

Wednesday 25 May 2016
7.30 – 9.30 pm

Sotheby Mews Day Centre

MEETING NOTE

Chair	Councillor Aysegul Erdogan	Highbury East ward
Councillors	Councillor Osh Gantly	Highbury East ward
	Councillor Caroline Russell	Highbury East ward
Council officers	Martijn Cooijmans	Highbury East Link Officer / Team Leader – Planning & Projects
	James Blythe	Partnership Support Officer
	Martin Holland	Head of Service – Highways Services
	Paul Conboy	Deputy Team Manager – Planning Applications
	Daniel Power	Case Officer – Planning Applications
	Matthew Homer	Waste Strategy & Support Manager
	Jerry Gutwin	Park Services Manager

1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Cllr Aysegul Erdogan (AE) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the officers who were in attendance to present to the Ward Partnership.
- 1.2 Cllr Osh Gantly (OG) congratulated Cllr Caroline Russell (CR) on her election as a member of the London Assembly.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (22 February 2016)

- 2.1 There being no concerns with the minutes, they were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Highbury Corner bridge works update

- 3.1 Martin Holland (MH), Islington Council's Head of Service – Highways Services, introduced an update on the works to the bridge under Highbury Corner. He explained that TfL's contractors were working on diverting key utilities and other preparatory works so that the bridge can be demolished by the end of 2017. He commented that the works had been challenging and produced many unexpected obstacles, but that TfL had assured him they were reprogramming them to ensure a timely finish to the works.
- 3.2 A resident commented that lorries follow the sign for cyclists to avoid the works, leading them down residential roads in the ward. MH agreed that he would raise this with TfL.

[Post-meeting note: TfL have agreed to look into this.]

3.3 A resident asked whether the council could review the in and outflows of the roads around Highbury Fields, because one street currently takes a significant proportion of the traffic.

3.4 A resident asked MH to confirm whether the project was overdue: MH said that TfL had assured him it would be completed on time. There was a discussion of who was to blame for the delays in the project, and why TfL weren't able to be present at the meeting, which MH agreed to feed back to them.

[Post-meeting note: TfL have committed to ensuring that either someone from TfL or the project team is at the next Ward Partnership meeting.]

3.5 CR commented that TfL are doing their best to manage a very difficult programme and asked MH to communicate to TfL that they need to protect both pedestrians and cyclists during these works, particularly looking at safety at the exit from Highbury Place.

[Post-meeting note: TfL have confirmed that the worksite will not interfere with any access to/from Highbury Place as the site does not extend that far, but that all pedestrian routes will be kept at suitable widths as outlined by TfL's forward planning directorate.]

3.6 A resident asked whether there was a plan to make use of the old Highbury station on the opposite side of the road to the current station. MH explained that it was now filled with signalling equipment.

3.7 A resident noted that lorries coming up Fieldway Crescent were affected by the parking bay which was too close to the corner. MH agreed that this was a sensible suggestion and would investigate.

3.8 A resident asked about the related matter of proposed changes to the Highbury Corner roundabout, and officers explained that the consultation report would be published in Autumn 2016.

3.9 AE thanked MH for attending and he agreed to provide contact details for himself and TfL.

4. Sainsbury's Planning Application – Blackstock Road

4.1 Paul Conboy (PC), Deputy Team Manager – Planning Applications at Islington Council, provided an update on the status of the Sainsbury's planning application on Blackstock Road, for a change of use of a current gym unit into retail space.

4.2 PC confirmed that the application was due to be determined on 27 May, but that it was likely to be delayed as certain comments were lacking from the applicant. He encouraged residents to make their views known through the process, and further explained that it was certain that this application, if approved by officers, would go to the Planning Committee for a member decision.

4.3 A resident commented that it would negatively affect a historic building.

4.4 A resident commented that they were concerned that there is no rear access to the building, which will have a substantial impact on Blackstock Road traffic flows if Sainsbury's lorries park on the road. PC confirmed that transport is a key consideration in determining the application.

4.5 OG added that the applicant would need an alcohol licence and so the matter would also be considered by Licensing Committee: residents had a number of routes to complain. He suggested that those interested stay behind at the end of the meeting to consider avenues for gathering local views, including petitions. Officers would circulate details for the relevant Planning and Licensing teams after the meeting

[Post-meeting note: Deputy Team Leader of Planning Applications Team
Paul Conboy 0207 527 2260 paul.conboy@islington.gov.uk

Case officer Daniel Power 0207 527 2664 daniel.power@islington.gov.uk

Licensing:

Daniel Whitton 0207 527 3841 daniel.whitton@islington.gov.uk]

4.6 CR commented that this is a S73 application (for minor changes) and asked whether this would be appropriate given the significant impact? PC explained that the S73 designation allowed Planning to focus on the specific changes that are proposed.

