

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual meeting held at 6.30 pm on 14 January 2021

Present:

Councillor Will Harmer (Chairman)
Councillor Kieran Terry (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Mark Brock, Ian Dunn, Colin Hitchins,
Samaris Huntington-Thresher, Melanie Stevens,
Harry Stranger and Michael Tickner

Also Present:

Councillor Nicholas Bennett

79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

No apologies for absence were received.

80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

81 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th of November 2020, were agreed as a correct record.

82 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN OR THE COMMITTEE

No questions were received for the Chairman or the Committee.

83 QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

There had been six written questions submitted by members of the public.

The Committee had been notified regarding these, and the questions (with answers) are attached as an appendix to the minutes.

The responses would be sent to the questioners on the day following the meeting .

84 PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE

There was no update from the Portfolio Holder on this occasion.

85 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF REPORTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

a CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

FSD20096

Members were presented with the Capital Programme Monitoring report for the second quarter of 2020/21.

The Committee noted that on 18th November 2020, the Leader had received a report summarising the position regarding capital expenditure and receipts following the 2nd quarter of 2020/21 and had agreed a revised Capital Programme for the four-year period 2020/21 to 2023/24. The report presented to the Committee highlighted the changes agreed by the Leader.

A Member drew attention to the Woodland Improvement Project for which a post completion review update was due, but was also mentioned in the same report last year. The Director for Environment and Public Protection said he would look into the matter and report back to Members.

The Vice Chairman enquired if the TfL funding streams mentioned in the report had to be spent by March. The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking responded that the commitment to spend the money needed to be in place, but the money did not necessarily have to be used by that date.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The Portfolio Holder notes and acknowledges the changes agreed by the Leader on 18th November 2020.**
- 2) The Director for Environment and Community Services would report back to the Committee concerning the issues raised with respect to the Woodland Improvement Project.**

86 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS

a RINEY CONTRACT PERFORMANCE UPDATE REPORT

ES20063

Members were presented with the Riney Contract Performance Report which provided an update regarding the performance of the Council's Highways Contractor during the previous 12 months.

Chris Moore (Managing Director) and Luke McFarlane (Contracts Director) attended to represent Riney.

The Assistant Director for Highways informed Members that the contract had been awarded in July 2018 for major and minor works. The Committee had previously scrutinised Riney's performance in November 2019.

It was noted that all planned works, including the capital programme, street lighting improvements and traffic schemes, were suspended during the initial Covid-19 lockdown period, and did not recommence until early September. This caused a delay in the completion of certain projects.

Although Riney attended to emergencies and urgent highway repairs during the Pandemic, the size and volume of works completed were limited due to social distancing restrictions.

Riney had now completed the capital programme and continued to make good progress with other traffic improvement projects as part of the annual LIP programme.

A Member raised the issue that outside of Biggin Hill Airport, there were 9 lights on the main road that had been in a state of dis-repair for 9 months. She asked that issues not be closed on FIXMYSTREET until they were definitely fixed and closed. Riney promised to look into the matter and repair the broken lights. Riney explained how they undertook regular nightly inspections of street lights to see what needed to be repaired, and they would endeavour to repair lights on the night of the inspection if possible.

The Assistant Director for Highways stated that every lamp column was inspected monthly and this included both main roads and cul de sacs. The Member responded that this should mean that lamps were not left in dis-repair for months.

An explanation was provided by Riney concerning how the waste from road maintenance was segregated and re-cycled so that it could be re-used within the industry.

The Chairman asked for more information regarding warm and cold tarmac, and Riney provided an update concerning this. The Chairman asked if warm tarmac would be required to be replaced more frequently. The Chairman asked what Riney was looking to do in terms of sustainability and in providing a clean and green borough.

Riney responded that there was an additive mixed with the warm tarmac which would make it just as effective as cold tarmac. In any case, they would be responsible for any maintenance that was required subsequently. Riney was seeking to reduce their carbon footprint by modifying their vehicle fleet and using electric power for their small vans. They were also seeking to use hydrogen power for their larger vehicles in the future when the market was ready.

