

MINUTES OF MEETING Full Council HELD ON Monday, 13th February, 2023, 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Anna Abela, Gina Adamou (Mayor), Peray Ahmet, Ibrahim Ali, Kaushika Amin, Emily Arkell, Dawn Barnes, Nicola Bartlett, John Bevan, Barbara Blake, Zena Brabazon, Cathy Brennan, Lester Buxton, Dana Carlin, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Seema Chandwani, Lotte Collett, Eldridge Culverwell, Nick da Costa, Erdal Dogan, George Dunstall, Sarah Elliott, Scott Emery, Ruth Gordon, Makbule Gunes, Mike Hakata, Harrison-Mullane, Tammy Hymas, Emine Ibrahim, Marsha Isilar-Gosling, Thayahlan Iyngkaran, Sue Jameson, Adam Jogee, Cressida Johnson, Ahmed Mahbub, Khaled Moyeed, Felicia Opoku, Ajda Ovat, Sheila Peacock, Reg Rice, Yvonne Say, Simmons-Safo, Anne Stennett, Joy Wallace, Elin Weston, Matt White and Alexandra Worrell

32. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Mayor referred to the filming at Meetings notice and attendees noted this information.

33. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Cllr Mason
Cllr Rossetti
Cllr Adje
Cllr Connor
Cllr das Neves
Cllr M Blake
Cllr Davies
Cllr Williams

34. TO ASK THE MAYOR TO CONSIDER THE ADMISSION OF ANY LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 100B OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The Mayor agreed to accept the following late items of business for the reasons set out below

Item 9 Changes to Outside Bodies and Committees .The reason for lateness was due to further information being sought from an outside body on their terms of membership.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest put forward.

36. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 18 JULY 2022

RESOLVED

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the full Council meeting held on the 18th of July 2022.

37. TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE MAYOR MAY LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Mayor would provide an update on her activities in writing after the meeting and forward to all councillors by email.

The Mayor reflected that the Councillors thoughts and prayers were with the people of south eastern Turkey and Syria after the devastating earthquake that had killed thousands and would affect many thousands more who were without the basics of food and shelter and separated from their families. The Mayor recognised that many of the residents in the borough have a connection with the earthquake region and have lost family and friends and she passed on her condolences.

The Mayor continued to call on the Leader of the Council who spoke on behalf of the Council, calling on councillors to remember all of the victims of the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria where currently 33,000 people have lost their lives and that figure was likely to double.

The Leader spoke of many of the borough's residents having family in Turkey and Syria and how they have been directly affected.

The Leader referred to the devastation being seen and rescue efforts reported on social media. She referred to councillors, and officers who all have relatives that have been affected.

Following talks with community leaders, there was an immediate need for financial aid. Together with the Leader of Enfield Council and Hackney Council, the Leader had urged residents to now donate money instead of clothing and details of donation sources were available on the Council's website.

The Leader further spoke about the children and young people in the borough who have been affected and would need support over the next few weeks. Head teachers were reminded of the mental health support the borough has available.

The Leader reflected that, as a borough, Haringey always comes together in these difficult times and residents look out for friends and neighbours.

The Leader called on Councillors and attendees to remember the people of Turkey and Syria, who have lost everything and those who have lost their lives.

The full Council attendees stood in a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

38. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive outlined that the attached report was requesting the full Council note the changes to the political composition of the Council set out at paragraph 4.3 and agree the resultant change to Council Committee memberships as detailed in paragraphs 4.8 to 4.10.

The Chief Whip MOVED the recommendations and it was

RESOLVED

1. To note the changes to the political composition set out at paragraph 4.3.
2. To agree the resultant change to Council Committee memberships as detailed in paragraphs 4.8 to 4.10.
3. To note that the consequential change to Outside Bodies as a result of paragraph 4.1 will be set out at Agenda Item 9.

39. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES

The Monitoring Officer had no matters to report on.

40. TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chief Whip MOVED the report and recommendations and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To approve the nomination of Cllr Collett to Collage Arts Management Committee until May 2026.
2. To approve the nomination of Cllr Peacock to RFCA for London until May 2023.
3. To approve the nomination of Cllr Ali to the Tottenham District Charity to replace Cllr Opoku.
4. To approve the nomination of Cllr Mary Mason to the Bridge Renewal Trust, to replace Cllr das Neves.
5. To approve the nomination of Cllr Mark Blake to replace Cllr Joy Wallace on the Alexandra Palace and Park Statutory Advisory Committee .

6. To nominate Cllr Brennan, Cllr Culverwell, Cllr Isilar - Gosling to the Muswell Hill Youth Centre Management Committee.
7. To approve the appointment of Cllr Cathy Brennan to the Strategic Planning Committee to replace Cllr Yvonne Say.

41. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES

The Chair of Alexandra Palace and Park Board moved the report and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To approve the increase in the number of co-opted Alexandra Palace and Park Board Members from three to six, to include two co-opted youth trustees and a co-opted independent lead trustee for fundraising in line with part 4 section b of the constitution.
2. To delegate recruitment and appointment of the two co-opted Youth trustees and independent lead Trustee to the Chief Executive of Alexandra Palace and Park.

