

Canonbury Ward Partnership Meeting

Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Date: Friday 26th June 2020

Location: Zoom meeting

Chair	Cllr John Woolf
Cllrs & speakers	Cllr Nick Wayne, Cllr Clare Jeapes, Cllr Rowena Champion, Julie Plichon (LBI Officer)
Facilitators	Nadine McGarry, Nicola Howard (LBI Officers)

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. General Catch up: Experiences in lock down and next steps
3. People Friendly Streets
4. AOB

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr John Woolf welcomed the group and thanked them for joining the zoom call.

2. General catch up: Experiences in lock down and next steps

Friends of Rosemary Gardens: In 2018, Friends of Rosemary Gardens conducted a survey to find out how the gardens were being used. During lockdown, another survey was sent around to those who had previously registered an interest. The majority of the 12-15 replies stated

that they were happy with the gardens and used the parks. Some concerns were raised about young people using the parks and requests were made about having the fountains switched on. Friends of Rosemary Gardens plan to get out there as soon as they can.

The Rosebowl: A fundraiser was supposed to take place on 18th March but due to Covid-19, this fundraiser had to be pulled. The Rosebowl are now considering what they need to do remain funded not only now, but also longer term. The building is currently closed but phone and online services are open. The Youth Team have been furloughed but considerations are now being made on how to start back up in a controlled way. From mid-July, the Rosebowl are hoping to restart bike maintenance services. They are currently working through a risk assessment to ensure there is a safe start. The team have been in contact with regular users, ringing them to check in. However, the Rosebowl team are aware that the young people they work with are hoping to have some limited contact back soon. The team are also currently working on a strong engagement piece for the Black Lives Matter movement.

Urban hope: Most staff have been furloughed. Urban Hope have sent ready steady cook stuff across the whole of Islington, as well as cake, biscuits and arts and crafts. They are aware that some young people are keen to get back to Urban Hope, whilst others are more cautious and nervous about the return. The team are trying to balance this. They would hope to start going to parks and remaining socially distanced.

Help on your doorstep: Most staff are now working from home. Help on your doorstep have jumped into delivery of zoom activities. Activities include group phone chats, yoga and street dance, befriending schemes, events and activities. The outreach work has been powerful and there has been a good response. If Help on your doorstep couldn't speak to the person, they left a leaflet which helped to connect people to services more easily.

Mutual Aid Groups: Over the course of the pandemic, Canonbury Mutual Aid Groups have completed over 400 tasks for people and contacted over 200 residents. Tasks completed include dogs being walked, friendly phone calls, fundraising to help support residents and food packages have been delivered. The group is now discussing about how they can take the movement forward. The group is interested to hear about other groups and programmes on the call as they want to know how they can support and work together.

Sea Cadets: The cadets are currently closed, and all meetings are taking place virtually. The cadets are in the process of arranging some planning permission. Derek asked if the Councillors may be able to help with this. Cllrs asked Derek to email them setting out his request and agreed to help in whatever way they can.

Attendees expressed how they were finding shielding and how they have become more active digitally during the pandemic. They also expressed their thanks for all the support that the community had provided in recent months.

3. People Friendly Streets

Cllr Nick Wayne: Cllr Wayne opened this agenda item and expressed how the council and councillors had been reflecting on what the priorities should be in a post Covid-19 world. He made clear that the council had to address some big financial issues. The Cllrs have been conducting virtual surgeries and are now moving into a different phase, taking tentative steps back. The community is at the start of the re-opening process. The council is aware that many residents have felt more comfortable in recent months due to the reduction in traffic on local roads. Feedback is that many residents do not want people to use cut through roads. Due to the climate emergency, traffic use needs to change. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought this into a sharp focus. The council wish to make local roads people friendly, starting in St Peters and then moving to East Canonbury. Cllr Wayne reflected that the council had learnt a huge amount from the lorry initiative and knew the value of low-tech solutions. Cllr Wayne introduced Cllr Champion who is the Environment & Regeneration Executive Member and LBI Officer Julie Plichon who is leading on the Canonbury Project.

LBI Officer Julie Plichon: Julie reflected on the some of the benefits of lockdown: less traffic, reduction in air pollution, more walking and cycling. Many people are now using active travel for their trips which makes journeys less hostile. East of Canonbury the council would like to design the streets, so they are more residential and allow more pedestrians and cyclists. Fire brigades, ambulances and some buses will continue to be allowed through and this will be facilitated using different types of traffic filters. The council will trial these measures and Canonbury residents and groups will receive more information in the middle of July. Julie stated the importance of the fact that it is a trial and that the council very much wish to receive feedback. The measures are not set in stone and can change. Following this, the council will progress the proposal and in 2021 there will be a public consultation. This will allow for any measures to be made more permanent. The focus of People Friendly Streets is the removal of non-local traffic. Julie stressed that every single address will still be accessible by car, but that access may take slightly longer. Julie finished by welcoming comments and thoughts on what she had set out.

