

# ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 12 June 2024

## Present:

Councillor Adam Jude Grant (Chairman)  
Councillor Felicity Bainbridge (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Kathy Bance MBE, Mike Botting,  
Simon Fawthrop, Alisa Igoe, Keith Onslow,  
Alison Stammers, Harry Stranger and Julie Ireland

## Also Present:

Eythan Soysa, BYC  
Councillors Nicholas Bennett J.P., Will Rowlands and  
Gemma Turrell.

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Chloe Jane Ross and Councillor Julie Ireland attended as substitute.

### 2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024

It was noted that there was a mis-spelling with respect to the minute regarding Chislehurst War Memorial.

#### Post Meeting Note:

*This was corrected on 17<sup>th</sup> June.*

A Member referred to a response to a question from a member of the public, where the response that was provided was that the member of the public was referred to an earlier report. He asked if this practice could be avoided and a fuller response be supplied to questioners. He suggested that what could also be considered was a copy and paste of relevant text, or a link to the appropriate report. The Chairman said that he saw no reason why this could not be done.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be agreed as a correct record.**

### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Alison Stammers declared an interest as a founder member and Secretary of the Friends of Chislehurst Recreation Ground.

Councillor Simon Fawthrop declared an interest as a driver of an electric vehicle.

#### **4 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No oral questions from the public were received.

#### **5 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Four oral questions from Councillors were received. The questions and responses are appended to the minutes.

#### **6 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS**

Three written questions were received from members of the public.

The questions and responses are appended to the minutes.

#### **7 MATTERS ARISING AND WORK PROGRAMME**

##### **CSD24059**

It was noted that the oldest pothole recorded was with respect to 96 Elmers End Road, which had been outstanding for 175 days. This was because of issues relating to traffic management which had not yet been resolved. A Member requested that there should be a follow up report with respect to performance improvements made by Riney presented to the September committee. The Director of Environment and Public Protection responded that there was a report going to the September committee concerning future options for highway maintenance contracts and that this information could be incorporated into the report and any concerns could be discussed then. The report would consider re-tendering options. The Director commented that the Council was negotiating a way forward with Riney and that marginal improvements had been achieved.

A Member drew attention to works that needed to be completed by Riney a second time and asked how much this was costing the Council. The Director responded that any costs would be borne by the contractor.

A Member pointed out that during the previous year, weekly updates with respect to works undertaken by Riney was passed on to residents which was very helpful. He asked if this information could be reinstated. The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety responded in the affirmative and said that he would ensure this was done. It was noted that the performance update from Riney was scheduled for the November meeting and the Portfolio Holder asked if this performance update report could be moved to September instead. The Director responded that the work

programme could be adjusted accordingly. It was noted that the Council kept records of works that had to be undertaken a second time by Riney and Members were informed that the target was for 90% of works to be completed on time.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the Annual Performance Report from Riney be brought forward from November to September.**

## **8 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

A Member asked if an update could be provided concerning the cost of the repair work required for Kelsey Park Bridge, along with an approximate time scale for the completion of works. The Assistant Director for Environment (Carbon Management and Greenspace) responded that the Council was now re-engaging the market with a live new tender process. This would be completed at the end of the first week in July and then a contractor appointed over the summer under delegated authority. There were currently no changes to the budget, but this would be subject to review when the new tenders were returned.

A Member expressed concerns with respect to the timescale for the presentation of the Depot Infrastructure Capital Works update report. She was concerned that insufficient time would be provided for consultation with councillors and local residents. The Environment Portfolio Holder confirmed that it would not be possible for the Waldo Road site to be customer facing when the required works were being undertaken. Therefore during the period of the works it would cease to be a public facing site and residents would have to use Churchfields in Beckenham if they wanted to deposit waste materials. The Member suggested that a booking system be implemented at Churchfields during this period. The Assistant Director for Environment (Waste, Street Cleansing and Enforcement) clarified that the tender award would be made in September but it would be early 2025 before any works were initiated. A Member suggested that during the period of the maintenance work at Waldo Road, the Civic Centre Car Park could be used as a location where the public could deposit waste on a temporary basis. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that all options would be considered.

It was noted that an air quality report would come to the September meeting and that the initial draft was with the GLA for ratification.

