagement.

#### 5. AOB

Closing remarks from councillors:

Thank you to all attendees for taking part in the activity and giving us your views. We want to bring people with us in developing a liveable neighbourhood, not for it to be something that is imposed on the community. Please send us your comments and questions.

You can contact us at [mildmay.liveableneighbourhood@islington.gov.uk](mailto:mildmay.liveableneighbourhood@islington.gov.uk).

In the next stage of the project we will be holding further meetings and events where we will present some design options, informed by the views you have shared with us. We will have information on the council website to announce these events and we will also promote them by sending out leaflets. There will be a survey for you to submit your views on the proposals.