Cllr Rowena Champion: Cllr Champion opened by reflecting that some residents and groups may wonder why the council wishes to do this now, during the Covid-19 pandemic. The council wanted to do this differently than a normal consultation process as it can take a lot of time to work up an engagement process. The council and feedback from the community suggests that people want to lock down the benefits of lock down. As the lockdown is lifted, many people will have seen that the traffic is already increasing. Individuals must create space for themselves to socially distance by stepping on the roads and we want them to be able to do this safely. Roads that will be particularly affected by this include: New North Road, Baring Street, Southgate road, Balls Park Road and Essex Road.

Comments from those present:

- Attendees reflected that this was not an issue unique to Canonbury and that it was in fact a bigger London issue.
- Attendees reminded the Cllrs that increased traffic on main roads is also a big problem as people still live on such roads.
- Essex Road continues to be very busy and is almost at capacity.
- Some attendees felt that a distinction should be made between local and through cyclists and through cyclists can be very dangerous.
- Attendees questioned what low-tech solutions were and questioned whether planters can be used as these are efficient and pleasant to look at. Additional comments were made regarding wooden planters that were being used by Hackney council. LBI Officer Julie Plichon reflected that the council would like to deliver green infrastructure and that this idea could be developed in community plans.
- Some attendees expressed concern about Southgate Road and the roundabout. They felt that the roundabout issues should be sorted out alongside People Friendly Streets. Attendees appreciated that this was more complicated since the road aligns with Hackney. Cllrs and Officers stated that this was on their radar and that they had been in conversations with Hackney about this.
- Attendees raised further comments about the issue of delivery personnel on scooters in the Southgate Road area. Concerns were raised about the speed at which they travel into Hackney and how they continue to use cycle lanes. Attendees expressed their wish for something creative to be done in this area such copying the boulevards that are in use at Islington Town Hall. However, Cllr Champion stated that we must bear in mind disabled residents and those on wheelchairs who would then find it difficult to navigate this area. She also reminded the group to note down number plates as this would then allow speeding offences to be enforceable. LBI Officer Julie Plichon also stated that we need to be mindful of fire fighters and other emergency services trying to get through.
- Attendees wished to have more data regarding the streets in question and expressed that the absence of data could make them question why it is really being done. They wanted to ensure that the changes to roads were being made based on data, rather than on what people felt about certain roads. LBI Officer Julie Plichon stated that the council were monitoring before and after with congestion and air pollution data. This data will be presented once there is a 21-day consultation.

- Cllr Champion stated that cameras can monitor a wide range of issues including the levels of air pollution. She is aware that Hackney and Camden are doing similar schemes and is conscious that LBI need to avail of these initiatives too.
- Some attendees commented on the fact that it is not always an option to get a bike especially if you have children and that whilst car schemes such as zip car are useful initiatives, they always work out to be more expensive.
- Questions were raised about whether the council would be putting in any more bike hubs to increase the availability of bikes in the area. LBI Officer Julie Plichon stated that no new Santander bike schemes were currently being thought of for this area. She reminded the group that 'Jump' and 'Lime' Bikes are now operating in the area and that residents of Islington could avail of the 'Try Before You Bike' scheme. The council were also rolling out extra bike hangars and this is running in parallel to the People Friendly Streets Scheme.
- Some attendees stated that there needed to be further conversations with Transport for London regarding Highbury Corner, and that more priority was needed for St Pauls road. LBI Officer Julie Plichon said that she would pass on such comments to the LBI Highbury Officer who is responsible for that area of the borough.
- Cllrs stated that they were looking to roll out a similar scheme West of Essex Road this summer, but that they were not able to add any further details at this point.
- Cllr John Woolf closed this agenda item by personally thanking LBI Officer Julie Plichon and Cllr Champion for all the hard work that had gone into the People Friendly Streets initiative.

4. AOB

A representative from the Canonbury Mutual Aid Group expressed how she wanted to ensure that the groups on the call connected so that the community feeling that has developed during Covid-19 can be kept up. The Mutual Aid Group have surplus volunteers who are keen to get involved and who could be utilised.

Cllr Woolf thanked those on the call for supporting the residents of Canonbury during the pandemic.

Cllr Wayne expressed how he was amazed by how well people are working together and how the groups continue to foster good working relationships. He closed the meeting by thanking

everyone for their time and encouraging everyone to let them know their thoughts and ideas on what had been discussed at the meeting.