**RESOLVED that the update from the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted.**

## **9 UPDATE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY**

The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety informed Members that the next meeting of the London Road Safety Council would not take place in Bromley after all, but would be taking place in the City of

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London. It was further noted that the meeting of the Public Transport Liaison Group had been postponed and it was hoped that the meeting would take place instead either in September or October.

A Member thanked Elaine Beadle for organising the ‘Driven by Consequences’ presentations. She requested that in these presentations, the word ‘accident’ be replaced by ‘collision’ or ‘crash’ instead.

A Member raised the matter of the increase in resident parking permit charges. It was clarified that the price increases had come into force since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. This had been reported originally to the ECS PDS Committee in November 2022.

**RESOLVED that the update from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety be noted.**

**10 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF REPORTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY**

**a ECS PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW**

**ES20386**

A Member expressed concern that there had been no significant decrease in the number of KSIs. She asked if she could have a meeting with the Assistant Director for Traffic and Parking and this was agreed. A Member expressed disappointment that the data provided only went as far as February.

A Member expressed the view that the Council should not keep saying that ‘we are doing well’ when people were being killed and seriously injured. She asked if a report could be provided regarding policy changes that the Council could lobby the Government for to reduce KSIs. The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety explained that funding was finite. He explained that the Council had to bid to TfL for money to undertake works. He explained that the Council had not received any money from TfL to deal with the major road network since 2018, and therefore he had to redirect other Council funds to deal with pot-holes. The Member reiterated her request for a report on policy changes that the Council could lobby the government for to reduce KSIs and the Chairman said that this could be looked into. It was also noted that bids to TfL for funding had to be properly researched and the Council had to follow TfL funding guidelines. The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety explained that the first thing to consider was whether or not there was a possible engineering solution, sometimes there was not. If there was, then the Council would have to apply to TfL for the money to undertake a survey. After this, engineers would draw up plans. The total project time for a pedestrian crossing could be three years.

**RESOLVED that the ECS Performance Overview report be noted and that the Portfolio Holders be recommended to endorse the outcomes, aims and performance measures as outlined in the report.**

**b ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PORTFOLIO PLAN**

**ES20390**

A Member asked if schools had recycling facilities. The Head of Environmental Strategy, Technical Support and Commissioning responded that some schools had paper collections, but in general this was not taking place as schools were classed as commercial entities. The Member expressed some concern at this, as he felt it would be beneficial to encourage young people to be responsible citizens. It was noted that the Council was in talks with Veolia in the hope that this practice could be implemented in the future. It was noted that the number of diffusion tubes monitoring nitrogen dioxide had been increased. Eythan Soysa from BYC (Bromley Youth Council), informed Members that Saint Olave's had undertaken dry mixed recycling since the 2021/22 academic year and was raising funding for a food composter.

The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety drew attention to the Crossover Working Group which was intended to be a one off working party, and he asked for volunteers. The volunteers were as follows:

- Cllr Alisa Igoe
- Cllr Alison Stammers
- Cllr Adam Grant
- Cllr Keith Onslow
- Cllr Will Rowlands
- Cllr Nicholas Bennett

A Member noted that the report mentioned the likelihood of increased localised flooding and he queried what the evidence base for this was. It was noted that any blocked drains could be reported on FMS. The matter of recycling for flats above shops was also mentioned and it was the case that currently no further progress had been made regarding this, but it was planned for this to be considered as part of the extension of the Veolia contract.

A Member queried how the EV gulley charging scheme was progressing and the matter of autonomous vehicles was also raised. It was pointed out that progress regarding autonomous vehicles was not straightforward, as it would involve changes to the road network which were complex and also to communication systems. Members were informed that the gulley charging scheme trial had been successful and the Council was heading to market and would progress with implementation as soon as practically possible.

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A Member pointed out that to refer to 'net zero' on its own in the draft plan was misleading, because the Council had only agreed to pursue net zero on direct emissions. The Member requested that this be made clear in the report. He also referred to the various cycling schemes mentioned in the report and expressed the view that such cycling schemes should be demand led. He asked if this could also be made clear in the final Portfolio Plan. He referenced the cycling scheme in Crofton Road which he said had cost in the region of £1m but was very much underused.

Councillor Onslow requested that any previous reports with respect to EV charging gulleys be emailed to him for his information. A discussion took place as to whether or not crossovers and gulleys were interconnected.