14 January 2021

The Chairman introduced Cllr Nicholas Bennett who wanted to address Riney concerning traffic management issues and delayed repairs in the West Wickham constituency. Cllr Bennett asked a question with respect to Pickhurst Lane, where there had been flooding that had taken four weeks to resolve. He asked why this had taken so long, and if the fault was with LBB, Riney or Thames Water. Riney responded and said that they did attend the incident when it was first reported, and that it appeared that the matter had been resolved. It subsequently became apparent that the pipe was not clear of whatever was causing a blockage. Riney said that because it was a 'traffic sensitive area' they had to apply for a permit from LBB before they could commence work. This was noted as the main reason for the delay in resolving the issue, along with some areas of communication which could have been better.

The Chairman asked what had been learnt from this, and how could such a situation be avoided in the future. He asked the Assistant Director for Highways why it had taken so long to issue the traffic management order. He responded that in his view, the breakdown in communication had been between Riney and their contractor Flowline. Work was ongoing to make sure that communication channels between all three parties were as open and effective as possible. He said that when a permit was applied for, the Street Works Team had to make sure that no other utility work was being planned for that area. He stated that the Street Works Team prioritised Riney's work.

Cllr Bennett commented that in his view this was making a 'mountain out of a mole hill' and wondered why the process was so cumbersome. The Assistant Director for Highways responded and explained that if there was a possible gas leak, then obviously there would be an emergency situation that was possibly threatening to life and so would require an emergency response. In this case such an emergency response was not required, and in addition to this, the source of the blockage had been hard to locate.

Members were pleased to note that a new data system had been put in place that mapped out drains, pipes and gulleys, and also contained a record of where blockages had occurred. It was anticipated that this new data set would help to resolve future issues like this more quickly.

An update was provided on KPIs and how these had been affected by Covid and the subsequent lockdown. It was noted that in some respects performance had been enhanced by lockdown, and this was attributed to the fact that there was less traffic on the roads which made it easier to travel and undertake repairs. Also a new software system had been developed which had made it easier for LBB and Riney to monitor works that were due to be undertaken.

A Member asked if Riney published its data in respect of targets for carbon reduction, as this would be helpful when moving into 'Scope 3'. Riney said that they would provide data for dissemination regarding this via the Assistant Director for Highways.

A discussion took place regarding the criteria for determining which roads would be resurfaced during a given timeframe. Members were informed that surveys were undertaken every two years. As the next tranche of funding was expected in 2023, surveys were commencing now. In the meantime, any issues that may make roads unsafe, would be dealt with immediately.

Members noted that the Council had an advanced weather forecasting system that operated 24/7. This enabled the Council to take appropriate action if snow or black ice was expected.

The Chairman was generally pleased with the way that Riney was managing the contract, but he pointed out that the KPI for maintaining street lighting was 100%. Currently Riney were performing at 99% and he asked what steps could be taken to achieve 100% of the target. Riney responded that they were confident of hitting the three-day target consistently. There was sometimes an issue with hitting the eight-day target, as some of LBB's assets were either very old or obsolete. When more of the old assets were replaced, compliance with this target would improve.

Members noted that the vacancy for a Contracts Manager had been backfilled and that Riney were recruiting for a new Contracts Manager. There had been no disruption to service.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from Riney for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The Committee notes the contents of the report and also notes the on-going work being undertaken to ensure compliance with the terms of the contract.**
- 2) Riney would provide data to the Assistant Director for Highways with respect to targets for carbon reduction, this information would then be disseminated to Members**

**b ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO
DRAFT BUDGET 2021/22**

FSD21004

Members were presented with a report that outlined the draft Environment and Community Services budget for 2021/22. The Head of Finance for ECS attended the meeting to present the report and answer questions.

The Committee was requested to scrutinise the draft budget for the Portfolio, so that comments could be fed back to the next meeting of the Executive

before the Executive made recommendations to Full Council regarding the levels of Council Tax for 2021/22.

A Member asked for more information regarding the review of the £250k running costs. The Head of Finance clarified that this was in respect of various budgets across the department that were no longer required and therefore did not affect service delivery.

The Vice Chairman referred to the matter of paper re-cycling and the fact that there was 426 tons of paper that could not be recycled. He asked for more background information concerning this and asked if residents could be better informed regarding the need to keep paper dry.

