



Holloway Ward Partnership Meeting

Tuesday 16th February 2021, 7:30pm – 9:00pm
Remotely held on Zoom, hosted by Islington Council

Attendees

Councillors: Cllr Diarmaid Ward (Holloway Ward Councillor and co-chair of meeting)
Cllr Rakhia Ismail (Holloway Ward Councillor and co-chair of meeting)

Officers: Alex Sarson (Special Projects Manager, Special Projects Team)
Barry Emmerson (Head of Parks, Environment at Regeneration)
Elizabeth Petherick (Ward Partnership Co-ordinator)

In total, 21 people attended the meeting.

Item 1: Welcomes, Introductions and Housekeeping

Cllrs Ward and Ismail introduced themselves and outlined the format of the virtual meeting, with the agenda being presented.

Item 2: Holloway Prison Update

Cllr Ward gave an update on the current situation surrounding the Holloway Prison Site:

- The prison itself was closed in 2016 and the land was sold by the Ministry of Justice, the council does not own the site but Islington is the local planning authority and has the ability to influence how the space will be used
- Peabody Housing Association has bought the site and have committed to having 60% affordable housing on the site, 42% of which will be social rent homes which is approximately 420 homes
- The prison itself was a hub for specialist support to vulnerable women and offered support for victims of domestic abuse and those with mental health issues, in keeping with this and making sure there is a positive legacy, Peabody have committed to there being a women's space included on the site
- Peabody should be holding a consultation session soon where residents will be able to provide their opinions on any suggested plans

Resident – If there are set to be hundreds of new homes, will local provisions such as schools, healthcare and public transport be able to accommodate for these families or will they need to be increased to cater for demand

Cllr Ward – There are no issues in terms of school places, they are waiting for the next consultation to discuss transport and medical provision, but it was understood that conversations with TFL may have to occur in order to increase the bus services as it is already very busy at peak hours and may not be able to facilitate further users

Resident – Will the local residents, especially those who are disabled, be impacted in terms of parking, and will there be disabled access to the new homes and will they accommodate for people with special needs

Cllr Ward – Current parking should not be affected by the new build, especially as most new builds are car free, but there will be homes and parking spaces provided that do accommodate for those with disabilities, it is hoped the new build will be as inclusive as possible

Resident – Will Holloway get any Section 106 money, considering that the site itself is actually in St George's Ward

Cllr Ward – Holloway will be receiving some Section 106 money, however it has not yet been decided how this will be distributed

Resident – Will Holloway Ward residents have priority in applying for and receiving housing

Cllr Ward - There is a local lettings policy and a ward policy that means that those in the ward of a new build have top priority, and there is a strong case to make that lettings should be evenly distributed between Holloway and St George's

Resident – What will this site do for older people, or those with needs who require larger spaces

Cllr Ward – there is a policy of 'life-long homes' to accommodate for people with changing needs, this can be seen with the King's Square new build which has a block specifically for the over 55s

Item 3: Biddestone Park Lighting Update

Council officer Barry Emmerson, Head of Parks, discussed the improvements to the lighting in Biddestone Park:

- The parks team secured Section 106 funding to improve the lighting in Biddestone Park due to fears around safety in and around the park after dark
- Eight bollards and three taller lamps will be erected, both of these can be dimmed to avoid any light spill
- Posters about the new lights will be placed in the park and there will also be letter drops to inform residents of the new lighting

Resident – Will the park now be open 24/7, if yes this could cause major disturbances for local residents

Cllr Ward - We would ultimately like for this park to be a safe access route 24/7, however a final decision has yet to be made on this, Bollard Close have used an infrastructure levy to have park guards on duty from 4pm to midnight, and so something similar to this could be done, but further discussion with residents from Lorraine Estate would be needed

Resident – How will these lights be maintained and looked after, what happens if they're vandalised

Barry – The lighting itself is very robust and the lights are included in a street lighting agreement with the contractor that covers repairs, so any issues with the lighting should be easy to resolve