It was pointed out that London had a Route 7 bus route which used hydrogen fuelled buses, but due to current technological limitations the buses were frequently off the road.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holders be recommended to support the aims, outcomes and performance measures as outlined in the Draft Portfolio Plan.**

**c APPOINTMENTS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE CONSULTATIVE PANEL AND THE LEISURE GARDENS AND ALLOTMENTS PANEL 2024/25**

**CSD24074**

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder for Environment be recommended to agree the appointments to the Countryside Consultative Panel and the Leisure Gardens and Allotments Panel.**

**d FINAL OUTTURN 2023/24**

**FSD24040**

A Member stated that he had requested parking data but had not received the information. The Director for Environment and Public Protection asked the Member to re-send the original correspondence so that he could investigate further. He also suggested that perhaps a face to face meeting may be appropriate.

The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety pointed out that the budget had been over spent by £257k and that the Council had to operate within budget. The Council was facing a potential £39 million deficit by 2027/2028.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holders be recommended to endorse the 2023/24 outturn position for the Environment and Community Services Portfolio.**

**11 PRE DECISION SCRUTINY OF REPORTS GOING TO THE EXECUTIVE FOR DECISION**

**a PARKING SERVICES: COLLABORATION AGREEMENT AND CONTRACT PROCUREMENT STRATEGY**

**ES20926**

It was clarified that the vehicles used for parking enforcement were the property of APCOA. A Member enquired when Members would be able to input into the new contract. It was explained that the contract would not be operational until 2027 and at the moment officers were simply seeking approval to renew the Shared Services Collaboration Agreement. There would be ample scope later to provide comments regarding the finer details and scope of the extended contract.

The Vice Chairman expressed her thanks for early sight of the report. The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety said that the Shared Services Collaboration Agreement for parking services with Bexley had been a success and had delivered considerable cost savings to the council.

**RESOLVED that the recommendations of the report be agreed.**

**b CONTRACT AWARDS FOR ADDITIONAL ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES SUPPLIERS**

**ES20394**

Members were informed that the Council now had a four tree officers and there was also an Arboricultural Services Support Officer who was in the process of becoming accredited as a fully qualified tree officer.

**RESOLVED that the Executive be recommended to approve the recommendations proposed in the report.**

**12 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS**

**a PLATINUM JUBILEE PARKS FUND UPDATE.**

**ES20395**

**RESOLVED that the Environment and Community Services PDS Committee note the progress made on the delivery of the Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund and also note the change in the decision maker.**

**b ECS CONTRACTS REGISTER**

**RESOLVED that the ECS Contracts Register report be noted.**

**c ECS RISK REGISTER**

**ES20388**

The committee reviewed and discussed the ECS Risk Register.

**RESOLVED** that the ECS Risk Register report be noted.

**13 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

**14 CONTRACTS DATABASE EXTRACT PART 2**

Members noted the Part 2 (confidential) Contracts Database Extract.

**RESOLVED** that the Part 2 Contracts Database Extract be noted.

**15 PART 2 REPORTS GOING TO THE EXECUTIVE FOR DECISION.**

**a CONTRACT AWARDS FOR ADDITIONAL ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES SUPPLIERS--Part 2**

**ES20394**

Members noted the Part 2 (Confidential) report regarding the contract awards for additional Arboricultural Services Suppliers.

**RESOLVED** that Members support the officer recommendations to the Executive as detailed in the report.

**16 PART 2 DISCUSSION REGARDING RINEY**

A discussion took place regarding the Riney Contract in the Part 2 section of the meeting.

**ECS WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**ECS ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

**ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE**

**UPDATE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY**

**APPENDIX 1**

**UPDATE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY: APPENDIX 2**



Chairman

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## Environment and Community Services PDS Meeting—12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Written Questions from the Public:

#### 1) Question from Jen McArthur to the Portfolio Holder for Environment.

Bromley's Air Quality Action Plan (2020-25) aims to obtain funding to create a new public space at Elmers End Green, with walking and cycling improvements. Have funding applications been submitted for this scheme, and if not, why has it not been prioritised over other schemes across Bromley?

#### Response to Question 1:

The proposal for a major public realm improvement at Elmers End Green has become a lower priority since the funding received by Bromley for Liveable Neighbourhood Schemes was withdrawn.

#### 2) Question from Daniel Bentley to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

When will the council assess and remedy the displacement effects of Controlled Parking Zone W given households in Albert and Balfour Roads have been impacted by them for 14 years and have now voted by a large majority for an extension of the zone to those streets?