Following apologies from the Chair of Corporate Committee, the Vice Chair of Corporate Committee moved the report and it was:

RESOLVED

3. To note the Treasury Management activity undertaken during the first half of the financial year to 30 September 2022 and the performance achieved which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and
4. To note that all treasury activities were undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

42. TO CONSIDER REQUESTS TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS AND/OR PETITIONS AND, IF APPROVED, TO RECEIVE THEM

The Mayor invited Caroline Johnson to make her representations. This petition was objecting to the St Ann's and West Green LTN and reached 4238 signatures. – Petition 1

Caroline Johnson addressed the Council in relation to the petition objecting to the St Ann's and West Green LTN. She stated that local people wanted to end the LTN, to stop the social injustice by the imposition of the LTN. She explained that her petition against the LTN had over 4000 signatures, in contrast to the 1000 responses received by the Council, where less than 800 people were in agreement with the LTN.

In the 6 months that the LTN had been in place, the traffic had not improved, it had simply moved to other roads in the area and impacted local residents. She also noted that the Council had received almost £2m in fines in three months of the LTNs being in place.

The Council had given three reasons for the introduction of the LTN – to reduce traffic, improve air quality and to help people walk, cycle and shop locally. Ms Johnson explained that traffic was now gridlocked on Green Lanes, West Green Road and other boundary roads. This was causing journeys to be longer and more polluting. West Green School had a school street to help reduce traffic and improve air quality around the school, however this was connected to a road gridlocked with traffic due to the LTN. There had also been a major negative impact on local traders, with some shops facing closure. There had also been an impact on local buses, resulting in long delays, cancellations and curtailments.

Ms Johnson felt that the LTN had been based on a lie that traffic had worsened in the borough. She stated that this was not the case, and the LTN had made it worse.

Ms Johnson stated that residents felt that the LTNs had been forced upon them with no understanding of the negative impacts on those who live in the area. She finished with a plea to remove the LTN and improve local residents' lives.

The Mayor thanked Caroline Johnson for the information provided to the meeting

The Mayor called on Catherine Mongrain and her petition group to come forward to the table. This petition was objecting to the Bounds Green LTN and had reached 2837 signatures. – Petition 2

Catherine Mongrain commented that the LTNs had resulted in increased pollution, increased traffic on affected roads, and had negatively impacted businesses. She stated that the LTNs were poorly designed and that the feedback of residents had not been taken into account. It was commented that each additional LTN had a domino effect on residents who felt that they were not included in the decisions. Traffic was not disappearing as a result of the LTNs and residents wanted this to be acknowledged. It was noted that residents had last spoken at the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel meeting in autumn 2022 and had spoken about the impact on disabled groups and carers. It was stated that the process for LTN exemptions was complicated and it was reported that those with LTN exemptions were still impacted by LTN traffic and that some had still been issued with fines.

Catherine Mongrain stated that the LTNs had adversely impacted public transport as there were fewer buses and slower journeys, with some journeys taking three times as long. It was noted that Transport for London (TfL) had met with Arriva and the Council to change targets but residents felt that this was not the answer and would not resolve the issues. It was suggested that the Council had benefitted from the LTNs as they had raised £0.5 million from the Bounds Green LTN trial fines. It was added that the funds from LTN fines had been included in the Council budget.

In relation to consultation, it was noted that the initial consultation results for Bounds Green showed that 65% of respondents were opposed to the trial but that it went

ahead. It was stated that Sustrans had been hired for the project but that, as a strong advocate for active travel, residents did not believe that they were an impartial partner for the LTNs. It was commented that, more recently, a manual examination of the commonplace consultation showed that 72% of respondents were unhappy or very unhappy with the LTN. Residents felt that the LTNs were not working; they wanted to be listened to and wanted specific responses. Catherine Mongrain noted that there had been some reports of intimidation from angry protesters but stated that there had been no engagement with the crowds which had included children, people in wheelchairs, and religious representatives who wanted to be heard. It was commented that the LTN was impacting shops on Myddleton Road where three traders had closed and 60% of traders were reporting that their income had dropped by 40% or more. It was stated that, after six months of bedding in, residents felt that the LTN trial was not working and urged the Council to end the trial immediately.

The Mayor thanked Catherine Mongrain for the information provided to the meeting.

The Mayor called on Emma Oland and her petition group to make their representations. This petition was objecting to the West Green and Bruce Grove LTN and reached 7528 signatures. Petition 3

The following issues were raised by Emma Oland:

- Although LTNs were supposed to reduce pollution and create a safe, cleaner area to live in, many roads were now blocked with traffic seven days a week filling the air with pollution.
- Roads were now unsafe, even for cyclists who opted to use pavements putting pedestrians at risk.
- Roads were narrow and could not handle the increased volume of traffic, especially with events being held at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium or in case of a road incident.
- Roads had become gridlocked with no little routes for drivers or emergency vehicles.
- The increase in pollution on roads, especially the boundary roads was hazardous to residents, schools, cyclists and businesses.
- Residents were being endangered over a trial experiment.
- Local businesses that had survived the coronavirus crisis were again being challenged. Many had already closed due to a 20% - 80% drop in trade since the LTNs had been implemented.
- Trades people with heavy equipment were struggling due to lost time stuck in traffic and difficulties accessing properties and adding to extra cost in fuel and time.
- The community had suffered a detrimental quality of life especially who relied on taxis, food and medical deliveries. This was particularly the case for those disabled or suffering from anxiety or mental health issues.
- Residents were unable to get to health appointments or return home.
- Children and vulnerable people had been left stranded on the wrong side of the filters.

