

Tollington Ward Partnership Meeting

Tuesday 23 February 6.30pm-8pm

Remotely held on Zoom, hosted by Islington Council

Attendees

Chair:	Councillor Flora Williamson (Tollington Ward Councillor)
Councillors:	Councillor Richard Watts (Tollington Ward Councillor) Councillor Anjna Khurana (Tollington Ward Councillor)
Officers:	Rosamund Harris (Community Safety Officer / Ward Partnership Co-ordinator) Pamela Aristokle (Community & Ward Partnership Development Manager) PC Charlotte Martin (Tollington Safer Neighbourhood Police Team) PC Sarah Deighton (Tollington Safer Neighbourhood Police Team)
Speakers	Andrew Younger (Customer Operations Manager) Gizem Koksai (Public Health Assistant Strategist) Polly Kwok (Public Health Projects Manager) John Warby (Team Leader, Help On Your Doorstep) Colin Adams MBE (Director, Brickworks Community Centre) Melissa O'Carroll, MAG coordinator (Tollington and Hillrise Mutual Aid)

1. Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping

Cllr Flora Williamson welcomed everyone, Cllr Watts and Cllr Khurana introduced themselves. Officers introduced themselves one by one.

Cllr Williamson introduced the topic of the Ward Partnership meeting focusing on support available in the ward and ways in which you can be involved.

Resident- Question to Cllr Watts Are you standing down as leader of the council and retaining your seat in Tollington or are you standing down completely?

Cllr Williamson: We will pick this up in AOB

2. Help On Your Doorstep

Help On Your Doorstep works with vulnerable people to help them overcome issues they are facing. Usually we would be doing a lot more outreach to people who are unable to leave their homes.

Last year we knocked on 2,200 doors to engage people. We work with 140 partners in Islington who assist with a range of issues, such as Islington Law Centre (help with legal problems), Citizens Rights, help

into employment and learning, advice around debt management, housing, energy advice, addressing disrepair and damp issues.

We work with residents to identify needs and support referrals into specialist advice organisations and services. Our partners update our database when the referral is received so that the progress is tracked and we can monitor the outcome.

We continue to work with vulnerable people during this time and if they disengage, we call back in three months to try to reengage to make sure they have received the support they asked for.

We assist with applications for financial assistance through the Residents Support Scheme or via a Richard Cloudesley Grant to purchase white goods such as a cooker or fridge.

We run Good Neighbours schemes- local people helping local people. Connecting with people who are isolated, often elderly people providing coffee mornings, football training, mindfulness, dance classes

Our social prescribing service works with north and central GPs currently – GPs refer to our link worker to link patients in with activities.

Hoping to return to a full service in May or April following government guidance.

John shared his email address: jwarby@helponyourdoorstep.com

If you know anyone who needs support from HOYD they can call 0203 931 6080 or email connect@helponyourdoorstep.com

Q&A

Resident: Where do you get funding?

John Warby: We get council funding, Big Lottery, Cripplegate and Cloudesley.

Awesome (Cornwallis Adventure Playground): We have an open park and playground if you have any children 6-13 that need a space to come and play please feel free to direct them to Cornwallis Adventure Playground. Would love to see how we could work together to help those children in need.

Resident: Do you only work in the north?

John Warby: No, the whole borough, now three areas currently north south and central. The social link workers are based in the north of the borough and Essex Road.

3. We Are Islington

(Please see presentation)

Andrew Younger: Residents can call us on 020 7527 8222 Monday to Sunday from 9am-5pm, email weareislington@islington.gov.uk or use the BSL Sign video service

Q&A

Resident: Elderly patients are not being taken to the vaccination centre.

Cllr Watts: There is a home vaccination service for vulnerable people who cannot leave their homes to receive the vaccine at home. This can be arranged through your GP.

For those with mobility issues residents can book a cab through community transport to take them to the appointment.

4. Health Champions

(Please see presentation)

Initially this was focused on front line workers, now anyone in Islington can register.