#### Response to Question 2:

The Council has thoroughly evaluated the parking concerns in Albert and Balfour Roads, including the potential displacement effects of Permit Parking W. Our findings indicate that the current parking congestion is primarily due to residential parking, which means that extending the permit parking zone would not effectively address the underlying issue.

Given this consideration, the Council does not plan to reassess or implement changes to the existing Permit Parking W.

#### 3) Question from Sue Sulis to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

#### ECS Draft 2024/2025 Portfolio Plan: Priority 3, Clause 3.4.6

Every Portfolio Plan, from 2021/2022 to 2024/2025 states that the flood team has '*been working with Thames Water and the Environment Agency to identify other flood risk areas in the Borough*'.

Please list all the areas identified since 2021; the mitigation measures needed; cost estimates and programmes for this work?

Response to Question 3:

Working with Thames Water and the Environment Agency no new flood risk areas have been identified since 2021. A small number of localised flooding incidences have occurred, which have been managed within existing policies.

## ECS PDS: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Oral Questions from Councillors

#### 1) Question from Councillor Alisa Igoe to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.

Was it appropriate for Plaistow residents who pay £80pa for parking permits, where parking is already difficult in their CPZ, to be inconvenienced for 2 days by suspension of 32% of restricted parking bays in their road, because a film crew were filming on the footway and in one house?

#### Response to Question 1:

Eight bays were suspended for two days.

Bromley encourages reasonable requests for filming to enhance the reputation of the borough; there are significantly more than 8 bays in the road, and the suspension for a short period of time was therefore agreed.

#### Supplementary Question:

There were 8 bays suspended as well as an additional 7 bays in nearby roads. There are three children that have special needs and are picked up by mini-buses. The mini-buses were not able to park. There was also equipment left on the pavement. This is very disruptive for residents. What is the Council's policy on filming?

#### Response to the Supplementary Question

I am not the person responsible for filming on streets, so this is not really a question for me. With respect to parking permits, no one is guaranteed a parking space. Also, the Council has the right to suspend parking bays as required. Councillor Igoe has not stated where this road is. It would have been useful to have provided specific details of the road.

#### 2) Question from Councillor Alison Stammers:

What is the Council doing to fix all the potholes blighting Chislehurst and indeed our borough and to deal with the potholes that remain, but which are showing as closed on FMS with no date indicating when they will be fixed?

#### Response to Question 2:

Like every authority in the UK and indeed in Europe, great efforts are made to fill potholes in line with our published criteria. FMS reports will be closed if they are duplicates or the work is already programmed.

#### Supplementary Question:

The data on page 57 (section 3.4) only goes to February and does not really show how bad things really are. We see numerous FMS reports closed prematurely and erroneously. We receive numerous resident complaints. The fact of the matter is that we receive continued assurances that backlogs will be reduced and that improvement plans have been in place since February/March. Your report says that you had a meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May to seek a solution. Due to the sensitivities of this matter, please can we have a discussion under Part 2 so that councillors can be informed of what is actually going to be done please?

Response to the Supplementary Question:

It will be up to the Chairman if we have a discussion under Part 2

Chairman:

Let's get to Part 2 and we will see how we are doing for time.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Alisa Igoe:

I believe that at the last meeting, Cllr Fawthrop said that he was aware of a pot-hole that was over 400 days old—is that correct Portfolio Holder?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

Yes, there are a number that are well overdue to be repaired. That was why I had the meeting with Riney and that is why we are having meetings with them regarding their working practices.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Ireland:

The old issue of FMS not being updated properly enrages residents. Has any progress been made to resolve matters so that FMS is updated correctly?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

We have given extra support to officers regarding FMS. In some cases, the issue may not have met the criteria for the hole to be repaired. It would be helpful (if this is the case) if this was explained on FMS.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Fawthrop:

We need a list of the oldest outstanding pot-holes. I requested this but it has not been brought forward. Does the Portfolio Holder agree that this would be helpful for members of the public? As Cllr Owen would say, all these repeat requests are a cost of failure to actually repair the pot-holes.

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

We need to be aware of duplicates. We will consider Cllr Fawthrop's request to determine if it would be practical or not, as information could be out of date by the next day.

3) Question from Councillor Alisa Igoe:

01/04/23 new regulations came in for a performance-based inspection regime to ensure utility companies resurface roads to best possible standard after street works, so as to prevent potholes developing in future. How much do Bromley charge for inspection and re-inspection, how many have occurred since 01/04/23 and what monetary total has been collected?