- Therapists, midwives and other medical staff had a daily list of patients they were booked to see across the borough but could only be able to get to half the amount of people due to the LTN traffic filters.
- The exemptions process was too complicated and did not actually help as the roads were full of traffic.
- Healthcare workers and the vulnerable were often stuck in traffic and some may have already died due to delay to emergency services.
- Carers were not able to carry out their duties or make visits.
- Mental health and the cost-of-living crisis was causing an increase in suicidal thoughts, self-harm, domestic violence and child abuse.
- Many people were apprehensive about leaving their homes for fear of attacks or antisocial behaviour.
- Teenagers already had difficult lives and changes in neighbourhood was unsteady.
- Parents had lost their jobs due to not being able to do school runs and get to work. Families were being pushed into poverty.
- Residents felt they had not had an issue with traffic before LTNs. The Community was not being listened to and were not being allowed into Council meetings.

Emma Oland concluded that the LTNs should be removed immediately.

The Mayor thanked Emma for the information provided to the meeting.

The Mayor called on Shmuel Davidsohn who had put a deputation forward on the LTN's effect on the cost of living for the local community.

Deputation on LTN's

Rabbi Shmuel Davidsohn introduced a deputation on the LTN scheme, commenting that he had been a community voice in south Tottenham for the last 25 years and that the scheme had caused great upset in the local community for a number of reasons. He felt that it had also caused danger and disruption to roads outside of the Borough boundary with considerable additional traffic.

Rabbi Davidsohn informed the Council that his comments related specifically to the LTN boundaries between St Ann's and West Green Road which he said was having a detrimental effect on the Orthodox Jewish community in the area. Many people were affected by the cost of living crisis and this was felt in particular by those in the community with larger than average families. Rabbi Davidsohn explained that the additional traffic and journey time made various local amenities more difficult for people to access, adding that the extra pollution caused further hardship to the local community.

Rabbi Davidson called on the Council to remove and amend the LTN scheme to relieve the hardship on local families that he had described. He also asked for the Council to explain how, if it would not change the scheme, how it proposed to support the people affected by this, particularly in terms of their access to affordable food. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to make his presentation.

A debate was taken forward in response to the petitions and deputation with the following Councillors making contributions.

Cllr Bartlett thanked the petitioners and deputations for coming to the meeting and making their representations. She expressed regret that the Council had not been able to hear from them at the November meeting. She spoke for all Councillors advising that they had wanted to hold the meeting in November. As a ward Councillor in West Green, she was aware that the LTNs had generated a lot of interest with residents both for and against the schemes. This was the issue that concerned most of the correspondence she received, as a ward Councillor, with many letters/ emails in opposition to the LTN's. She hoped the Cabinet Member would talk through the evidence base and provide assurance about the point at which the experiment would consider the data on how it was working.

Cllr Bartlett had personally wanted a London LTN scheme but the way in which the government had introduced the policy had led to Councils taking these schemes forward at different times. Cllr Bartlett had seen where this had led to unintended consequences such as the displaced traffic on Belmont Road. This would be a particular focus for the traffic management team and checked on how this was working. Given the Council had stated its intention to reduce air pollution, and to complete some radical actions, this meant change for all residents in travel options.

Cllr Bartlett recognised that change was not easy but colleagues were committed to keep looking at what worked and what did not work, consulting with residents at the end of the LTN experiment. Cllr Bartlett concluded that she hoped the scheme worked for everybody.

Cllr Emery spoke about implementation of the LTN's not being done well and highlighted in particular:

- That consultation with businesses and disability groups had clearly been insufficient.
- There was an excessively burdensome individual circumstance exemption, which was hoped the Cabinet would look at again.
- Signage had clearly also been poor in many places, which was why there had been high income from fines
- The legal minimum of signage referred to but it was clear from the number of people being fined that the legal minimum was not enough.

Cllr Emery asked the Cabinet to reflect on the income being received and improve signage, paint markings on roads, which did not have a modal filter. He stated that whilst the Liberal Democrat group were critical of the way the Council had introduced the LTN's, they were supportive of these trials continuing, without the impact of displaced traffic. Cllr Emery welcomed reduction of traffic, less congestion and fewer traffic collisions.

Cllr Arkell thanked all of the residents who had taken time in Bounds Green to sign the petition and thanked the deputation for attending. As a ward Councillor, she was here to listen and described the unique position of the Bounds Green LTN and emphasised that there was a need to get the LTN policy right in Bounds Green area

Cllr Arkell had received correspondence praising the benefits of the LTN's but she had also received correspondence from residents who were deeply unhappy with the scheme and she noted the issues that this was causing for residents with health conditions getting around the ward . This was in particular to Durnsford road.

