

Virtual Hillrise Ward Partnership Meeting

Zoom

Wednesday 23rd September 2020

Notes of Meeting

Attendees

Chair Cllr Marian Spall

Cllr David Poyser

Peter Cook (Ward Partnership Co-ordinator – minute taker, Islington Council)

Rosamund Harris – Community Safety Officer – North

Shan Burgess - Assistant Parks Manager (North)

Dorothy Leng from WHPARA

Sue Collins - Caxton House

Annette Mencke – Resident – Ward Panel chair Hillrise

Tom Forde – Resident

Cassie Meyer – Resident

Irene Winter - Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association

Apologies

Cllr Michelline Ngongo

PS Daniel James – Metropolitan Police

Paul Furze - Caxton House

Arabella Weir

1. Welcome and chairs introduction

2. Peace Park

PC stated that AW was interested if there was any update on the funding for the proposed changes. She has concerns about the wall increasing the fear of crime – too dark with no line of sight

DP – stated that people feel insecure in Peace Park particularly those with young children. Stated that there is money coming but would be probably swallowed up with the proposals.

Said there is a plan to chop the sycamore trees. Would like a quote for the statue. Perhaps organise a clear up in Peace Park

SB says there is a suggestion to lower the wall rather than remove it, and to include railings. Estimate has being obtained.

SB says that did a local consultation exercise in Peace Park between February and April, which was curtailed by Covid but they manage to get 33 responses which were a mixed bag views and some from e-mail.

Should have £67k from S106. There is a suggestion to remove the sycamore trees but will keep the walls.

SB says that she has to look at the costs. The suggestions will make the area lighter. There was another suggestion to put windows in the walls.

SB says the process is that the Parks Service makes the recommendations and discusses these with the councillors and will also listen to the Friends of the Park. In addition to this the people that play basketball, say that the court needs re-surfacing and this has been confirmed when visited by members of the parks team.

DP suggested that the S106 money could pay for the basketball court and complete the work on the statue.

SB agreed to get the costings stressed that quotes can cost money but estimates are just that and may not reflect the total cost.

DP said he would like the sight lines lower from peace gardens to the park

AM enquired whether anyone has looked at funding opportunity from elsewhere, she is aware that Aviva is offering funds. **ACTION AM to liaise with SB.**

DP reads out e-mail from Sunnyside Community Gardens:

"Hi Dave,

I hope all is well with you.

Unfortunately I don't think anyone from Sunnyside is able to attend the ward partnership meeting on Zoom tonight when the Peace Garden is on the agenda. So I just wanted to give you a little update;

- *Volunteers are gardening in the Peace Garden with Robert every Monday until Spring (when it will go back to every other Monday like normal).*
- *They have been working hard to get on top of the weeding after lock down.*
- *They are working to improve the sight lines within the Peace Garden*
- *It is looking nice at the moment and it seems like more people are using it, especially families with young children. (Maybe they got used to going in there when the playgrounds were closed and are continuing to do so),*
- *The volunteer gardeners are in the main against lowering the wall and are keen on trying less drastic/cheaper options first. Including reducing self-seeded trees and maybe putting in more windows.*

I hope that all makes sense, I think you will notice the improvements if you take a walk through the Peace Garden, Robert has been thinking a lot about it and it shows."

Actions

SB to get costings for (a) The tree work (b) Basketball Court (c) Estimate of the Windows in the walls.

SB says that the south wall is being monitored.

3. Policing and ASB

PC read out report from Hillrise Ward Sgt Daniel James.

Key points

1. Hillrise is the second best performing ward in Islington Borough in terms of overall crime.

Author: A/Sergeant Daniel James Date: 8th September 2020

2. Lowest overall crime for the same period in the last two years despite overall increase in anti-social behaviour incidents.

3. Similar level of violence and sexual offences over the last three years.

4. Motor vehicle offences halved since the same period two years ago.

5. Significant reduction in burglary offences.

6. No robbery offences in this period compared to eight in the same period two years ago.

Neighbourhood Policing Team: Work of note

1. Operation Spinifex: This operation is led by the Neighbourhood Policing Team and is in response to the ongoing anti-social behaviour, drug and gang issues on the New Orleans Walk Estate and surrounding areas. NPT officers have conducted over sixty stop and searches in the area since its commencement in June leading to drugs and weapons seizures. Community protection warnings and notices have been used to exclude problem individuals from the area.

2. A/Sergeant Dan James has reached out to Violence Suppression Unit, Violent Crime Task Force and Islington Problem Solving Team. Both VSU and VCTF are tasking officers to the ward where possible. VCTF has tasked a PSU (1 Sergeant and 6 PCs) to the ward in recent weeks. Islington Problem Solving Team will be supporting Operation Spinifex (dealing with issues on the NOL and surrounding areas) from September onwards.

3. Weapon seizures (shown below) as a result of community intelligence.

4. Multiple arrests for drug supply offences. Over a dozen seizures of controlled drugs of class A and B. Largest seizure of class A drugs (shown), valued at £200.