Response to Question 3

The cost of each inspection is £50. The income for 2023/24 was £88,350, which equates to 1,767 routine inspections.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Alisa Igoe:

I have noticed that after pot-holes have been repaired, there is a lot of grit left on the road. Is there a system in place for this grit to be swept away?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

It is up to the contractor to make sure that the road is swept after they have done the work, whether this is a utility company or Riney. If you find a road that has not been swept then please let us know.

4) Question from Councillor Alison Stammers:

There have been higher numbers of PCNs issued by the CEOs in Bromley in recent months. Why is this the case and to what extent is it down to customers having issues with paying by RingGo?

Response to Question 4:

The number of PCNs has increased over a number of years as more CEOs have been employed. The largest increase in PCNs has been for non-parking offences. There is no evidence to suggest that the increase is linked to the removal of Pay and Display machines.

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## Environment Portfolio Holder Update 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Welcome one and all to a new Civic year. For those of you who are sitting on this committee again this year, hello, and for those of you who are new to this committee, welcome. I'm sure you will find this to be an enjoyable experience.

Well, last time I updated you dear reader, we were in purdah due to the Mayoral elections. This time is however very different. This update is going to be a bumper edition with lots of juicy gossip from the man from Glossop!.... Scrap that, I hear Mr Sunak has decided on a General election after all - so I'm back to square one! Purdah again means a limited edition update again – but do not fear dear reader, old big mouth here can still divulge a thing or two, or three even to keep you entertained.

Before I reveal all, I would like to congratulate Bromley on their promotion to the Football league for the first time. It has been a memorable season and I hope that next year is even more memorable as they will finally get to find out who exactly Accrington Stanley are.

### **Revelations from a Portfolio Holder – Part One**

Now, my first revelation. There has been a change in personnel. Cllr Turrell has sadly departed for pastures new and my new Executive Assistant is Cllr Turrell. Why would Cllr Turrell want to depart I hear you ask? it all started when he called me one Friday morning and overheard that I was listening to ABBA. Unaware that Cllr Turrell wasn't a fan, I engaged him in trivia, which left such a mark on him that he felt it was very much a Knowing Me Knowing You moment as he has since gone to the GLA to convalesce. So, with a new EA to be found, I thought if you can't get a man to do it, get his wife to do it instead (and she'll probably do a better job!). Therefore folks, I would in the same breath like to sincerely thank Cllr Turrell (henceforth known as Mr T) for all the work he undertook for both the former Portfolio Holder and yours truly, and congratulate Cllr Turrell on her appointment as Mr T's successor. We have already met with officers and Cllr Turrell has hit the ground running... which is super trouper!

I would also like to congratulate both Cllr Turrell and Mr T on their recent election victories. At these harsh times when the winner takes it all, they bucked the national trend of Conservative candidates finally facing their Waterloo to stick with us.

### **Trees**

Now that another planting season is over, I'm delighted to provide information relating to our planting achievements this year.

<b>2021/22</b>	1472
<b>2022/23</b>	1588
<b>2023/24</b>	1531

This data is for both our 1250 Tremendous trees, as well as additional trees planted within the season. This information gives me absolute hope that we will be able to plant the remaining 1250 trees before the end of next March.

As the planting season has finished for another year, planning and preparations do take precedent for the next year, but we also turn our attentions to the watering season. Now folks, this year has almost been biblical. The wettest spring in 200 years might make you think there isn't a need to water – but there is. The newly planted trees will still need the help of a weekly drink to get themselves established in the ground, along with those trees which haven't taken as well as we would've liked. The weekly watering started around three weeks ago and will continue through the summer months.

## **Platinum Jubilee Fund**

I know this is in the agenda pack, so I won't spend too much time on this one. The list below is where we are on current projects.

- The Mottingham pathway project commenced last Monday.
- Palace Square Playground has just been delivered and I believe they had their painting day two weeks ago.
- McAndrews Playground was finished off last week. Their community painting day will tie in with the Big Bromley Brush Up.
- Betts Park's obelisk has recently been completed.
- The learn to ride area at Coney Hall Rec has been completed and they had a fundraising event for the second phase a week last Saturday.
- Queensmead Playground has been completed.
- The path at Darrick & Newstead wood will be starting in June.

I can also confirm that we've almost spent all the money, money, money. (oh dear, dear reader. You'll be calling for an SOS by the end of this – if you make it that far!)