Cllr Arkell spoke about businesses impacted in Myddelton Road with a reduction in trade and there was a need to include this conservation area in regeneration plans of the Council. Cllr Arkell promised to continue listening to residents and the Council would do more to improve the support available to moving around the ward such as bike hangers, permanent park lets, and discretionary passes. Cllr Arkell concluded that the Council would continue to listen to residents about how the LTN's could be improved.

Cllr Jameson spoke as a ward Councillor for Bruce Castle Ward, relating the discussion that she and her ward Councillors had had with residents in the ward about the scheme. The schemes had angered some residents and been welcomed by others. However, most were in the middle, accepting that poor air quality needed action and accepting the LTNs as a necessary legitimate experiment. Cllr Jameson spoke about the measures being put in place to respond to the dense area with cycle infrastructure, ZIP cars and hire bikes available to enable seamless travel. Cllr Jameson spoke about data being collected and analysed as the LTN experiment continued. Council officers used automatic traffic counters to monitor the type and speed of traffic.

Cllr Jameson explained that automatic traffic counters would help the Council monitor unforeseen traffic issues or ask for other traffic calming measures. She referred to Windborne Rd as an example where this was being addressed.

Cllr Jameson acknowledged that these were challenging times for many businesses. Some companies had foreseen LTN trials and were now delivering using electric bikes with containers attached. Cllr Jameson commented that by having fewer cars, there would be enough road space for those people who really needed to drive for work or work reasons and mobility issues.

Cllr Jameson explained that income made from the LTN fines would contribute to the Freedom Pass scheme that provided subsidised travel for those over 60 and those with a disability.

In conclusion, Cllr Jameson wanted to see the LTN experiment through to completion because this was the right way to encourage play, walking, scootering and cycling in a safe way. This policy was about improving air quality. Cllr Jameson wanted to hear from all residents and to engage in an evidence-based discussion.

Cllr Hymas thanked the petitioners and deputations for contributing to the debate on LTN's and sharing their views. Cllr Hymas continued to speak about the importance of considering the consequences of climate change from a worldwide impact perspective. There was a need to consider that the impact of climate change was already being experienced . Cllr Hymas referred to the impact of toxic air on the health of the local community and acknowledged that some residents will need the use of cars and it was important to get right the exemptions scheme. Cllr Hymas spoke about

the responsibility as an elected politician campaigning for a fairer and greener future. Cllr Hymas commented that road traffic remained the largest source of emissions in the borough and time was running out for the planet.

Cllr Ali thanked the petitioners and deputations and would consider the views and experiences put forward. Cllr Ali referred to the borough being outliers for active travel and how making this cultural change in the way that residents travelled, through the introduction of the LTN's, was very important for health reasons. Cllr Ali added that it was important to find the best way of implementing the LTN schemes and not making the pollution worse. There was a need to consider the residents that did not drive cars in the borough and those affected by high pollution when considering the consultation activities

Cllr Ali acknowledged the impact of the scheme on traffic in the Bruce Castle Ward in the early days of implementation and outlined the factors for this. Cllr Ali felt it was important to work with residents in the long term to ensure that the scheme was successful. Cllr Ali accepted that bus travel had been impacted in his ward with delays and asked for residents to bear with the scheme and assured them that the data and evidence base would steer the decision-making on whether the schemes would continue.

Cllr Cawley – Harrison responded on behalf of Cllr Rossetti who could not make the meeting. Cllr Cawley - Harrison referred to the Bounds Green LTN, but which also covered areas of Alexandra Park. The area had had problems with speeding traffic using local roads for a long time. The response from residents in Alexandra ward had been very mixed with some supportive and some very much against the LTN. It was important for the Council to keep collecting the data so that it could be understood, conclusively, where the traffic was being reduced or displaced. Cllr Cawley- Harrison advised that Cllr Rossetti agreed that the trial was worthwhile but Councillors would need more data before deciding conclusively whether the trials were a success or not.

The Mayor thanked Councillors for their speeches.

There were no questions to the deputation and the Mayor asked the Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment, and Transport and Deputy Leader to respond to the petitions.

The Cabinet Member thanked the petitioners and the deputations for attending the meeting and sharing their views with Councillor colleagues in the meeting. The Cabinet Member remarked that the presentations had been insightful and observant and continued to respond as follows:

- That all of Councillors lived in the borough with many having families in and children that went to Haringey schools. Some Councillors also had elderly parents, and loved ones with disabilities. Therefore, Councillors were sharing the same experience as residents on the impact of the LTN scheme. The Cabinet Member further added that most of the Councillors also drove cars and would recognise the issues being experienced and outlined by the petitioners and deputation.