4.7 CR also asked whether it was possible to set conditions on the size of lorries, and PC confirmed that it was. A resident commented that large lorries stop on St Paul's Road outside Sainsbury's. PC explained that the council had objected but been overruled on appeal by the Planning Inspector.

4.8 A resident asked whether Sainsbury's would be able to cope with Arsenal match days, and PC encouraged him to raise this as a comment on the application.

4.9 A resident asked whether local shops had objected, and PC confirmed that this was a theme in the objections.

4.10 AE thanked PC for attending and encouraged residents to stay behind and discuss a petition with councillors at the end of the meeting.

5. Recycling update

5.1 Matthew Homer (MH), the council's Waste Strategy & Support Manager, explained recent changes to recycling points and processes on estates agreed as part of the council's budget-setting process. A consultation had taken place and the changes had been implemented everywhere except Highbury Quadrant, where discussions were ongoing.

5.2 A resident asked whether this would affect food waste collections, and MH noted that the Executive of the council were considering the matter.

5.3 A resident asked whether this would affect non-estate roads, and MH informed the meeting that it would not affect dry mixed recycling on non-estate roads.

5.4 AE thanked MH for attending.

6. One O’Clock Club / Oasis Café

6.1 Jerry Gutwin (JG), Parks Services Manager for the council, took the meeting through the outcomes of a feasibility study into the options for replacing the two current buildings on Highbury Fields, housing the One O’Clock Club and the Oasis Café. He indicated that the study supported the idea of creating a single, one-storey building that would house both functions. Such a building would need to be in keeping with the Fields and designed by an architect.

6.2 A resident asked whether there would be a proper consultation, as these proposals could mean serious disruption to the Fields. JG confirmed that there would be a full consultation.

6.3 CR assured the meeting that the early presentation of the feasibility study showed a commitment to a transparent process, but did remind residents that the study had suggested a single building approach would work best.

6.4 A resident asked about the other buildings on the Fields: JG explained that officers were reviewing the role and function of all buildings as part of this, with a view to reducing the overall footprint of buildings on the Fields.

6.5 A resident asked about whether these changes would involve maintaining the current level of service in both facilities? JG confirmed that he hoped these changes would let the council enhance the provision, not just keep it the same. There was also a discussion about the opening hours of the One O’Clock Club, which councillors agreed would be considered as part of this process. JG explained that the relationship between the One O’Clock Club and the council was co-ordinated by the Children’s Services Department.

6.6 A resident asked ward councillors about their allocation of Section 106 funding to the proposed changes. Councillors confirmed that there were approximately £500,000 of S106 funds available for the ward.

6.7 CR encouraged residents to circulate examples of good park architecture from around the world.

6.8 A resident asked whether the building would be leased. JG confirmed that the council would always retain the freehold, and that he expected the current arrangements to continue, in which the café is leased and the council’s Children’s Services department licenses the nursery provision.

7. Safer routes to estates

7.1 Martijn Cooijmans (MC), the council's Team Leader – Spatial Planning & Projects, encouraged residents to submit ideas for small interventions which could be funded to improve safety on and towards estates. They should do so through ward councillors.

8. Questions for councillors

8.1 A resident asked for an update on the zebra crossing from Church Path to Highbury Barn. OG confirmed that councillors were supportive, the council was waiting for a view from the Traffic team, and that the relevant officers would be asked to attend the next meeting of the Ward Partnership.

8.2 A resident asked about enforcement of 20mph speed limits across Islington. Councillors confirmed that the police were responsible for this. They encouraged residents to attend the meeting with Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, at the Islington Assembly Hall on 28 May, and raise this matter.

8.3 A resident raised the issue of barbecues on Highbury Fields, commenting that a study by King's College London had suggested there was a serious pollution-related health risk arising from the number of barbecues on the Fields. CR replied by saying that the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee had asked the Environment & Regeneration Department and the Public Health Department to return to a future meeting with a clear response to that report and a view on the health risks. She noted that residents were very keen to receive updates on that process.

8.4 A resident asked for an update on the Highbury Pool changes. OG confirmed that a final proposal had been approved and work was about to start. The works were due to take about 12 months.

8.5 A resident asked about the possibility of extending the London cycle-hire scheme to the ward. Councillors confirmed they were supportive and planned to raise it with the new Mayor of London but noted that there were logistical challenges to such a change.

8.6 A resident asked for an update on the 263 bus standing arrangements, and OG confirmed that TfL intend to return the stand to by Christ Church after the Highbury corner works are complete, and that councillors are pressing them to consider an extension to Finsbury Park.

8.7 A resident asked whether Laughterama was going ahead, and it was noted that it was being discussed at Licensing Committee.

There being no further business, AE thanked officers for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.