

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL
TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2015**

Councillors: B Blake (Chair), Gallagher, Gunes, Hare, Jogee and Wright

Co-Optees: Mr I. Sygrave (Haringey Association of Neighbourhood Watches)

CSP33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Newton.

CSP34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CSP35. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

CSP36. MINUTES

It was noted that Mr Sygrave (co-opted Member) was present at the meeting of the Panel on 6 November.

AGREED:

That, subject to the above mentioned amendment, the minutes of the meetings of 6 November and 10 December 2014 (budget) be approved.

CSP37. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS; CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT/STREET CLEANSING; CURRENT PERFORMANCE

Councillor McNamara, the Cabinet Member for the Environment, reported on the key areas within his portfolio as well as current performance in respect of street cleansing;

- In respect of recycling, he was very pleased with the work that had been taking place. However, the next phase of progress was likely to be more challenging. Most local authorities had managed to achieve levels of recycling that were between 30 and 40 per cent. Achieving levels of over 50% would be difficult, especially in view of the fact that the borough shared many of the characteristics of an inner city borough and high levels of population churn.
- Food recycling was to be rolled out in Homes for Haringey properties and other housing blocks. The system utilised aimed to replicate the service provided in other residential accommodation. Mixed recycling bins had been piloted in Wood Green and Tottenham high roads and had generally been received well.
- Operation Clean Streets had been progressing for four months now and progress was being monitored. In addition, there had also been a street safety audit that was focussed on tidying streets up and de-cluttering.
- Although the Council was seeking to make savings in street sweeping, it nevertheless wished to be judged on outcomes rather than spend. There were statistical neighbours who

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spent less but achieved better outcomes. At the moment, all areas of the borough received the same level of street cleansing irrespective of need. Tottenham and Wood Green high roads were now being treated separately and were a lot cleaner.

- Public engagement regarding the sustainable transport plan was due to be launched at the end of February. The first stage of the process would be a questionnaire for Councillors regarding things that needed doing within their wards.
- Investment was taking place in the cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. This would include the installation of more cycle racks and engagement around the construction of Cycle Superhighway 1. There would also be a cycling summit later of the year. Cycling would also constitute a major part of the transport strategy.
- The refurbishment of Tottenham Green was now complete and it was due to be launched shortly. Works at Park Road were due to be finished in March. The planned refurbishment works to White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre were currently progressing. Updates on progress would be provided through the Fusion newsletter. Joint work was also taking place with Public Health to promote fitness and sport. He noted that the Panel had taken an interest in the availability of facilities and he would be happy to collaborate on work on this issue.
- Improvement works to Wood Green High Road were nearly finished. They had caused disruption to traffic and the priority had been to keep buses moving. He was grateful to the patience of residents during the works.

He responded to questions as follows;

- The Council was committed to installing cycle racks where there was a genuine need and where there currently were not any. It was intended to install a significant number and Haringey Cycling Campaign were assisting with the planning process and on the further development of proposals for cycling within the borough. Railings had generally been removed where they had been buckled or damaged. This has been requested by local Members. Panel Members commented that they favoured a traditional design for cycle racks, which allowed both wheels to be attached and were also the cheapest option. It was agreed that an update on cycling issues would be provided in due course.
- There needed to be a balance between engagement and enforcement in respect of fly-tipping. Engagement officers had been meeting large numbers of local people and enhanced enforcement procedures were being implemented. Keeping the streets clean cost the Council significant amounts and the proposals were the result of the Council needing to find £70 million of savings. A pilot project to address fly-tipping was being implemented. As part of this, there had been engagement with ward Councillors, residents and traders. Noel Park ward was being targeted first as it had the highest incidence.
- In respect of black drop boxes, the introduction of these had been a political and operational decision as part of the Operation Clean Streets initiative. Their introduction was based on evidence that they worked well elsewhere. The second phase of their implementation would be rolled out in due course.
- Events in Finsbury Park were not seen as a cash cow by the Council. Income from these was used to fund a range of work in the borough's parks. The condition of the park after events, noise and time allowed for take up and take down were all issues that needed to be looked at further. A meeting of the Stakeholder Group would be arranged shortly. In

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terms of bookings for this year, Live Nation had applied to stage the Wireless Festival at the park again. The license would be subject to conditions. An analysis would be undertaken of what had been learnt from the previous round of concerts as well as what could be improved. There was also a commitment to engaging with the local community, Councillors and neighbouring boroughs.

The Panel noted that there was a waste contract monitoring board that met quarterly to look at planning and operation issues. The Cabinet Member reported that the waste contract provider needed to improve its performance in some wards, including Woodside. In addition, there were also hotspots and pockets where there were also issues and these were subject to regular monitoring. The figures for fly-tipping did not necessarily mean that the situation had deteriorated markedly. It was possible that the number of reports had merely increased as there had been historic under reporting of incidents. The Council was also seeking to be honest in reporting the scale of fly-tipping within the borough. It was important that the message regarding enforcement was publicised in order to deter people. As part of this, there needed to be engagement with landlords. A licensing scheme for landlords would help to address issues arising from rented accommodation. This had been proven to be effective elsewhere.

The Assistant Director for Environmental Services and Community Safety reported that officers were looking at a more joined up approach to dealing with fly-tipping. Enforcement was one tool that could be used to change behaviour. However, the key to addressing the issue was changing the behaviour of residents so that fly-tipping became unacceptable to all. 95% of it was probably household rather than commercial. The aim of current policy was to increase the perception of risk amongst people who might be tempted to engage in it. It was important that there was effective communication so that residents bought into what the Council was seeking to achieve.