- LTN's were needed to instigate a major change in mind set on how people get around the borough and the Councillors wanted to make the schemes work for the benefit of all residents.
- London was classed as the most congested city in the world with drivers sitting on average per year, 148 hours in traffic. Councillors recognised this as a major issue to address.
- There was a need to build safe spaces for active, sustainable travel and make roads safe for everyone and all users including those most excluded from active travel.
- LTN's, and traffic management schemes, like them reduced congestion.
- The only way to cut congestion was through mixed travel by bus, train, foot or bike, and sometimes through cars and there was a need to enable all of those modes of travel.
- The largest study on LTN's in London, published earlier this year, conveyed that traffic was reduced by 40% inside LTN's, and it showed that there was no increase in traffic on boundary roads. Acknowledged, that traffic reduction was not the current perception, however where LTN's had been introduced in other boroughs, traffic fell over time as people got used to the changes and travelled in different ways.
- When considering this information, it was important to note that 60% of Haringey residents did not own a car and did not have access to a car, and yet the borough's roads had been heavily filled with traffic for years and years.
- Most of the traffic coming through the borough was not stopping and there was a need to ensure that the borough had clean air and safe roads for the residents that lived here.
- The LTN's had been designed around the needs of people with disabilities and Haringey had one of the most comprehensive sets of exemptions anywhere. However, the Council were still working to improve on these, wherever it could, and was working with disability groups to improve the exemptions as the experimental schemes progressed.
- The LTN's were designed with the input of emergency services too. The Council continued to have dialogue with emergency services and they assured the Council that there had been no incidents where their blue light service have been impacted.
- The Council would keep examining where there was a need for added exemptions. The key issues were to cut congestion, reduce pollution and improve safety and this could be achieved if driving was prioritised.

- Disagreed with the assertion that the Haringey residents rejected the LTNs. Councillors had received thousands of correspondence, phone calls and conversations about their support the LTNs.

The Council were taking forward initiatives to make it easier to travel differently by:

- Improving and expanding pavements to make it easier to walk around.
- introducing an affordable bike scheme
- installing 400 electric vehicle charging points by 2026

In response to the claims in petitions that the Council did not consult effectively on the West Green and Bruce Grove LTN trials, the following was noted:

- A consultation leaflet was sent to every address in the LTN area and boundary road.
- It was also available in libraries and available on request in four commonly spoken languages other than English.
- A survey with three posts return was sent to every address and could be completed online.
- Delivery of all documents were verified using digital tracking and where delivery issues were identified these were remedied.
- exhibitions, pop-ups, stalls outside schools,
- 25 lamppost wraps and 100 posters were placed across the area.

The Cabinet Member was satisfied that there was significant engagement, which was also tracked for assurance, and felt it was unfair to claim that residents did not receive the information or the consultation packs.

All the LTN's had been introduced on an experimental basis on specific timeline of 18 months.

The Council were continually considering the data and the feedback and where changes were needed, early on in the schemes, and those changes would be made.

The Cabinet Member concluded that there was a need to allow the LTN schemes to settle and allow the behaviour change to be instigated and embedded. It was noted that when less drivers were seen entering the borough to pass through, this would be a good indication of improvement. It was noted that once the full period was completed, the Council would assess the data collected together with considering all the feedback from residents. The Council would then make a decision on the future of the LTNs.

Response to petitions

At this stage of the LTN trials, the Cabinet Member reported that he could not make a commitment to stop these trials . He could not agree to the actions in the petitions for the reasons set out in his response and in the debate.

In response to petition one, concerning the LTN trial in St Ann's and West Green, the Cabinet Member did not agree with the action proposed in the petition and for the reasons set out in the debate and response.

The Cabinet Member could also not agree to the action proposed in petition 2 and petition 3, which was to end the LTN's concerning Bounds Green, West Green and Bruce Grove, for the reasons set out in the response and debate.

In accordance with the petition rules, the Mayor asked Councillors if they agreed to the responses provided to the three petitioners from the Deputy Leader.

This was AGREED.

Deputation on Tree protection

Council received a deputation from Jo Syz in respect of the borough's new Tree and Woods Plan, which was the first that had been drafted since the Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. It had not been updated since 2018 and did not include any significant plans for protecting mature trees. They were a vital community asset against global heating, biodiversity collapse, flooding and pollution. It took thirty years for saplings to reach full maturity but the next five years were crucial for reducing carbon emissions and increasing biodiversity. The new plan stated that the Council intended to protect mature trees from developers and insurers but actual policies were required to do this. Instead of mature trees being preserved, many were being lost. In the deputations view, the recent planning approval for the St Ann's site had allowed developers to destroy approximately half of the mature tree canopy to create parking spaces. Bristol's local plan required developers to work with existing important trees and integrate them into plans. The Council aspired for there to be a 30% tree cover in each ward but tree policy needed to be embedded in key relevant documents for this to happen.

The drier climate had resulted in an increase in subsidence of properties and mature trees were often held responsible by insurers for this. Islington, Camden and Barnet had signed up to a joint mitigation protocol that provided for seasonal monitoring after pollarding to establish if trees were the direct cause of any subsidence. In respect of public trees, residents needed to be shown clear evidence that they were the direct cause of subsidence should they be marked for felling. Where tree losses were unavoidable, there needed to be a comprehensive planting mitigation strategy.

