

## **WRITTEN**

### **1.Cllr da Costa to Cllr Chandwani**

With the complexity of Archway Road's bin collections (with commercial, residential and private companies all having waste collected at different times during the day) fly tipping has become common. Could clearer regulations be made and communicated, including providing signage, to allow residents to understand the rules in operation?

#### **Response**

We are currently reviewing signage for time banded collections to see what is out there and what we should provide moving forwards. The integrated waste contract is currently out for tender, so we believe it would be prudent to wait until next year before committing to new signage as the collection times could possibly change to meet the current needs of businesses and residents.

In the meantime, we can deliver letters to remind residents of the collection times and undertake some Duty of Care checks for businesses to ensure they are complying with their waste responsibilities and collection times.

### **2.Cllr Emery to Cllr Hakata**

Why, in the Archway Gyratory development, is the council proposing to develop two properties for people with disabilities on a traffic island that lacks safe pedestrian crossings, without TfL committing to any changes to the road layout?

#### **Response**

Each application will be considered on its merits and will be assessed in line with current guidance and legislation. The planning application will have to be supported by a Transport Assessment which will need to detail how the site will be accessed. The Transport and Travel Team as part of our review and recommendation will secure the necessary improvements required provide safe access to the site via the appropriate legal planning and highways mechanisms (S.106 contributions and S.278 highways works) with the relevant highways authority.

### **3.Cllr Isilar-Gosling to Cllr Arkell**

Highgate Wood have confirmed they are looking into the possibility of a small number of wedding ceremonies and private events taking place in the wood for a fee, leading to many residents contacting us. With fears over the impact on the wood, especially to the ecology such as the over 450 species of moth known to call it home, could you clarify the council's position on this?

#### **Response**

Highgate Wood is managed by the Corporation of London and therefore the Council has no control over what they choose to do within the wood. However, the Corporation are good stewards of their land when it comes to nature conservation, and officers would fully expect them to have considered the biodiversity impact of any new proposals. This would include selecting areas of the wood where there is little or limited impact on the wood.

#### **4.Cllr Rossetti to Cllr Arkell**

The High Court recently ruled against Lambeth Council, judging that they had broken the law by allowing events to exceed a 28-day 'temporary use of land' limit which allows for events to take place without full planning permission. Meanwhile, Friends of Finsbury Park have calculated that the park is being used for large, festival-style events (including setup and take-down days) for 47 days this year, resulting in large areas being fenced off from the public. In light of the legal decision, does the council accept that the park should not host these large events for over 28 days per year in future?

#### **Response**

The recent Lambeth Council ruling was in relation to one specific decision their planning officers had taken when issuing a certificate of lawful development for their summer events. Lambeth's officers subsequently made a new decision and the events went ahead. Lambeth are appealing the High Court decision and indeed the protestors are appealing Lambeth Council's second decision and therefore the position is far from settled on the specifics of the Lambeth Case. As this case raised the issue of permitted development rights the Council is reviewing its position in relation to its use of permitted development rights. Once this review has concluded the Council will confirm what steps it will take to ensure the event programme can continue its current form.

#### **5.Cllr Connor to Cllr Hakata**

Liberal Democrat councillors have fully backed the council's 'school streets' programme. However, it is now moving to encompass schools which are themselves relatively main roads, leading to concerns that traffic - which will often be totally unrelated to the school - may be displaced onto the smaller residential roads which children walk along to get to school. Will you commit to a full traffic impact assessment before moving ahead with a school streets for Eden Primary School, Muswell Hill School and Our Lady of Muswell Primary School?

#### **Response**

We appreciate your support of the initiative, which has already transformed over 12km of Haringey's streets, bringing cleaner air, safer roads, and healthier journeys to more than 16,000 pupils. These schemes are a vital part of our broader commitment to improving children's health and tackling the climate emergency.

Road danger and toxic air poses a greater risk to our children who are the most vulnerable in our community. That's why our School Street plan set out a decisive and consistent approach across the borough.

At this stage, the council is reviewing the first stage - of potentially two stages – of consultation results and data and, where required, will complete the necessary traffic impact assessment to support any future engagements and statutory consultation.

#### **6.Cllr Barnes to Cllr Arkell**

Residents have been frustrated by the lack of updates on the reopening of Muswell Hill library but are greatly looking forward to when they can use the facilities once again. To further enhance the area, would the council consider converting the land behind the library into a children's play area and community cafe, possibly with start-up spaces?

## **Response**

With renovation works and preparations for reopening Muswell Hill Library now nearing completion, the next phase of delivery will align with the introduction of revised staffing structures and new operating hours across the library service. I hosted a viewing of the refurbished library with ward councillors and the Friends of Muswell Hill library on the 9th July and updated them that in line with our shared commitment to a sustainable and modernised library offer, the library is scheduled to reopen by the end of September 2025.

The council currently has no confirmed plans for the land behind Muswell Hill library, having needed it for site logistics during refurbishment works. Any ideas for future use of this land would need to be considered for viability and funding sources, alongside planning considerations to achieve the best outcome for residents and the borough.

## **7.Cllr Cawley-Harrison to Cllr Gordon**

In 2023 the council completed the restoration of the Hornsey Library Square and Concourse, including the fountain: following which the council engaged the fountain restoration company on a third-party contract to maintain the fountain for an initial 12 months. Since the end of that contract the council has failed to adequately maintain the fountain themselves, with the water now green with algae and scum. It is estimated that the amount of time/tools/materials spent by the council to try and restore the fountain is actually now greater than the costs offered by the professional third-party contractors for them to do the job. Given the fountain is slowly falling into disrepair under the council's own maintenance, will the council now commit to restoring the third-party contract ASAP, in the best interests of everyone?