The Strategic Manager for Waste Services explained how the moisture tests for paper and card were undertaken at the recycling plants. Any paper that had a moisture content of above 18% would need to be returned and then disposed of. The department was trying to get the message out to the public concerning the need to try and keep paper dry; one of the means that they were undertaking to achieve this was via 'Environment Matters'.

A Member suggested that as paper and card re-cycling was increasing, then it may be a good idea to provide bigger bins for storage. This would avoid waste being burnt rather than re-cycled. The Strategic Manager for Waste Services responded that this was a matter that LBB was continuing to examine.

A Member asked if conversations were taking place with the Planning Department to ensure that with any new builds granted planning permission--proper storage areas would be provided.

A Member enquired about unused buildings (like the Pavilion in Biggin Hill) and asked if there were plans to use these buildings so that they could start to generate an income.

The Director for Environment and Public Protection responded that officers from Environment and Community Services and Renewal, Regeneration and Housing, were working collaboratively to develop plans in this regard, and this would be a significant piece of work. It was not the best of times for businesses to start up at the moment (because of the Covid Pandemic), but it was important that buildings that were either not being used, or under used, should be brought back into use. He hoped that with input from the Environment Department, working with officers from the Renewal and Regeneration Department, that significant inroads would be made in the coming months.

The Member hoped that these plans would include Youth Centres. The Director responded that all buildings and services were being looked at as part of the Council's Accommodation and Civic Centre Strategy. Members would be kept informed.

The Vice Chairman enquired how parking income had been affected over the Christmas period, and if any new TfL funding was available. The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking responded that parking income over the Christmas period was a lot lower than usual, and it was expected similarly that overall parking income for the year would also be adversely affected. The Vice Chairman asked if the Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking could send him the breakdown of the parking figures. The Assistant Director said that if the Vice Chairman could email him detailing the information required, and in what format, then he would do his best to provide him with the data and in the required format.

It was noted that TfL funding expired at the end of March 2021. There had been a partial re-instatement of LIP funding. The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking hoped that by February, notification would be provided of the following year's funding, so that LBB could plan properly. Normally, funding was provided in three yearly blocks.

RESOLVED that:

1- The report be noted.

2- The draft budget for the Environment and Community Services Portfolio be agreed.

3- The Vice Chairman would email the Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking, and provide details of the parking data he required, and the preferred format for the data to be provided in.

c CONTRACTS REGISTER

ES20059

The report on the Contracts Register was presented by the ECS Senior Performance Officer.

The contracts data being presented was based on an extract from the Contracts Register Database as at 28 October 2020, and the Committee was required to comment on the status of the contracts.

It was noted that three contracts had been rag rated as red risks:

- I. Environmental Services Lot 2: Waste Management and management of waste sites.
- II. Highway Maintenance.
- III. Environmental Services Lot 1: Disposal of residual waste

RESOLVED that the Contracts Register Report be noted.

d ECS PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW UPDATE

The first update was with respect to 'ECS 32' which was online self-service transactions to challenge PCNs. This was projected to be approximately 1.7% below target. It was noted that the Parking Team now had a quote for a QR code which could be put on stationary. This would make it easier for the public to make payments on their mobile phones. An update of the impact of QR code usage would be brought to a future committee meeting.

The next update was with respect to 'ECS 34' which was the pay and display machines which was currently approximately 1% off target. Members were briefed that the 12 pay and display machines in Bromley Town Centre were continually being broken into. Members noted that APCOA were responsible for any losses. They were now ensuring that the parking machines contained less than £200 in them at any given time and the machines in the town centre were being emptied every evening.

Members heard that the machines were being drilled into, which then meant that the machines were out of order until a trained operative from APCOA came to repair them. APCOA had tried to strengthen the machines and extra bolts had been added to the parking machines but to no avail. The police had been informed of every machine that had been broken into. A Member enquired if the CCTV Team was being asked to monitor the machines that were being broken into. The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking stated that it may be the case that these machines were not in the view of the CCTV cameras, but he would investigate this further to see if any cameras could be re-deployed or re-angled.