They felt that the Council should revise its tree and woodland plan to provide stronger and legally binding protection for mature trees, with measurable outcomes. There should be transparency in respect of public trees, with comprehensive monitoring. Public trees should only be removed after all other options had been exhausted and they had been established as the direct cause of subsidence. Planning policy also needed to be amended so that developers were required to incorporate existing mature trees into planning applications. In addition, a borough Tree Forum needed to be established as soon as possible to enable residents to contribute to how the Council managed and monitored trees. There also needed to be a carbon and biodiversity mitigation plan to provide for where there was no option but to fell public trees. The existing urban forest in the borough needed to be protected immediately.

Following questions to the deputation from Cllr Carlin and Cllr Worrell, the following information was provided by the deputation party.

- The urgent need to increase the number of trees in the areas of the borough that have less tree canopy. However, this needed to be done together with protecting the existing mature trees numbers in the borough and to not undermine these numbers. The deputation explained that one mature tree equalled 150 trees. Therefore, if you planted 150 trees in one of the areas with less tree cover and cut 4 mature trees in that area, this would not make a difference to the increase in tree cover. The deputation fully supported tree planting throughout Haringey to increase the canopy where there was not enough canopy at the moment but cutting down mature trees did not progress the borough in terms of in terms of carbon sequestration.
- Where there was a subsidence claim, the Council needed to be transparent with the community about the data on that claim because it is the public's tree. If a tree was due to be felled because of subsidence, residents needed to be shown the evidence for this and that this was the only alternative. This would help alleviate the frustration being experienced.
- Important for planners and architects to know that in Haringey they have to work with the existing tree stock in the borough. They also needed to know that this meant working with the existing mature trees.
- Creating a culture where insurance companies know that in Haringey there is a robust monitoring process for subsidence claims and suggested that the Council work collectively with other Councils to help change the law on this.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment, and Transport and Deputy Leader of the Council responded to the deputation as follows:

- The social and health benefits of a greener borough were fully recognised and part of the Labour Manifesto and Borough delivery Plan.
- Commitment to plant 10,000 trees and do understand the need to protect mature trees and enhance the green sky line.
- Haringey Council only ever fells a tree when it has no choice and when the loss is completely unavoidable.
- Rewriting planning documents so careful consideration given to incorporating trees into new developments and having existing trees protected in construction.
- The new planning documents will set the standard for planning and housing documents.
- As part of the new local plan , more robust approach to protecting existing trees and plans will include dedicated guidance document which has a clear expectation to protect mature or veteran trees rather than fell them. Residents can feed into this plan and the deputation were encouraged to participate in the consultation.
- The tree and woodland plan was being revised and the deputation was thanked for their input to this draft plan. This plan was now being redrafted .
- The Council planned to improve policies for native trees planted and all new streets would be tree lined.

- Increased tree and conservation team numbers and improved the budget allocation.
- With regards to subsidence claims, there were about 200 cases against the Council at present. Where it was found that a tree that required removal had not been removed, the Council would be liable for this. There was one such example of a potential cost of £400,000 for one single tree.
- In the relation to the points raised on insurance claims, the Stroud Green councillors led a local campaign to ask insurance companies to take responsibility to protect mature trees under threat.
- In regards to changes the legislation , only MP's could do this and councillors were lobbying them to try to get the law changed and strengthened in line with the demands of the environment bill.
- St Ann's development concerned a quasi-judicial planning process. The Council had worked hard with the developer to get the best possible outcome within the planning framework and the Council would continue to work with the developer to protect these agreements.

Deputation from Haringey Aquatics

The Mayor called on Dave Skinner and Leslie Walker to come forward to the table. Mr Skinner and Ms Walker gave a deputation to the Council meeting on swimming pool provision in the borough, on behalf of Haringey Aquatics. The key points of the deputation are summarised as:

- Tottenham Green Leisure Centre and Marcus Garvey were community hubs. Haringey has one of the lowest levels of swimming pool provision per capita in London, with only two public pools.
- The pool at Tottenham Green was indispensable to Haringey Aquatics as an organisation. Haringey Aquatics has 850 members and provides a pathway through leaning to swim to competitive sport. Its members train exclusively in the two pools in the borough.
- Haringey Aquatics was a not-for-profit organisation that delivered accessible training programmes. The organisation required a long term investment from everyone involved in order to get results. A basic requirement was that pool time was consistently available.
- It was suggested that years of underinvestment and poor management had resulted in extended closure of the pools in recent months and major disruption to their training programmes.
- Haringey Aquatics requested that the Council adopt a radically different approach to managing the swimming pools so that they could return to being the community assets they were meant to be.
- Haringey Aquatics set out that they were shocked by the closure of Tottenham Green Pool and the failure of Fusion Lifestyle to maintain the pools, carry out repairs and provide swimming pool provision. Park Road pool had also suffered from similar instances of poor management recently.

- Haringey Aquatics advised that they had no faith in Fusion to run the borough's leisure centres.
- Haringey should act now to make sure that Tottenham Green was rapidly restored to full operation and were restored to being a thriving community asset.