## **Big Bromley Brush Up**

This one is back after a brief period on the side lines. I hope that this year's Big Brush Up from 20<sup>th</sup> June – 17<sup>th</sup> July, can help draw attention to the many benefits of living in a clean area which is tidy and free of rubbish and litter.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank all our volunteers across the borough for the tremendous efforts they make in keeping Bromley the clean, green and beautiful garden of London we call home. For more information, I have attached a link to the website which has many useful tools to help you get involved such as a checklist, and how to report a problem:

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/street-care-cleaning/big-bromley-brush>

## **SELCHP**

I was pleased to hear that the committee were able to repeat the SELCHP, Westminster, and Veolia visit which Cllr's Bennett and Grant accompanied me on in February. I hope that those of you who attended found it stimulating and the

experience helped you to better understand what we do in Bromley, and how we do it too. I also hear that Cllr Fawthrop behaved and throwing him into the incinerator wasn't required.

## **Grand days out**

Due to the elections, I have been limited on Grand Days out. I have been able to get one or two in when allowed.

I had a lovely, if wet, Grand Afternoon out with Cllr Stammers and Co at Chislehurst Recreation Ground where I got to see firsthand all the hard work that she, friends, and Idverde have put into improving the play equipment and general facilities available for the public. I even got to be the ticket collector as the photo album shows.

I had a Grand Afternoon out in Beckenham as I attended the opening of the Bowie Bandstand. As the weather was nice I decided to only give a speech and not sing! It was good to finally see this project finally get over the line.

I was due to have a Grand Evening out with Friends of The Earth but this has been put back to September (unless there is another election!)

## **Photo Album**

And finally... Just the one today for you (luckily!) TTFN



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**Environment and Community Services PDS Committee June 13<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**1. Meeting with Riney**

On May 13<sup>th</sup> I had a meeting with Peter Hyde, Managing Director of Riney and Mark Boyle, Commercial Director to discuss my concerns about the company's performance. We acknowledged that the cost of materials has risen steeply since the contract was set, but at the same time there is room for improved efficiency in their working practices. For commercial reasons I cannot, at this point, say anything further but our officers are in discussions with the company to seek a solution which will improve performance for the remainder of the contract.

**2. Sink hole, Yester Drive, Bickley**



Overnight on Thursday/Friday 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> April, a deep sinkhole appeared outside the first house in Yester Drive, a cul- de- sac of fourteen homes. The hole estimated at up to ten metres deep in places meant that the road had to be closed immediately. All utilities were severed. Our Emergency Officer David Tait did a sterling job and arranged hotel rooms for those residents who wished to leave. Bottled water was supplied. I visited the scene on the afternoon of May 10<sup>th</sup> and spoke to a number of residents. Garry Marshall, from UK Power Networks was extremely helpful and power cables were laid on the following Monday (May 13<sup>th</sup>) and electricity was restored. Similarly, emergency water pipes were laid on the Wednesday. Garry Warner, our Assistant Director, arranged for a street lighting column to be removed and residents were able to remove their cars by driving over the opposite pavement on the Wednesday.

Progress to fill the hole has been slower that we would have liked as we were reliant on the insurer of the affected house (the hole continued under their front garden). I am pleased to report that the majority of the hole was filled to the point whereby the utilities could be reinstated this week. Once these are completed the Council will fill the remainder of the void and relay the road.



*Following the filling of the hole by the insurers with concrete, the utilities can now be repaired.*

### **3. Driven By Consequences**

Another highly successful *Driven by Consequences* programme was organised by our excellent road safety team, led by Elaine Beadle, at Hayes School on March 19<sup>th</sup>. I was delighted that Cllrs Igoe and Stammers were able to attend and would encourage those members who have not had a chance to hear the presentations to do so when the next one is organised.

### **4. Correspondence with Seb Dance, the Deputy Mayor for Transport**

I attach at **Appendix A** an exchange of correspondence with Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor of London for Transport which followed up on my questions at the London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee. Sadly, the Deputy Mayor's reply was riddled with factual inaccuracies which does make me wonder which highly paid advisers wrote the letter.

### **5. Correspondence with the Secretary of State for Transport**

The Department of Transport issued a call to evidence on 'restricting the generation of surplus funds from traffic contraventions', proposals include:

- Limiting authorities' ability to generate parking and moving traffic charge surpluses;
- Requiring authorities to return surpluses to the Treasury.

