

Canonbury Ward Partnership Meeting

Location:	Zoom Meeting
Time:	7:00-9:00pm
Date:	Wednesday 25 th November 2020
Co-Chairs:	Cllr John Woolf & Cllr Nick Wayne
Cllrs & Speakers:	Cllr Clare Jeapes, Councillor for Canonbury, LBI Cllr Rowena Champion, Holly Toft, Head of Play & Youth Commissioning Services, LBI Sinead Hayden, Service Development Manager, Play & Youth, LBI Eshwyn Prabhu, Team Leader, Strategic Projects, Planning & Development, LBI

1. Welcome, introductions and housekeeping (7.00pm - 7.10pm)

Cllr Woolf welcomed all attendees to the meeting. This was followed by all Councillors introducing themselves. There were approximately 60-70 individuals on the call. Due to the large number of attendees, individuals were reminded to stay on mute to reduce background noise, were encouraged to use the chat function to ask questions and were asked to keep questions to the end and once presentations from Officers had finished.

2. Updates from Cllrs (7.10pm - 7.20pm)

Cllr Woolf began this agenda item by informing all present on the role of a local councillor and described the main duties which included: scrutinising the council and sitting on various decision-making committees. Cllr Woolf told attendees that between the three Canonbury ward councillors they sat on the Judicial Committee and the Planning and Licensing committee. He mentioned that a big part of the job is representing the people of Canonbury. With the worldwide pandemic, he felt it was important to recognise that lots of people were suffering greatly and it was vital that councillors were aware of the issues that the community were facing. He reminded attendees that councillors are there to effectively champion issues whether that be a housing issue or speaking to residents who wanted to start a gardening club. He also said it was fundamental that councillors supported local groups, championed for more housing to be built, supported improvements for community centres and liaised with the police. Cllr Woolf closed this item by informing everyone that items mentioned were to give a flavour of things that motivate councillors, but also to express gratitude for members of the public that had shown resilience during these times.

3. Youth Commissioning and Provision (7.20pm-8:00pm)

Sinead Hayden and Holly Toft were present at the meeting and Holly took attendees through a presentation on the future for all youth work offers in Canonbury. This is a discovery and design project which has been taking place from August to December 2020. The main points of the presentation are summarised below:

- The importance of youth work and its benefits
- The development of a coherent offer for young people drawing on resources across the partnership
- Shaping the future of universal youth work
- A shared vision and strategy
- Engagement activities that have taken place
- Initial findings and challenges
- Thinking behind some model options e.g. 'hub and spoke' model

Holly and Sinead then welcomed questions from the floor. Much of the discussion focused on the Rose Bowl.

A Safer Neighbourhood Panel member and resident asked whether the police still played an important role at the Rose Bowl. Oswin Baker, Board of Trustees and Chair of the Friends of the Rose Bowl answered that police still do play an important role and are involved in running bike workshops over the summer and winter months. This project involves children getting the opportunity to renovate unused bikes. If children engage for the duration of the project they then get to keep the bikes at the end.

Clive Tachie, Senior Youth Work Manager, added that maintaining relationships with the police was important at the Rose Bowl. He informed attendees that trying to identify issues early on in young people's lives was vital. He gave the example of young people who had been identified as setting off fireworks. The Rose Bowl was sure to call and email police, but also to speak to the young people in conjunction with the police, warning them of the dangers of the fireworks. Boxing classes with the police are still ongoing. Clive also acknowledged that the use of the bike project was to really engage young people, with the intention being that young people see the police as real people. The Rose Bowl also ensures that young people are educated on their rights during a stop and search.

Clr Nick Wayne welcomed comments and feedback on what young people and parents would want to see at the Rose Bowl.

Clive informed the group that the Rose Bowl offer a number of activities for 8-12 year olds and for 13+. The Rose Bowl is a space to come, partake in sports, do arts and crafts, cooking for example. Staff are there to engage with young people, support their ongoing development, and support with education and training. It offers a holistic service with Islington Drug and Alcohol service and Sexual Health services also being on offer. Staff want the space to allow young people to come to them with any issue and it is vital that staff allow the young people to express who they are. During the lockdown, the Rose Bowl have continued to open up for targeted work.