Cllr Cawley-Harrison commented that changes to the management of the leisure contract were a long term consideration, and questioned what the Council could do in the short term to help leisure centre users. In response, the deputation party acknowledged the progress the Council had made in holding fusion to account and getting Park Road back open. Haringey Aquatics advised that they hoped the Council would be looking to explore every instance where there had been a breach of contract, with a view to terminating that contract. Haringey Aquatics commented that there had been another pool closure this evening after four days of being open and that it was not possible to run an organisation like theirs without a reliable provision of pool space. It was suggested that the Council could bring in some outside expertise to help it deal with Fusion.

Cllr Ovat sought assurances about what support the Council could offer to support Haringey Aquatics in future. The deputation party advised that they could not continue to operate a viable aquatics club with the provision of leisure centres as they were currently managed and that a radical approach was needed to change this.

Cllr Johnson offered to meet with Haringey Aquatics and the other Crouch End Ward Councillors to discuss this issue further. In response, Haringey Aquatics welcome the opportunity to meet with Councillors.

Cllr Rice commented that the subtext of what the deputation party was proposing seemed to be that leisure centre provision should be brought back in-house. Cllr Rice advised that he was sympathetic with this in principle but cautioned that the key issue was round money. Cllr Rice commented that there was a £15m historical debt owed to the Council by Fusion, in addition to recent costly repair bills. In response, Haringey Aquatics raised concerns about what would happen to that £15m if Fusion went bankrupt. It was also commented that an alternative consideration should be what would happen to the value of the leisure centres as assets in ten years' time if they continue to be managed in the way they were.

Cllr Simmons -Safo queried the extent to which Fusion had seemingly over promised and under delivered. Cllr Simmonds Safo raised concerns about the pool being closed in Tottenham Green and the fact that this effectively stripped away service provision for a marginalised community.

Cllr Wallace questioned whether the deputation party would like to see the Council support them with temporary provision in a neighbouring borough. In response, Haringey Aquatics advised that if Park Road went down again then they would have no option to do this as a matter of urgency. Haringey Aquatics had reached out to other swimming squads for support in accessing pool time and that they had been able to book some hours in neighbouring privately-owned swimming pools.

Haringey Aquatics cautioned that travel time was an important consideration for many service users and emphasised the importance of local provision, especially for children who lived close to Tottenham Green and could walk there.

Cllr Ali congratulated Haringey Aquatics on their recent successes and questioned what their ambition was in terms of its future as a swimming club. In response, Haringey aquatics advised that their ambition was for there to be a stable provision of pool space in accessible locations in the borough. As an organisation they needed to be able to depend on availability of pool space. Haringey Aquatics commented that they had in past advocated for provision of a third swimming pool in the borough in Wood Green.

In response to the deputation, the Leader of the Council acknowledged the concerns raised by Haringey Aquatics and agreed that it was unacceptable that 850 members of the society had their ability to train disrupted significantly because of the closure of Tottenham Green Leisure centre and earlier temporary closures of Park Road. The Leader commented that pool users in Haringey deserved better and she offered her apologies to them.

The Leader advised that Tottenham Green pool and Marcus Garvey Fitness Centre would remain closed whilst work was ongoing to rectify the major issue to do with the electricity supply, due to flooding in the basement. Major works were required to the pool, and it was anticipated that it would not be open until June at the earliest. The Leader advised that the authority would be reviewing its leisure provision going forwards to ensure residents got a better standard of service so that closures like this were not repeated in the future. The Leader advised that she would continue to work groups and service users to make sure the monitoring regime was robust.

The Mayor thanked the deputation party for their contribution to the meeting for and coming and speaking to the Council.

43. HARINGEY DEBATE - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP - THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS: HOW CAN THE COUNCIL SUPPORT RESIDENTS?

Cllr Cawley- Harrison – Leader of the Opposition introduced the debate on the cost of living crisis and discussing how the Council can support residents. He further mentioned Ishraq Bhatti from Trustee of Food Bank Aid, who was due to be the external speaker but was unable to attend the meeting on this rearranged date but had tried to attend the previous meeting in November.

Cllr Cawley- Harrison referred to the full Council meeting back in July 2022 when a motion was passed calling for the government to act on the cost of living crisis. Since then, the cost of living crisis had worsened, impacted by the government's economic decision making in the autumn. The administration had been left in the unenviable position of having to decide to raise Council tax to fund strapped services when many residents were already struggling with bills and inflation.

Cllr Cawley- Harrison highlighted the additional action the Council could take to support residents including introducing a voluntary Council Tax Fund for anyone who

wanted to pay more and he hoped this would be considered in the budget to help raise more funds.

Cllr Cawley- Harrison hoped the debate gave the administration some ideas, to take away and implement after this meeting.

A debate followed with the following councillors making contributions.

Cllr Brabazon described the actions taken to support families, using the Household Support Grant to top up free school meals for children whose families did not meet the eligibility criteria. Also providing free activities in schools during the holiday periods so that young people and children have a safe place to go and get a meal. Schools were providing uniform banks, food banks, toiletry banks. There was £3.8 million awarded to the Council by the government for family hubs and there were also separate projects supporting some of the most vulnerable young people in the borough's school with mental health, their well-being and their physical health.

