

Junction Ward Partnership Meeting led by the Junction ward councillors (Janet Burgess, Sheila Chapman, Kaya Comer-Schwartz)

Tuesday 18 January 2022, 7pm to 8.30pm

Remotely held on Zoom, hosted by Islington Council

Attendees

Councillor Janet Burgess : Junction Ward Councillor

Councillor Shelia Chapman : Junction Ward Councillor

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz: Junction Ward Councillor

Matthew Bunce: Community Safety Officer, Public Protection (LBI)

Karen Sullivan: Service Director, Planning and Development (LBI)

Ayanda Collins: Programme Manager, Traffic and Parking (LBI)

Barry Emmerson: Parks and Open Spaces Manager, Public Realm (LBI)

Jonathan O'Sullivan: Islington Deputy Director Public Health (LBI)

Shenell Vrioni-Wright: Junction Ward Partnership Coordinator (LBI) (Minutes)

In total 24 people attended the meeting.

1. Welcome, Introduction and Housekeeping

- Councillor Chapman – housekeeping rules about being on mute and questions to go in the chat
- Overview of purpose of Ward Partnership meetings
- Overview of the agenda

2. Crime Statistics and ASB

- Overview of community safety
- Work closely with partners, police, voluntary sector.
- Overview of what community safety includes e.g. violence against women, anti-social behaviour.
- Overview of crime in Junction and how it compares to other areas within the borough.

- There have been 1712 crimes in Junction in the past year, overall reduction of 8% in crime since last year.
- Weekly briefing to identify hotspots for anti-social behaviour and look what what changes can be made to reduce anti-social behaviour. Looking to get some temporary CCTV in Whittington Park also looking at police patrol in parks. Looking at what can be done to improve walks from schools and lighting.
- Increased police presence to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- Use of stop and search powers and other police powers has led to recovery of numerous weapons and drugs. This has also helped police to identify more people who are involved in criminal activity.
- Using ASB warnings to identify repeat offences.
- Blue badges are the most common items stolen from vehicles in Islington.
- Overview of how to report crime – to the police, Crimestoppers and can report Anti-Social Behaviour to the council: **020 7527 7272** or via [Anti-social behaviour | Islington Council](#)

Cllr Chapman emphasises the importance of reporting crime.

Question: What are some of the offences that are included in table ranking? (first slide)

Response from Matthew: Fraud, bicycle theft, disability hate crime. Hate crime is under reported, sometimes seeing increase in reporting is not a bad thing - means more people coming forward.

Question: Will the slides be available for people to have to feedback to a group of residents?

Response from Matthew: We will share the slides and Matthew would be happy to come and talk directly to these residents, please contact Community Safety team for this.

3. Planning

Proposed planning application for Vorley Road bus stand

- TFL bus stand which was unlocked for former residents
- Proposal for 72 new homes, GP surgery and library. The development will be delivered throughout three blocks.

Archway campus

- Long standing proposals to redevelop this site
- This site changed hands ;last year when Peabody sold this to the private sector. In conversations with new owner for 50% affordable housing. Looking for this scheme to come in June / July.

Ocado

- Lost a court case against the council after they revoked a certificate of lawfulness.
- They have put through a new application for a certificate, this application has attracted large representation (over 300) from individuals.
- Council requesting more information on some of the arguments that they have put forward in their application. Very carefully checking any evidence that is put forward.
- Sought an extension of time with Ocado which means extending the length of time the council has to make the decision to ensure that they review everything. Council will be

asking for a further extension of time as this will run out tomorrow, allowing the council time to go back to them for more evidence on what they have put in their application

Thomas Brothers

- There is an application in to extend the hours of the swift stall which will be in the ground floor of the building. There have been four rejections and one is from Cllr Burgess.
- They have also applied for further extension of alcohol licencing which has been rejected by Cllr Burgess.
- Refrigeration units in the building application.

Holloway Prison planning application

- Small delay for this application going to committee
- Will be going to committee on 8th February.
- If anyone wants to know how to register for the Committee meeting, then please send Karen an email.

Question: is there a set date for when the next extension will run out for Ocado?

Karen response: Unable to provide an exact date at this point but as soon as they know the next steps they will feedback straight away to the residents.

Question: Can you put in the chat a link for residents to make contact to speak at the prison planning committee meeting on 8th Feb, or if there another way to do this?

Response from Karen: Email me directly, Contact details for Karen:

Karen.Sullivan@islington.gov.uk

4. Green Issues

People Friendly Streets:

- 1/3 of journeys in London are less than 2km and can easily be walked by many people.
- 2/3 of journeys in London are less than 5km and can be cycled.
- 70% of households in Islington do not have cars.
- Roads are at capacity.
- Part of council ambition is to reduce traffic on streets.
- Traffic casualties are the most common non-natural cause of death of children in the UK
- In Islington, 32% of road casualties are cyclists, despite cycle trips making up only 5% of trips overall.
- In Islington 22% - overweight/obesity levels of children at Reception.
- In Islington 38% - overweight/obesity levels of children at Year 6.
- 50% of Nitrogen dioxide emissions are from transport sources.
- Premature death as a result of air pollution.
- Respiratory problems as a result of air pollution.
- Link between air pollution and Coronavirus.
- We have delivered 23 new school streets since covid, these are timed restrictions where traffic is not allowed to go on the streets at particular times. This is to encourage walking and cycling to and from school rather than driving.
- Now moving forward the engagement period of running consultations, have had some in schools to ensure that children can have their say on school streets.

- 23 New School Streets; covering 24 schools (as trials) in response to Covid-19 emergency
- Rolling out blue badge exemptions in response to the feedback received.
- Increase greening across the borough with planters.
- There will be other traffic measures where appropriate such as lorry control.
- There will be more engagement prior to implementation going forward.