We completed the questionnaire sent by the Department, but I felt it right to write and point out where any surplus was used – to support the Freedom Pass. A copy of my letter is attached at **Appendix B**.

### **6. Joint letter from Portfolio Holders to Bromley Magistrates**

Cllr Angela Page, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Community Safety and I recently wrote to Stephan Smith, the Chairman of the Bromley Magistrates bench, asking that wherever possible the full costs of the prosecution for Blue Badge fraud be imposed on those found guilty.

## 7. London Road Safety Council AGM

For the first time in its history, the London Road Safety Council is having its AGM away from central London. At my and Elaine Beadle's invitation it will be held in our council chamber on Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup>. His worship the Mayor has agreed to open the meeting. Participation at the AGM is obviously restricted to members, however, an invitation to join members for refreshments beforehand will be extended to the committee and hope as members as possible will be able to join us. We will be displaying our team's work.

## 8. Flooding on B258 at Crockenhill



*Left to right: Howard Batchlor, Cllr Waterton, Cllr Slator, Cllr Bennett, County Cllr Roger Gough*

There has been a longstanding flooding problem on the B258 on the border between Bromley and Crockenhill. Together with ward councillor Shaun Slator, we had a site meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> with Cllr Rachel Waterton (Ind), Chairman of Crockenhill Parish Council and ward member for the area on Sevenoaks District Council and Roger Gough, Leader of Kent County Council who represents the division on the county. The local landowner Howard Batchlor was also present.

Although the flooding emanates from the higher land on the Kent side of the border the dip in the road where it lies is within Bromley. The analysis shows that the crate system (holes dug into the ground and filled with crates to create a void where rainwater is stored so that it can seep slowly into the ground) is working correctly however it was not cleaned thoroughly enough by the drainage contractor which led to the blockage and stopped water draining from the Highway. Since the meeting, the pipe into the system has been cleaned and should be working correctly. To help alleviate this in the future, it is intended to add two more inlets with catch pits into the system which will help drain the water from the Highway.

The work we are proposing is likely to need a temporary closure and should take around a week to complete. We will be working with KCC and TfL to finalise a date for the project, once we have this, we will be in contact with the local ward members with further details.

## Bus route SL5

Following discussions between LBB and TfL, the trees on South Eden Park Road will be cut back so that Route SL5 can be double decked when the contract is retendered for the Spring of 2025. At that time it is intended to extend the route over the current SL7 to Sutton, with the SL7 cut back to there.

## 9: Dr Bike

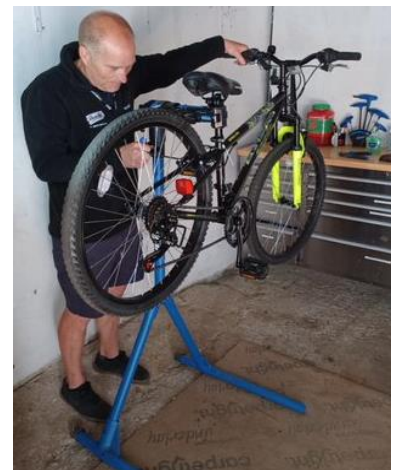
Dr Bike sessions are delivered by our qualified mechanics and run throughout the year. Often, they are at Norman Park, but pop-up sessions are run around the borough some before school Bikeability Courses and as part of the team's other promotional events. Recently they have been delivered at Hoblingwell Park to support those using the new pump track.

These events encourage residents to get their bikes inspected. The Dr Bike team can fix minor faults such as brakes, chain, cables, gears, and tyre pressure to keep cyclists on the road.

*Good morning, thank you for running this event local to me. I took along both my daughter's bikes. The services and advice provide by the 3 members of bike Bromley was friendly and professional. I left with my bikes in a good condition to get through the winter.*

*Whilst I was waiting it was nice to talk to other local people using the services and those curious to know what was going on. Nice event for the community*

### Feedback from Dr Bike Hoblingwell Park



Hi Matt

I would like to reserve a place at the next available bike maintenance workshop in October. I also wondered if you could pass on my thanks for the amazing service today as I can't seem to find anywhere on the website to leave feedback - my bike no longer clanks and creaks and is amazing to ride... in the past this would have cost me in excess of £200 at a local bike shop and I can't actually believe it was all done as a free service.