The Chairman drew attention to 'ECS15' which was the arboricultural contract, remarking that 'the numbers over the last few months were dire'. He wondered what was driving this and what was the cause of the trends going the wrong way. He felt that the green indicator was rather ambitious. The Assistant Director for Environment responded that regular meetings were taking place with the contractors to closely monitor the contract and the associated targets. He explained that there was some backlog of work that still needed dealing with and in some cases specialised equipment was required--they were also certain difficulties because of the Covid pandemic. The contractors were looking to commission a third-party contractor to bring the work back in line within the target indicators and the contractors themselves were looking to employ new specialist staff.

A Member remarked that the public perception was that the contract was poor and that the contractors were underperforming. He could not understand why Covid would hinder outdoor work and expressed the view that there was probably not much high-level work to deal with either. In his view it was primarily the case that the contractors were not performing adequately.

The Chairman commented that he would be interested to see the contract performance figures going forward and expressed the view that the Committee needed to see an improvement. This was a contract that had been struggling for a while. The Assistant Director for Environment promised to investigate this matter in more detail; he said that he needed to acquire a more detailed understanding of the issues, so he would go away and investigate the issues and problems in more detail and would update the Chairman and the Portfolio Holder as soon as he had done this.

The Vice Chairman expressed concern about trees not being planted and he hoped that the tree planting process could be completed within the relevant time scale and planting season. He returned to the problem of the car parking machines not working, highlighting the fact that this was a persistent problem and that quick fixes were resulting in lost income. He wondered how bad machines had to get before they would be replaced and commented that this was an issue that had been raised last year.

The Vice Chairman asked if it was APCOA's responsibility under the contract to replace faulty machines. The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking responded that if a machine was 'beyond repair' then indeed that was the case. However, APCOA would be reluctant to replace machines with new ones if at all possible, because eventually the new machines would be made redundant. There was also the issue of what was the precise definition of a machine that was 'beyond repair'.

The Vice Chairman asked if the department could keep a log of machines breaking down so that it could have this sort of information on a spreadsheet which would be useful. The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking responded that as far as he was aware, some work on this was already being undertaken on behalf of the parking enforcement officer---he would go away and find out how far this work had progressed.

A Member suggested that a mapping exercise be conducted with the police so that proactive steps could be taken to catch the culprits. The Chairman promised to re-raise the matter with the police.

The Committee noted that work was now being undertaken on the revised draft Portfolio Plan for 2021/22, and this would be presented to the PDS Committee in March 2021.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The Performance Overview update be noted.**
- 2. An update of the impact of QR code usage would be brought to a future committee meeting.**
- 3. The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking investigate further with the CCTV Team to see if any cameras could be re-deployed**

or re-angled so that monitoring could take place of the parking machines in Bromley Town Centre that were being broken into.

- 4. The Assistant Director for Environment investigate further with respect to the issues being encountered by the arboricultural contractor, and report back on these issues to the Chairman and the Portfolio Holder.**
- 5. The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking find out how much progress had been made regarding the production of an excel database detailing incidents related to faulty parking machines.**
- 6. The Chairman re-raise the matter of the robbery of money from the parking machines in Bromley Town Centre with the police.**

e RISK REGISTER UPDATE REPORT

ES20058

The Senior Performance Officer attended to present the Risk Register report and answer any questions.

Members noted and reviewed the ECS Risk Register.

RESOLVED that the Risk Register update report is noted.

87 MATTERS ARISING AND WORK PROGRAMME

CSD 21013

The Chairman notified Members that he had asked officers to invite representatives from Thames Water to attend the Committee. He wanted this to be a friendly discussion which was intended to be beneficial to all concerned. Members agreed that an invite to Thames Water should be sent out. A Member added that she had recently had a meeting regarding the Biggin Hill Ward where Gareth Bacon MP had attended. Mr Bacon had agreed to speak to senior executives at Thames Water with respect to problems being encountered in the Biggin Hill Ward.

A discussion took place regarding the update report concerning the results of the consultation on the Open Space Strategy. It was the case that this report would be re-scheduled to June instead of March.

A Member asked why the report concerning the review of parking services had been moved to March. The Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking explained that some discussion had taken place concerning this, and it had been thought that some of the matters that were previously going into the report could just be dealt with by the service as routine items. It was also the

case that some matters could be dealt with under delegated authority. This being the case, it was not clear at this stage if a report would be required.