Cllr Emery spoke about: lowering VAT to help the poorest families, continuing the Windfall tax campaign, funding urgent support packages to help those hardest hit, providing vouchers to residents on the lowest incomes as completed in Portsmouth. Cllr Emery said that there were few new ideas from the administration to support families and urged them to consider implementing similar proposals to those implemented by Liberal Democrat Councils.

Cllr Dunstall spoke about how Haringey residents would continue to be disproportionately affected and welcomed the direct action being taken to support residents such as: the Cost of Living handbook, the Haringey Support Fund, the Warm Welcome initiative which was providing publicly accessible spaces for residents facing energy crisis and referred to initiatives such as the Low Income Family Tracker System. Cllr Dunstall highlighted the drive to provide targeted support to families. This was being done by comparing data across Council services, building good working relationships with the voluntary community and faith sector; helping identify families in need and provide support for advice, advocacy, debt, food or immigration.

Cllr Barnes welcomed the opportunity to put forward ideas for how the Council could help residents with the warm welcome spaces. Offering toy banks for children was suggested to be an added initiative. Cllr Barnes referred to the monthly concessionary leisure pass fee which was likely to be unaffordable for many and asked if there was any scope for these concessionary rates to be lowered, even if this was a temporary measure to get people through the next few months. Cllr Barnes also suggested promoting setting up a direct debit or making one off contributions for organisations like Centre Point and Crisis who were operating in Haringey.

Cllr Barnes also urged the Council to move forward more quickly with setting up a library of things. This initiative was included in both party manifestos and creating these libraries, where residents were able to borrow household items rather than be forced to buy them, would also be supportive in the cost of living crisis.

Cllr Worrell, spoke about the critical challenges faced by many people in Stroud Green ward who were struggling living in poverty and highlighted those vulnerable to the

rising cost of living. There were many residents, particularly private renters, living in poorly insulated properties. Cllr Worrell reflected that the cost of living crisis had inflamed London's housing issues and lots of Stroud Green renters had a rent increases at their most recent contract renewal. Cllr Worrell further referred to soaring energy bills, impact on the voluntary sector and paid tribute to local charities like the Holy Trinity Food Bank and Mind in Haringey, for providing vital support to vulnerable residents, even in such challenging conditions.

Cllr da Costa highlighted the increased use of food bank use. Food Bank Aid had described a stark picture of many people's reality in the six month period leading up to November 2022 with a 30% increase in the number of items distributed. This was at the same time as a significant increase in the number of people using their service with donations falling by 35%. The cost of living crisis was affecting those who were less well off in society but also affecting middle class people across the country who are no longer able to help out with this crisis. The Council's commitment to expanding free school meals was welcomed. Cllr da Costa highlighted the need to update the Council's website to include: the extra categories of people who were eligible for free school meals , provision of food vouchers for parents and carers, and be clear that the school uniform grant is available to those eligible for free school meal. The website should also make clear if the uniform grant is available to the additional children that were funded for free school meals, not covered by government grant funding or those only meeting the national criteria. If it was the latter, Cllr da Costa urged Cabinet to consider making funds available to expand the uniform grant to children funded for free school meals not covered by government grant funding.

Cllr Ibrahim spoke about the significant cost increase in essential food items, the broken energy market and record profits for petrol companies with bills increasing the 70% increase in the use of buy now pay later schemes, and the effect of the crisis on young people.

Cllr Mahbub referred to the cost of living booklet, double standards applied by the government, pay increases for bosses at utilities companies, and the Council supporting residents by continuing to scrutinise the government's decisions.

Cllr Chandwani, Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services responded to the debate, referring to the work of the Haringey Support Fund and the Haringey Here to Help programme. The Cabinet Member had faith in these programmes but emphasised that the financial crisis would not be solved by local initiatives alone ; due to the scale of the crisis which was a mix of rising costs of food, stagnant pay hikes and high energy bills. There was a need to support the national struggle because if residents did not get inflationary pay rises, then they would also be impacted financially.

The Cabinet Member noted the Social Security increases coming forward in April, especially the increase in the benefit CAP. However, this was not rectifying the full year benefit freeze in 2015 and the basic rate of benefit was at the lowest real terms for 40 years. The Cabinet Member highlighted that wages were falling by 7%, mortgages were increasing by 5% and 400,000 people were in additional households entering the poverty threshold. In conclusion, the Cabinet Member highlighted the Council tax support being offered in the borough from the government which worked

out to 50pence per week, underlining how out of touch the government was with the crisis.

Cllr Cawley - Harrison closed the debate thanking councillors for their contributions and the Cabinet Member for responding to the debate. Cllr Cawley- Harrison summarised the issues raised in the debate and commented on the 15% Council tax rise in Croydon, and shocking situation that local authorities were in, having to provide food banks, school uniform, health and wellbeing banks, and highlighted the need for proper funding for childcare to support families.

The Mayor thanked Councillors for their participation in the debate.

44. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, IF ANY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NOS. 9 & 10

Given there was 10 minutes until the meeting closed, the Mayor used her universal chair's discretion to end the meeting.

The responses to the Oral questions would be provided in writing after the meeting.

45. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NO. 13

Due to approaching the 10pm deadline for closing the meeting, the motions were not considered and could be put forward to the next ordinary meeting.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date