## **Response**

The council's in-house maintenance team are able to maintain the fountain without the need for the additional cost of a dedicated specialist third party contractor, and the fountain is not falling into disrepair. Since the concerns with the cleanliness of the fountain were raised in June, we have conducted a full clean of the fountain, including draining the fountain completely, cleaning the algae from the bottom of the fountain, cleaning the statue and the rear wall, and re-filling the fountain. We have a daily regime of litter picking. The Council's water quality contractor conducts sampling on a quarterly basis, and we adjust the dosing of the water accordingly. The Council invested significantly to renovate the square and restore the fountain, and we remain committed to its ongoing care as part of the Listing of Hornsey Library, and to doing so in a financially sustainable way.

## **8.Cllr Mason to Cllr Ovat**

Over 250,000 in Haringey are provided with support from Food Banks with weekly access to food valued at approximately £35 per week. Most Food Banks offer advice and access to support services and note the environmental impact is significant due to reduction in food waste. How are you planning to work with Food Banks to ensure they are supported to continue their work with the many disabled and vulnerable people they are assisting?

## **Response**

The Council recognises that access to healthy food is essential to survival and well-being, and we aim to ensure that all residents in the borough have acceptable food options.

We are actively working and collaborating across departments in the council to tackle food poverty; recent activities include engagement with local community food projects, and exploring all opportunities to support initiatives in whatever ways we can – including doing more to assist food banks to identify premises to operate from that are safe, secure, sanitary, and dry.

### **9.Cllr Collett to Cllr Hakata**

Statistics clearly indicate that heatwaves are becoming increasingly common. Last June has been recorded as the hottest on record, with July and August usually our hottest months. There is genuine concern for how the most vulnerable in our society, the elderly, those with health issues, and the disabled will be able to cope with increased heat. The identification of, and prioritisation of those groups is critical to climate change mitigation such as Cooling centres, providing designated spaces for people to cool down and offering support during heatwaves is essential. The continued planting of trees and expansion of our green spaces is to be applauded. Please can you please give us a breakdown of the additional climate change mitigations that you are planning for our urban landscape? In particular, increasing the number of water fountains, open and moving water sources, adding to evaporation cooling, shaded areas, both temporary and permanent, and public education campaigns.

### **Response**

To reduce the impacts of heatwaves on our residents and build future resilience, we must focus both on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Heatwaves are rated 'Red', or a 'very high risk' in our council's risk register, meaning that each year as a borough we must review the actions/controls in place, and ensure they are appropriate and sufficient.

Haringey's published Climate Change Action Plan outlines key actions the council is taking to mitigate climate change and reach net zero targets.

We are currently developing Haringey's Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Action Plan, which aims to ensure the borough is prepared to adapt and be resilient to a changing climate both now and in the future. This Action Plan has been developed with local residents and small & medium enterprises through London Climate Action Week and Health & Wellbeing strategy on the practical actions that can be taken to reduce overheating risk for our residents. This engagement, alongside a workshop with cabinet members, have helped to shape the plan. This plan is due to go to cabinet later this year and has been informed by our Heatwaves Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA: Focus on heatwaves), local surface water management/flooding policy and other related policy/strategies.

The projects/actions within the plan that we are continuing to deliver to adapt to the challenges of a changing climate:

Public education campaigns and heat-health alerting, aimed at those who are most vulnerable to overheating in the borough. Over the past few years, we have improved our public communications campaigns including leaflets/posters on practical tips to stay safe in the heat and updated our public-facing webpage: Hot weather | Haringey Council. Ensuring advice is up to date and we increase our outreach to our most vulnerable residents. We are trialling text message alerts through primary care, linking to relevant advice and guidance.

Emergency planning, communications and public health also continue to cascade heat-health alerts to key stakeholders and services, providing practical advice and guidance on how to support residents in hot weather.

The council also has governance in place to support severe weather response; severe weather preparedness group, Haringey resilience forum and Haringey resilience and emergency planning board.

We continue to expand the deployment of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs) and other blue infrastructure to aid evaporation cooling to reduce the impact of flooding and improve air quality (secondary impacts of heatwaves).

Continuation of our successful and community outreach tree planting programme to create shade and cooling.

Development of new planning policies that require overheating analysis on new homes and ensure they can self-cool without the need for air conditioning. Folding this approach into our regeneration schemes.

Continuing to review and increase the boroughs "Cool Spaces" for the community to use during a heatwave.

Our Council house building programme will continue to include climate adaption for overheating, and localised water management.

The Council has budgeted £150k (Via Carbon Offsetting Fund) towards retrofitting of cooling adaption measures in the most at-risk community used buildings. Ensuring that they can continue to operate during heatwaves.

The Council will continue to deploy Solar Panels on our schools, supporting local energy generation, but also generate shade that cool buildings down.

We will also continue to identify opportunities for funding for additional interventions to public infrastructure i.e. water fountains, interventions to make our council housing/buildings more resilient.

#### **10.Cllr Mark Blake to Cllr Ovat**

Following the government's prison early release schemes, please can you advise how many individuals have been released and returned to Haringey as a result of the schemes, outlining if the individuals have been supported/ supervised by the Probation Service, including information on support for housing?

#### **Response**

As part of the early discussions' on both the early release measures local discussions have been taking place for a number of months and plans have been put in place to support custody to community transition. These include a pre-release risk assessment, probation support and risk management, and release planning to

ensure benefits, scripting and other essential components have been established prior to release.

Release accommodation eligibility assessments for Home Detention Curfew (HDC) are carried out as part of the normal pre-release assessment processes and only prisoners who can provide a HDC release address are considered for the scheme.

Currently the Probation Service are not able to share the exact details about Haringey specific releases and are awaiting Ministry of Justice official data. However, the predicted numbers are relatively small (approx. 40) across London.