Item 4: Shearling Way Estate Update

Council Officer Alex Sarson from the Special Projects Team provided an update on the most recent updates made to Shearling Way Estate:

- Improvements to the thoroughfare have been made, the pathway has been reconstructed, the moped barriers have been removed, overgrowth has been cut back and LED wall lights have been put in place
- A Gabion wall has been put in place to avoid loitering and more greenspace will be introduced
- On the estate there is a football pitch that is currently closed as it was a magnet for bad behaviour, the next phase of the improvement project is to do something different with this ball court. A consultation will be carried out with residents to find out how to transform the area, but one of the main ideas is to create a community garden that will be accessible to all residents. A questionnaire in regards to this ball court will be sent out in the near future

Resident – Wheelchair access on the path from Cally leading on to the estate needs to be improved and a grate needs to be placed over any dips, as it is currently very uncomfortable for a wheelchair user to use this path

Alex – This comment will be taken forward and hopefully more improvements can be made so it can accommodate to those with physical disabilities better

Resident – Can this be a part of local youth provision, we need to ensure that local youths are catered for and activities provided for them

Cllr Ismail – Agrees that this area should be a part of local youth provision and also suggested that a review of youth services in the area should be undertaken so we can see what the best way of engaging younger residents is

Resident – Could there be any seating provided on the estate, especially for those who are older, and will there be residents associations or friend groups involved in the maintenance of the area

Alex – This is a phased approach of improvement and feedback is always being taken on board, there is currently a lot of barren space and so seating could be provided here, but amendments will be made in line with any consultations. The special projects team are looking to have residents involved in the maintenance and management of the area, a focus group and will be put in place and interactions with all important local stakeholders will also occur

Item 5: Resident Queries

The meeting was opened up to those in attendance to ask questions to the Councillors.

Resident – Will there be more regular ward partnerships and will the Councillors be holding online surgeries as those in other wards have been doing

Cllr Ward – we are hoping to have more ward partnerships and while surgeries may not be being held, contact with residents is being maintained through emails and telephone

Cllr Ismail - Cllr Ismail did have online surgeries when lockdown first began last year, however they had minimal attendance and so were stopped, but she will look into bringing them back

Resident – There will be ward boundary changes introduced next year which means that some parts of Holloway Ward will be lost to a new ward, how will we make sure that community infrastructures are maintained and that no one gets lost or cut off from their service when the changes take place

Cllr Ward – Ringcross Community Centre, Paradise Park and Freightliners Farm will no longer be part of Holloway and will instead be in the new Laycock Ward when the boundary changes take place, it will be sad for these to no longer be in Holloway but all of the services can be accessed as while no longer in Holloway, Islington is one borough and services will still be accessible to those who need them. In terms of policing, this is done on a local level and we need to make sure that with the new boundaries this is not lost, it is recommended that in May 2022 there should be a joint ward partnership meeting with Holloway and Laycock

Resident – Knife crime is still a prevalent issue, what is happening in the area currently to prevent it, what are the provisions in place

Cllr Ismail – We do need to work together as an authority and a community to get involved and make sure that young people are diverted away from crime

Resident - the process of reporting things is very difficult and crimes such as drug dealing have no become the norm in the area, they are no longer the exception, so people don't report these crimes as much

Resident – Why isn't CCTV used more in known problem areas

Cllr Ward – There is extensive CCTV in place, but if any residents feel that there are any blind spots than please do let Cllrs Ward and Ismail know

Resident – Knife crime has been spoken about for years and the issue still persists, there needs to be a new approach, are the fundamental issues to do with family and individual circumstance being looked at, what is the current approach

Cllr Ward – The issue of local crime is extensive and it was proposed that the next ward meeting should revolve around this issue, with focus being on crime rates and solutions in Pollard Close, Lorraine Estate and Holloway Road

Next Steps:

Cllrs Ward and Ismail will agree on a date to hold another ward partnership meeting and all relevant council officers will be invited to attend and speak.

Just to note, due to the upcoming election, no public meetings can be held between the 22nd of March and the 6th of May because of purdah, and so the next meeting will have to take place after this.