RESOLVED that

- 1) Thames Water be invited to attend a future meeting.**
- 2) The report on the consultation of the draft open spaces strategy be presented in June instead of March.**
- 3) Consideration be given as to whether or not a report concerning the review of parking services was required.**
- 1) Consideration be given as to when future items for consideration on the work programme could be scheduled in to future meetings.**

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ECS PDS-14th January 2021—Written Questions from the Public

1-Question from Chloe Jane Ross:

The Albemarle Cycle Scheme has been controversial. Some residents received notification from the Council, how many letters were sent out and on what roads, and was Harris Beckenham Green consulted/advised

Answer to Question 1:

Ahead of the implementation of the new temporary cycle route in Albemarle Road, Bromley distributed approximately 1300 letters to properties on the following roads –

- Albemarle Road
- Westgate Road
- Downs Bridge Road
- Hazlehurst
- Meadway
- The Mead

Some residents of Bromley Road also received letters where the implementation of the cycle lane resulted in parking being removed from outside of their properties.

Harris Beckenham Green Primary School was inadvertently not consulted ahead of the changes being implemented.

2-Question from Richard Honess:

Dr Bike is a fantastic scheme to ensure that residents can keep their bicycles in good condition and encourage cycling. I notice that the council has regular Dr Bike sessions in Norman Park which is great, however given the size of the Borough and the difficulty of travelling with a bike that needs servicing it is not always possible to get to Norman Park (e.g. I myself live in the Cray Valley and so an event in, say, St Mary Cray Recreation Ground or similar would be better for me and other local residents).

Therefore, could the Portfolio Holder make a commitment to hold Dr Bike sessions in other locations in the Borough?

Answer to Question 2:

In order to run a Dr Bike session the Road Safety team require a great deal of equipment, which is currently stored at Norman Park, hence the sessions being delivered from there.

The team plan to investigate the possibility of rotating the location of Dr Bike sessions in the future. However, this would require the purchase of additional, lightweight equipment and transport for it. This is not something we are likely to consider doing until the Corona Virus pandemic is behind us but is certainly a possibility for the future.

3-Question from Alisa Igoe:

Open Spaces Strategy 2021 – 2031, Page 36, "Communicating the Strategy" - "The Council values its communities, partners, residents and stakeholders and will engage them in reviewing this strategy and consult them on open space management plans and major developments within local open spaces."

As of 30th December, Bromley issued one website press release on the public consultation 12 November, one tweet 13 November, apparently no mention on its Facebook page in last two months, nor in the Winter 2020 "Environment Matters" newsletter. Does the Portfolio Holder consider this consultation has been adequately advertised to residents who are not members of Friends' Groups/Forums?

Answer to Question 3:

News about the consultation was also distributed in the Council's email newsletter, ('Update'), prior to Christmas and this method has proved a highly effective way of sharing important information with residents. You can visit www.bromley.gov.uk/Update to subscribe. On 6th January in a similar approach to other consultations, the Council also tweeted a reminder that consultation was closing and therefore more has been done than suggested to get the message to residents who are not members of Friends of Parks groups. We have a very good response to consultation (over 850 responses) but it was always recognised that many more responses would be received from Friends of Parks members and the representative groups and this is not a bad thing. As

well as examining all the comments received, we are looking to work with Friends of Parks groups to help recruit more members and spread the positive message about our parks to all residents, which are well used, especially now, and valued by all.

4-Question from Richard Gibbons:

Would the Portfolio Holder provide details of and the number of reports by ward of?

- (a) overflowing litter bins;
- (b) overflowing recycling bins and dumped rubbish at recycling sites; and
- (c) fly tipping received by the Council via FixMyStreet and others between Wednesday 23 December 2020 and Wednesday 6 January 2021?

Answer to Question 4:

A. 80 reports of litter bins overflowing.

B. We do not record this specific data. However, we can confirm that there were 9 occurrences of overflowing recycling bins/banks.