There were a number of young people present from the Rose Bowl. The young people told attendees that they felt they were able to get a lot of support at the Rose Bowl and that there was always someone to talk to. They informed attendees that they were grateful for the help they had got with their CVs. They felt the Rose Bowl got people off the street and

assisted individuals with their mental and physical health. They want it to stay open. Many of the young people on the call expressed that they liked the opportunity to get together and socialise. Many also enjoyed the girls group at the Rose Bowl as they liked coming together to help, advise and mentor the younger girls.

The young people were asked how the lockdown had affected their experiences at the Rose Bowl. Many of the young people expressed that they preferred it as the Rose Bowl were offering reduced services and more targeted work. This allowed them to have more one to one time with the youth workers - it was more personal during lockdown.

The young people were also asked about the best activities they had experienced at the Rose Bowl. Some young people mentioned that they had really enjoyed learning how to do nails and hair, but that this had become difficult because of covid-19. One young person mentioned that the best project for them was the bike maintenance project as they found it engaging to socialise with new people and they liked that it lasted for a few weeks, but unfortunately their bike got stolen shortly after the project had finished. Clive also mentioned that some people were still able to use the music recording system at the Rose Bowl, but that they were operating an appointment based system.

The young people were also asked what their relationship with Clive and Dawn is like. They were full of praise for Clive and Dawn, commenting that they were part of their daily schedules and that they felt they could always talk to them. Many of the young people commented that were getting help from Clive and Dawn on their CVS as they were aiming to get Christmas jobs.

Clive and Dawn were asked whether the Rose Bowl engages with local senior schools to assist young people attending the Rose Bowl in the transition (and further) from primary to secondary school. Clive mentioned that the Rose Bowl work in partnership with staff at primary school as the staff can signpost. Clive informed attendees that they were normally with the young people on the journey and supported them through the process.

The youth workers commented that they had been able to work really closely with parents during the pandemic. They had found that parents felt able to come and ask questions about concerns that they had, particularly around the potential of offending. The youth workers gave this as an example of providing a holistic service.

Oswin Baker, Board of Trustees and Chair of the Friends of the Rose Bowl, commented on how hearing the young people on the call showed how vibrant and full of life the Rose Bowl is. He also noted how obvious it was that Clive and Dawn were amazing youth workers. He felt that it was clear that the Rose Bowl is not only about young people coming to get their nails painted, but that it was about having adults available who could speak to them and treat their issues with respect. This year the Rose Bowl has had to focus more on thinking about how to work with young people who are anxious and who perhaps don't have any technology at home to study. He reminded those on the call that the service that the Rose Bowl provides costs a substantial sum and how it is crucial for organisations such as the Rose Bowl to remain funded. Friends of the Rose Bowl try to raise at least £50,000 a year to give as a base amount but the Rose Bowl also relies on a subsidy from Lift. He informed the group that running a service like the Rose Bowl costs much more than it might appear.

Clive also commented that it was good to work with people from a young age, as the earlier you engaged with people the easier it was to change perspectives. He also commented that

he was now finding that young people who he had worked with previously are now bringing their own children to the Rose Bowl – showing how influential the service can be. The aims of the service was to teach young people life skills.

Cllr Woolf closed this item by thanking the LBI officers for the presentation, thanking Clive, Dawn and Oswin for their contributions and finally thanking all of the young people for joining the call and for their valuable input.

4. People Friendly Streets (8:00pm-8:50pm)

Cllr Nick Wayne introduced this item and discussed how the People Friendly Streets initiative had changed things within the Borough. Cllr Wayne informed attendees that Cllr Rowena Champion, Councillor & Executive Member for Environment and Transport, had also joined the call and a number of the Officer team who had brought in the scheme.