5. Drug search warrant executed at Buxton Road, N19 in partnership with Violence Suppression Unit and Islington Problem Solving Team. One male arrested for drug supply offences.
6. Assist of arrest of male armed with samurai sword in N19.
7. Obtained and enforced six dispersal zones under section 34 of Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
8. Persistent female beggar relocated off borough following referral to community MARAC and arrest for public indecency offences.

Neighbourhood Policing Team: Resourcing

1. Additional funding for to increase patrols on the ward, as part of Operation Spinifex, was applied for by A/Sergeant Dan James. Since June the ward has received £7000 in funding for overtime patrols. This equates to an additional 280 hours of patrol time by officers.
2. As of the 1st of September an additional dedicated ward officer has been posted to Hillrise. PC Adam Healy will remain with the ward for six months prior to rotating onto the emergency response team. At that time another officer should replace him.

Neighbourhood Policing Team: Progress on Priorities

1. Gang activity: ward wide Increase in funding for patrols to tackle issue. Arrests made in relation to gang/weapon offences. Community protection warnings issued to individuals persistently engaging in gang activity. Joint working with gangs unit and Islington Council to target problem individuals.
2. Motor vehicle crime: Reduction of offences of this nature over the past two years. Plain clothes patrols, stop and search and dispersal tactics used to target individuals believed involved in these types of offences.
3. ASB and drug dealing: ward wide ASB incidents are much higher now than in the same period for the last two years. However COVID related calls are classified as ASB which will likely be responsible for this increase. ASB incidents have fallen in the last few months. RH updates on ASB - The focus is on the individuals who are committing ASB. Residents are being very helpful by providing impact statements.

Parkguard are in the area. New Orleans ASB reports have slowed and are currently looking at enforcement options.

£50K has been identified and are currently consulting with residents regarding cameras. Looking to re-instate the camera that has been taken down.

Fairbridge and Charles Street currently hotspots for drug use and Elthorne Park.

Concerns about ASB at Ashley Road and Heathville.

It was confirmed that New Orleans has a Tenants Residents Association.

Prior residents have felt scared to report but LBI has reached out to hear about their concerns now it seems people are more confident to report.

DP wants it to be recorded thanks for the great work from the police and council with weapons being found.

4. Mutual Aid

Recognised that Mutual Aid has done a fantastic job. There was no Sandy Philips to talk about Mutual Aid.

SC said that she worked closely with Elthorne Pride. Said they had 40+ volunteers and delivered 150-180 hot meals per week. They worked with the Arsenal.

IW there is money for social activity for youth activities. Looking to set up a food co-op, starting with a food store and re currently working with the community development officer.

Volunteers came from the local estate. It was noted that DP was taking parcels all over the estate.

IW wanted to thank Islington Council and how well run and organised it was with all the projects working well.

5. School Streets

PC read out the following:

"Hi Peter,

Please find an update below on school streets, we have two schools implemented in the ward Ashmount and Whitehall Park. We have provided an update on the recently installed Whitehall Park scheme below.

As part of the council's transport response to Covid-19 and to assist with social distancing at schools in Islington, the council is now accelerating the school streets programme to implement School Streets at all primary schools where this is feasible (i.e. where it is possible to close the road to motorists during the school run hours) by the end of the calendar year, 2020. This will not only provide the necessary space for social distancing, but also the additional benefits of a School Street, including improved air quality, reducing road danger and encouraging active travel during the school run. The School Street on Whitehall Park covering Gresley Road and Ashmount Road was implemented as part of Phase 1 of this programme.

Since its implementation there have been some concerns regarding the cameras that have gone up for the scheme. We can confirm that:

- *These are traffic enforcement cameras*
- *They are not used for any other means, including CCTV surveillance*
- *They solely focusing on vehicles registrations*
- *The camera itself is only on whilst in operation; so in this case during 8.30am-9.15am and 3.15pm-4.00pm.*

Additional concerns were raised in relation to the noise of the cameras and we have since visited site to assess this. We believe this to be coming from the environment sensor which is used to analyse pollution and emissions 24/7. We have requested that this is disconnected until we can find a more suitable and quieter sensor to ensure this doesn't disrupt residents during the night, or day.

At present we cannot include Hornsey Lane in the School Street zone, due to the nature of the road and the displacement of larger vehicles to Haringey's and Islington's residential networks. Although we will be monitoring the scheme and safety concerns through traffic surveys once the scheme has settled in. These surveys will also allow us to assess any displacement to neighbouring roads and to identify mitigation where necessary.

Thanks

*Liz Wathen
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MS – Friendly Streets people do not want it.

SC likes ethos of Friendly Streets but does not like the way its evolving.

DL wants to know the deadline for the comments for the People Friendly Streets.

6. AOB

IW – thank you for the LIF money which has paid for 100 cream teas for homes