C. 192 reports of dumped rubbish

Below is the breakdown by Wards:

Litter bin reports

Wards Number

BICKLEY 2

BIGGIN HILL 1

BROMLEY COMMON & KESTON 14

BROMLEY TOWN 2

CHELSEFIELD & PRATTS BOTTOM 3

CHISLEHURST 6

CLOCK HOUSE 4

<u>COPERS COPE</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>CRAY VALLEY EAST</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>CRAY VALLEY WEST</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>CRYSTAL PALACE</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>DARWIN</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>HAYES & CONEY HALL</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>KELSEY & EDEN PARK</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>ORPINGTON</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>PENGE & CATOR</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>PETTS WOOD & KNOLL</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>SHORTLANDS</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>WEST WICKHAM</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>80</u>

N.B. There were no records of overflowing litter bins in: Plaistow & Sundridge, Mottingham and Chislehurst North and Farnborough and Crofton

The nine occurrences of overflowing recycling bins/banks/wards:

<u>MITRE CLOSE</u>	<u>BROMLEY TOWN</u>
<u>BIRCHINGTON CLOSE</u>	<u>ORPINGTON</u>
<u>CROYDON ROAD</u>	<u>CRYSTAL PALACE</u>
<u>THE MEADWAY</u>	<u>CHELSEFIELD &</u>
<u>PRATTS BOTTOM</u>	
<u>OASTHOUSE WAY</u>	<u>CRAY VALLEY EAST</u>
<u>MAIN ROAD</u>	<u>BIGGIN HILL</u>
<u>HARVINGTON SPORTS GROUND</u>	<u>KELSEY & EDEN PARK</u>

PINEWOOD DRIVE CHELSFIELD &

PRATTS BOTTOM

RECTORY ROAD (Waitrose car park) COPERS COPE

Dumped rubbish reports:

Wards Number

BICKLEY 2

BIGGIN HILL 3

BROMLEY COMMON & KESTON 3

BROMLEY TOWN 11

CHELSFIELD & PRATTS BOTTOM 13

CHISLEHURST 7

CLOCK HOUSE 12

COPERS COPE 7

CRAY VALLEY EAST 16

CRAY VALLEY WEST 18

CRYSTAL PALACE 12

DARWIN 8

FARNBOROUGH & CROFTON 7

HAYES & CONEY HALL 8

KELSEY & EDEN PARK 7

MOTTINGHAM & CHISLEHURST NORTH 4

ORPINGTON 8

PENGE & CATOR 28

PETTS WOOD & KNOLL 1

PLAISTOW & SUNDRIDGE 11

SHORTLANDS 3

WEST WICKHAM 3

Grand Total 192

5-Question from Richard Gibbons:

Would the Portfolio Holder confirm (a) how many households received his Update newsletter issued 23 December; (b) why the newsletter contents were not posted on the Council's website and social media; and (c) if he would consult residents on how the Council may improve the effectiveness of its communications?

Ref. LBB 'Update' Christmas 2020 Newsletter

<https://bromley.gov.uk/3YM6-186VR-97E7BC324372A4EF2VJFXJ4DD7FC33F890DA42/cr.aspx>

Answer to Question 5:

Just over 70,000 households received the Update newsletter. It is the intention that the newsletter is published on the website and this is something we are looking at, but most of the messages are already on the website in one form or other with topics covered in my introduction and mostly also covered in 'Environment Matters' which had been distributed door to door in November. Whilst consultation about improving the effectiveness of communications is not within the Environment Portfolio, as a guiding principle, the Council does receive feedback about its communications and is always happy to consider feedback from residents, which is welcome.

6-Question from Mandy James:

TfL released the London Digital Speed Map, showing LBB are trailing behind on implementation of 20mph roads. What is LBBs plan to meet

government guidelines of implementing 20mph limits on LBB roads, which is proven to reduce collisions, fatalities and improve air quality?

Answer to Question 6

With regard to 20mph speed limits and zones, the Council does not believe that a blanket approach is the most effective means of improving road safety. Too often such schemes do nothing to change the characteristics of the street and lead to only quite insignificant reductions in speed and the cost of a Borough-wide approach would also mean that resources would be diverted from schemes that tackle actual hot spots and priority areas that require more significant engineering measures. There is also a concern that a Borough-wide approach could lead to an element of driver fatigue with the result that the key areas for driver attention are no longer prominent.

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