Eshwyn Prabhu, a Team Leader on Strategic Projects from the Planning & Development department within the council made a presentation. The main points discussed through the presentation can be summarised as follows:

- Islington's streets: Streets as places, Streets for movement, Key statistics
- Traffic in Islington: Statistics on annual traffic by vehicle type in Islington
- Traffic on local streets post mobile sat nav
- People-friendly streets – What it is and what are its aims
- People-friendly streets – Why we are doing it (Council Policy, Covid-19)
- School streets: What is it and how it is being delivered
- Low Traffic Neighbourhoods: What is it and its benefits
- How to create low traffic neighbourhoods
- Information on Canonbury East LTN & Canonbury West LTN
- Cycleways
- Listening, engagement and public consultation
- Monitoring the impact of the changes

Eshwyn and Cllr Wayne then opened the floor for questions. Cllr Wayne asked that we take several questions at a time, with answers being provided after 3-4 questions.

A resident expressed the historic nature of some routes within Canonbury and asked whether the People Friendly Streets team had considered the urban permeability of these proposals.

A resident who had lived in Canonbury for 40 years suggested that individuals should give the initiatives a try. They also suggested that entrenched positions should not be taken so early on, given that the initiatives will be reviewed. This resident argued that they had seen more rat running traffic and that the proposals as they are now will likely have to be changed, but that Canonbury residents should at least try and have a more open frame of mind.

A resident who was both a motorist and a cyclist made several observations: the principles behind People Friendly Streets are good but that the information and statistics behind the thinking needed to be more conscious of the local impact. They also observed that statistics from other boroughs or cities should not be relied upon. Many Canonbury residents had

expressed concerns about grid lock and the impact on surrounding main roads. The real implications of the initiatives are hard to determine given that we are still in a lockdown. They also expressed concern about the measures being designed as a cash cow for the council. This resident also raised concerns about some roads now being so quiet that women were concerned about walking or running on them. This resident argued that their preference would be that Islington people should be able to access Islington roads. They also argued that businesses had reported a 45% decline in footfall and asked what the council was planning to do around electric cars and how many charging initiatives would be put in place. This resident summarised by asking four questions:

1. What are the councillors views on issues raised?
2. What consultation process will be used? How can we ensure everyone who deserves to be asked will be asked?
3. What metrics will be used to determine if this initiative is successful?
4. Is People Friendly Streets a pre-cursor for a money-making scheme for main roads?

Eshwyn, Team Leader within the Planning & Development department reminded attendees that all measures in place were experiments. The intention is to build these measures on a gradual basis and that council did accept the need for urban permeability, particularly for people walking and cycling rather than being car based. He also reminded Canonbury residents that the council is not normally presented with the opportunity to introduce such measures so quickly and that it was important for residents to give the measures a try. He reminded attendees that the council want to make these measure work with and for the community. All measures have been assessed by the council's legal department and are considered to be legal. He argued that the council have considered the impact on the local community and that People Friendly Streets do meet several agenda areas for the council such as healthy living. He mentioned that it was difficult to disentangle changes from traffic implications of Covid-19. He did also remind residents that all inactivities take time to adjust to and that he can assure residents that the initiatives are not a cash cow scheme. People will receive fines if they break restrictions but that over time behaviour will change.

Regarding the reported reduction in footfall in cafes and comments in the chat function around putting chairs outside to really encourage more business, Eshwyn encouraged café owners who had been effected by the reduction in footfall to contact the Inclusive Economy Team at the council who will be able to advise.

Cllr Wayne asked Cllr Woolf to comment on the emerging themes within the chat function as it had been particularly active. Residents had raised several issues but key emerging themes were:

- Can residents be exempt from the scheme?
- What is the impact on people with disabilities and the elderly?
- What metrics are being used to measure performance?