In response to a question regarding re-cycling, the Cabinet Member stated that it was intended to continue with the co-mingled method of collection. It was noted that there were pros and cons to separating items. It was agreed that clarification would be sought as whether the North London Waste Authority had considered the potential advantages to separating items, such as glass. The Panel noted that some Councils could re-cycle a wider range of items at their waste recycling centres than Haringey currently did. Councillor Hare agreed to share details of the items that Cambridge were able to recycle to the Cabinet Member.

The Assistant Director for Environmental Services and Community Safety stated that purple rubbish bags should all be removed by 6:00 p.m. each day. If any bags were still around after this time, they should be reported to the service.

The Panel noted that, in respect of the national indicator for litter and detritus (NI195), all areas were inspected at least three times per year. The regularity on inspections above this was determined by land use.

In summing up, the Chair stated that the Panel were aware that Finsbury Park concerts were a concern to some residents and would like to monitor the situation. In addition, there was a shared aspiration to reduce fly-tipping and the Panel would be interested in hearing about plans for promoting community buy-in.

AGREED:

1. That updates be provided to future meetings of the Panel on:
 - Events in parks and, in particular, Finsbury Park;

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- Plans to promote community awareness of fly-tipping and support for action to address it; and
 - Proposals to develop cycling within the Borough.
2. That clarification would be sought as whether the North London Waste Authority has considered the potential advantages to separating items, such as glass, in recycling;

CSP38. WASTE AND RECYCLING: CURRENT PERFORMANCE

The Panel noted that the current target for re-cycling out-turn was 37% and current performance levels were 37.9%. The target for next year was higher. The focus of the service was currently on how higher levels could be achieved. Haringey currently had the second highest rate of recycling in London. New food waste and dry recycling arrangements were being rolled out to all estates and blocks in order to increase levels. The roll out process involved engagement with residents. Panel Members were of the view that school children could play a role in helping to promote higher levels of re-cycling through being made more aware of its ecological benefits. In addition, there was also a financial argument.

AGREED:

That the performance data be noted.

CSP39. AIR QUALITY: HOW THE COUNCIL ADDRESSES THE ISSUE OF AIR QUALITY AND AN UPDATE ON AIR QUALITY ACTIONS

The Cabinet Member commented that that electronic vehicle charging was likely to be in greater demand in future years as more marketable and affordable electric cars came on the market. In terms of car clubs, most schemes involved users being tied to returning cars to where they picked them up. However, the Council was experimenting with a new scheme which was not limited by this requirement. Proposals for a 20 mph speed limit in residential streets were due to go out for consultation shortly. It was important that there were realistic expectations regarding enforcement though. It was likely to take many years to change the behaviour of drivers. There had been a huge increase in cycling in the last few years and considerable progress with developing cycle routes and parking within the borough. Cycling was a key part of the borough's Smart Travel programme. The Council's new Transport Strategy would include options in respect of cycling and walking. The Council was also pro bus and measures needed to be taken to make this clearer to residents.

Panel Members commented that, whilst they supported the promotion of cycling, there were still safety issues and, in addition, a lot of money had been invested in small schemes that were often not used. The Cabinet Member stated that most boroughs had made mistakes but lessons had learnt. Cycling and walking were now both corporate priorities. Panel Members would be very welcome to attend the forthcoming cycling summit.

Panel Members submitted questions for answer by the lead officer for air quality, who was unfortunately unable to be present at the meeting. One particular issue concerned the small number of air quality monitoring stations and whether there was a need for an additional one. The Cabinet Member reported that engagement was taking place with Public Health and the Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being on the issue of air quality. He welcomed the Panel's questions on the issue and agreed to respond in due course.

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Panel Members requested further information regarding whether the Council had been successful in its application to the Mayor's officer for funding to improve air quality. In addition, information was also requested on any liaison work that had taken place regarding the proposed introduction of an ultra low emission zone in central London, which was currently being consulted upon by the Mayor's office. In addition, Panel Members also questioned the effectiveness of green screens in addressing air quality. However, they were nevertheless of the view that green screens had many other useful benefits

AGREED:

1. That an interim and, in due course, a more detailed response be provided to the Panel's question in respect of clean air;
2. That updates be provided to the Panel on the outcome of the application by the Council for funding to improve air quality and on any liaison work with the Mayor's Office in respect of the introduction of the ultra low emission zone.

CSP40. SCOPING REPORT - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

AGREED:

That the scope, terms of reference and objectives of the project be approved.

CSP41. WORK PLAN

It was noted that it was planned that the next meeting of the Panel would focus upon community safety issues. It was agreed that reports would be requested on the following issues:

- The outcome of Operation Equinox;
- Action against gangs, including Operation Shield;
- Support to victims of crime.

In addition, the Panel noted that the Borough Commander had previously offered to attend another meeting of the Panel. It was agreed that he would be invited along to the next meeting and requested to report on there reasons for the increase in violent crime within the borough.

The Chair reported that the Panel had recently visited Wolves Lane nursery. It had been agreed that a visit would be arranged to Organic Lea in Waltham Forest in order to see if there were any lessons that could be learnt from the work undertaken there which could be incorporated into plans to develop Wolves Lane.

AGREED:

That, subject to the above mentioned additions and amendments, the future work plan be approved.

Cllr Barbara Blake

Chair

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