Bike hangars:

- Installed on the carriageway in parking bays
- Currently we have 240 on-street bike hangars with 1,440 spaces
- We are oversubscribed – 8,178 applications across the borough
- 160 new hangars will be installed between February and March 2022 offering an additional 960 spaces
- In this batch 10 new hangars are planned for Junction ward:
Junction Road (2 units), St John's Way (1), Francis Terrace (2),
St John's Grove (2), Hargrave Road (1) and Bredgar Road (2)
- 100 new hangars planned for next year – new sites chosen are guided by the level of applications, so if you want a space please apply at: [Cycling in Islington | Islington Council](#)
- 100 new hangars planned for next year

Thoughts and feedback from people:

Questions: How will slides reach us?

Cllr Chapman – slides will get sent to everyone

Question: been noticing more wooden planters, is this part of larger scheme, is this in advance of PFS scheme?

Ayanda response: unaware of this, could be to do with more greening in the borough and will take this away and come back.

Question: A few years ago at meeting in 2019 I asked about EV charging points, wondering if there is any update on this in relation to budget?

Ayanda response: agrees that growing need for electric charging points, have a dedicated officer that works on this. here is a link for more information: [Electric vehicle charging points | Islington Council](#)

Question: TFL budget cuts - understand will cause a lot of problems for Islington to implement people friendly streets.

Ayanda response: mixed bag in terms of funding sources used and still continuing to go ahead with the programme.

Ayanda response: working with neighbouring boroughs such as Camden on traffic programmes.

Cllr Burgess : talk to our neighbouring boroughs about traffic programmes.

Question: would you come in to the children centres and inform people about PFS or is there any information that can be passed on?

Cllr Burgess: once further along will be happy to come along and talk about this.

Comments from chat:

Thanks for your presentation Ayanda.

I am not sure how many parents of Under 5s you have consulted with? If you would like to speak to some you are welcome to link in with Archway Children Centre via myself or my colleague Yusuf Gurbuz (Bright Start North)

Parks:

Dartmouth Park:

- Thames Water had to do some piling work to prevent slope from falling. Works now completed and they are in process of reinstalling grass area on the slopes. Wildflower mix in the seeds to increase the biodiversity. In talks with Thames Water about reopening the pathways and fencing off the grass and playground until they are reinstated. More local communication to follow soon.

Tufnell Park:

- Talk around potential of hybrid football pitch to be installed and what other potential improvements could be made to improve the quality of the surface for formal and casual use. Survey has been carried out and the council is looking at viability of putting this in before deciding whether to proceed to public consultation on the idea.
- Range of improvement ideas have been presented to the council by the Friends of Tufnell Park. Local consultation to be undertaken by the Friends to establish support for the ideas.

If you want to get involved with volunteering in the ward or parks then please visit the council website at [Islington Council: Help our parks and green corners to flourish | Islington Council](#)

Cllr Burgess – if you want to get involved, please do get in contact.

Question: can you put a contact point for people as a point of contact?

Response from Barry: provided contact details Shan.Burgess@islington.gov.uk
Barry.Emmerson@islington.gov.uk

Question: What plans are there to sort out the planting in Foxham Gardens?

Response from Barry: unable to give update at this point.

5. Covid Statistics

- Locally, Omicron had a peak of around 1,500 cases on a single day, compared to a previous high with the Alpha variant of 400.
- Omicron can be a very serious infection in some people, but it is currently resulting in a substantially lower risk of becoming seriously ill and hospitalised compared with earlier variants. There are a number of factors, but in particular: there is a higher overall level of immune protection in the population compared with previous waves – particularly due to

vaccinations, with the boosters providing or sustaining significant extra protection, and in part due to previous infection; and compared with previous variants, it appears to be more concentrated in the airways and less present in the lungs.

- We are beginning to see a reduction in the number of infections, although rates remain very high.
- Locally in Junction, there were around 160 confirmed cases last week (there will be other infections not picked up in this data), and cases have been following a similar pattern as the rest of borough.
- Seeing highest rates of Omicron mainly in younger adults and school children, the latter may in part be due to doing a lot of lateral flow tests among school children. Rates in older people had risen rapidly in the run up to Christmas and New Year, but the rate is now dropping at quite a fast rate and is lower than other age groups.
- Where we have seen cases in our care homes, they have mainly been for staff – often picked up through regular non-symptomatic testing - and it has not been leading to hospitalisations and deaths among residents.
- The people who have been getting really ill have not been vaccinated or those who are partially vaccinated.
- Seeing very few deaths in Islington of Covid.
- To date, 408 local people have died with Covid-19 since the start of the epidemic.

Vaccination take up:

- Islington is in the middle of other London boroughs in relation to vaccination take up, ethnically diverse and young population (where take up is typically lower).
- 72% of people in Junction have had 1st dose of vaccination.
- 67% of people in Junction have had 2nd dose of vaccination.
- 43% of people in Junction have had the booster.

Impacts:

- Seeing impact on people's mental health and economic stress and particularly felt by younger adults, BAME communities.
- We know that the hospitality and arts economy have been particularly hard hit.
- Voluntary and community sector organisations have stepped up to support.
- The council has already distributed more than £115 million to help ensure there are jobs for people to come back to.
- Currently completing resident survey to understand how impact of Covid has changed over time and whether the same impacts have persisted over time.
- Jonathan contact details: Jonathan.OSullivan@islington.gov.uk

6. AOB

Cllr Comer-Schwartz: There is a big engagement piece currently taking place and it would be great if you could fill it in and get others to: [Lets Talk | Islington Council](#)