Cllr Rowena Champion addressed these concerns that had been raised. Cllr Champion reminded residents that the initiatives behind People Friendly Streets had been tried and tested in other boroughs. Residents are not exempt from the scheme as all residents can still access their houses – the scheme has been designed to specifically accommodate for entry to residential property. This means that disabled residents will still be able to access their homes. The purpose of People Friendly Streets is to encourage people to cycle and walk more and evidence shows that traffic is putting people off cycle and walking.

Cllr Champion reminded residents that it is a transformation project and to really transform the area we need less traffic on the roads so that more people can walk and cycle, particularly women and children. The council do know that some people will still have to use their cars but we want people to make small changes. 70% of Islington's residents do not have access to a car so the council must consider the long-term health benefits of introducing LTNs. She reminded residents that monitoring on the main roads for pollution will take place.

Given the time constraints of the meeting, Cllr Wayne asked that all questions be kept as short as possible and as close to 30 seconds. Others in the chat function commented on the length of questions and responses.

Comments in the chat function included how residents had noticed food delivery drivers on mopeds mounting the pavement to avoid being caught on camera. A resident then asked if they can assume that when a motorcyclist can be seen on a camera driving across a pavement will they then be issued with a notice. Eshwyn, Team Leader within the Planning & Development department reminded attendees that a notice would be issued, but also to report motorcyclists who were seen to be on pavements as this is also anti-social behaviour.

A resident asked about the reports that children with blue badges were taking considerably longer to get to school and whether the council were keeping an eye on increased bus journey times. Cllr Champion acknowledged that blue badge holders were experiencing extended journeys. Cllr Champion said that the roads should now really be reserved for those who can only use a car and that once the measures have been in place for some time, we should begin to see a reduction in the length of such journeys as more people who don't need to use a car are cycling and walking more.

Numerous questions about the consultation process were raised in the chat function. A resident asked about what sort of consultation process there will be and whether this will be a fair process open to all, not just those who can use the internet. Another resident raised that the consultation process for People Friendly Streets did seem more measured than other consultations undertaken by the council – such as the PFI consultation a number of years ago. This resident reminded Canonbury residents that People Friendly Streets was currently in the experimental phase, and that people have to look at this initiative in a measured way. They acknowledged that there was a lot of anger about the initiatives but that it was important to take time to pause and really reflect on the measures.

Eshwyn, Team Leader within the Planning & Development department commented that the consultation phase will be open and fair, but that some part of it is likely to take place online given the huge number of online and virtual comments that have come in already and that the council wouldn't want to discredit this large number of comments.

A resident raised a question about the high levels of traffic at Highbury Corner and the increases seen in the St Pauls area. Eshwyn, Team Leader within the Planning & Development department acknowledged the large number of complaints about Highbury Corner. He informed residents that the council were having discussions with TfL and were considering measures that they could make in the short term. TfL have said they will come back to LBI by the end of the year. There may be some tweaks that can be made, however it was important for residents to remember that the difficulty with taking away green light time from one place will have implications on another area of the system.

In terms of the repeated questions about performance metrics for the initiatives, Cllrs and Eshwyn informed residents that traffic flow and air flow data will be considered. They reminded residents that each area is different and that local data will be looked at closely.

A resident who was a frequent cyclist asked about how success of the initiatives were being measured. They had also noticed that the St Paul's road was much busier and that it was counterproductive to have even more people on the busy roads as this will make them less pleasant and easy to cycle on. This resident also questioned the impact on builders and plumbers who may be required to go to houses for work purposes.

Cllr Champion closed by arguing that the council must act to reduce cut through traffic and that we must think of these areas as neighbourhoods, rather than streets to get from A to B.

Some people had raised specific issues about signage and they were encouraged to email local Cllrs on these issues so that they could be looked into.

5. Close and final remarks

Cllr Wayne closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their contributions. He informed attendees that councillors will always endeavour to respond to any emails or queries raised. He also reminded everyone present that People Friendly Streets is an experiment and that he hoped that everyone keeps an open mind. He also thanked attendees for being courteous throughout the meeting and in the chat function.