Gizem Koksai: If you have any questions about the programme, please email us at chc@islington.gov.uk
You can [sign up to become a COVID-19 Health Champion](#).

Covid Champion information - chc@islington.gov.uk

5. Tollington and Hillrise Mutual Aid

The spirit of Tollington Mutual Aid is that we are all in need at times and we can all give support sometimes. It began in March 2020 as a grass roots community organisation and now has 450 volunteers on its database, with 15 co-ordinators. We have a strong network that connects with neighbours helping with shopping, providing company, chatting with residents, dog walking, dropping off cooked meals. We can be contacted through web phone or text.

We receive no funding we are all volunteers. We have a great deal of volunteer energy to create community spirit – we do not ask people to donate fixed times.

Volunteers keep in contact through WhatsApp, and we would welcome more volunteers to join us.

We are connected community groups and food distribution hubs. We try to stay updated on what services are open and send out a monthly newsletter.

We also have a Facebook twitter and Instagram account

Call/Text – 07494 971 873. Email: Tollington.c19@gmail.com Hillrise.c19@gmail.com

There is an [online form to get help](#) and a [form if you would like to become a volunteer](#)

6. Brickworks

(Please see presentation)

To contact directly email: colin.adams@hanleycrouch.org.uk or call 0207 263 1067.

There are a number of volunteering opportunities at Brickworks you can get involved with including gardening.

Friends of Wray Crescent: I think Friends of Wray Crescent will want to get involved with that

Colin Adams: Police ward panel meetings are also held at Brickworks. Residents can be updated and involved in identifying police priorities in the ward.

PC Charlotte Martin shared the Safer Neighbourhood inbox SNTNI-tollington@met.police.uk

Islington Chinese Association: The centre has suspended most activity at centre including the AA group and CA group, Tai Chi, language classes. It continues to provide befriending phone calls.

What are the guidelines for community centre opening? We would like help of other community centres if they have advice.

Flora Williamson: If you share your email, Colin Adams and I can help.

Friends of Wray Crescent: There are currently no projects running. We are sticking to our core beliefs growing beautiful things, creating paths, and we are hoping to do something interesting with the cops at the back of the park.

Cllr Watts: It has been great using the park in lockdown. Great work by the Friends group.

Friends of Wray Crescent: you can contact us via our [website](#) and there's a mailing list you can also sign up to

7. AOB

Resident: There is concern about the state of pavements, you managed to sort pavement issues before.

Cllr Watts: If you send an email to councillors, we will look into it.

Resident: What is the projection for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in Tollington?

Cllr Watts: The programme across the borough is geographically quite complex. There are no immediate plans to extend LTNs in Tollington. You can contribute your thoughts on Our Common Place website.

Daniel Allen: I would like to update the group that I have taken the place of Tony Montgomery Neighbourhood Manager (Public Realm, Environment and Regeneration Department) and I can deal with any street cleansing issues.

Islington Chinese Association: Is the latest available information regarding Covid-19 produced in Chinese and other languages?

Polly Kwok: Every week, information is produced in different community languages. Volunteers at the Chinese Community Centre could also become health champions so that when residents raise concerns about the jab, they can have a helpful conversation with them to address these concerns. If you would like to be directed to a specific Chinese language version, contact Polly.Kwok@Islington.gov.uk

Resident: Raised earlier question regarding Cllr Watts standing down as Council Leader.



Cllr Watts: I will be standing down in May as Council Leader and will continue as ward councillor until 2022. Thank you to everyone for the support and camaraderie I have enjoyed as Tollington ward councillor for the last 15 years I have served. Being able to get Brickworks Community Centre built and encouraging Colin Adams to stand for director was the best decision I made.

Tollington Mutual Aid: We would welcome any ideas to get community engaged, would be interesting to know strategically how groups plan to evolve and how they connect with each other following the lifting of restrictions.

Cllr Watts: It might be useful to set up a Tollington Covid recovery group. Colin Adams can chair. Councillors agreed to arrange meeting to discuss.