I commute each day on the bike from Beckenham to Orpington and often up to Greenwich/Stratford - it will be so much more pleasurable (and not to mention safer as Gary identified and replaced a tethered brake cable) following my visit today.

The team were also really friendly, and nothing was too much trouble - well done LB Bromley, this is a fantastic service!



## Appendix 1

**From:** Nicholas Bennett <[nicholas@nicholasbennett.org.uk](mailto:nicholas@nicholasbennett.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 16 February 2024 20:03  
**To:** Jamie Milne <[JamieMilne@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:JamieMilne@tfl.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [kieron.williams@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:kieron.williams@southwark.gov.uk); Peter Fortune <[Peter.Fortune@london.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Fortune@london.gov.uk)>; [colin.smith@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:colin.smith@bromley.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Seb Dance

Dear Seb

Thank you for attending the TEC Executive last week which was much appreciated.

Thank you also for response on the **358 bus route**, unfortunately you do not explain why the introduction of the new buses is a year overdue as a result of TfL not realising that there was a sub-lessee on the land at Orpington Bus Station. I also asked you the following questions about the new Irizar bus.

- i. How many of the vehicles have been constructed;
- ii. Where are they stored, at what cost;
- iii. What is the depreciation incurred?

I promised to write to you about the other issues which I raised with you at the TEC Executive last Thursday.

### **Lack of funding for Primary Road Network**

I and members from other London Boroughs across the political spectrum are concerned that we have had no funding from TfL since 2018 for PRN. Until then we received an average of £2m a year for the network. The only allocation has been £200k for the Crofton Road, Orpington and £80 k for Main Road, Biggin Hill. The council has had to divert funds from other roads to prevent serious deterioration of the PRN.

### **Bus Lanes**

Until recently TfL bus lanes were for specific hours, either 7 am to 7 pm or rush hour only. Recently they have moved to 24 hours. Frequently these are on roads where there are no night services (for instance Bromley Common). One size does not fit all and causes frustration to motorists for no reason.

### **SL 4**

The proposed routing of SL 4 is from Canary Wharf to Grove Park to start, once the Silvertown Town open, is of concern. Bromley Council and, I understand, Lewisham Council believe that for the route to benefit the large number of employees who work in Canary Wharf and live in Bromley that the route should continue for two miles from Gove Park to Bromley North via Burnt Ash Lane. We propose two intermediate stops at Plaistow Green and Burnt Ash Road Library and shops. TfL indicated that the reason for not extending the route is traffic congestion, but this is not a problem on this road. We pressed for SL 5 to be routed via West Wickham, Addington and Combe

Lane to provide a new transport corridor to Croydon but instead the route has by passed West Wickham entirely and goes via Shirley which already has three routes to Croydon. As my colleague, Cllr James Asser, from Newham remarked at the TEC executive it is almost impossible to get the bus division of TfL to accept the local expertise of individual boroughs.

I look forward to your reply.

Copies go to the Chairman of the TEC, Cllr Kieron Williams, Peter Fortune AM, and Cllr Colin Smith, Leader of Bromley Council.

Best wishes

Nicholas

**Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP**  
**Executive Member for Transport, Highways and Road Safety**

**London Borough of Bromley**

**Our ref:**

**Date:** 04 June 2024

**Cllr Nicholas Bennett**

By email

Dear Cllr Bennett,

Thank you for your email of 16 February and my apologies for the delay in responding to you, which was caused by the pre-election period before the election on May 2nd.

The Mayor and I remain committed to the expansion of low and zero emission buses across London, with the aim of the entire network being zero emission by 2030. The Mayor, Transport for London (TfL) and I are excited by the addition of the Irizar ie. Tram buses to the 358 route in LB Bromley, which will help meet this target and trial new technologies on our roads. The introduction of the buses to the network has been dependent on the installation and connection of pantograph charging points at Crystal Palace and Orpington, the two termini of the route.

The programme to rollout the buses to the route has been affected by delays in securing land agreement with third parties to connect power at the Orpington termini. I understand that consequently, the construction work was further delayed and, owing to Section 50 criteria, TfL has been restricted to undertaking key works around the school term, which means that the works have needed to be spread out to avoid causing impact to residents and drivers in the Orpington area.

The buses are owned by the Operator Go-Ahead and the cost detail associated to storage and depreciation is embedded within the route contact tender. Of the 20

buses required for the trial, 13 have been delivered. The remaining 7 will be delivered between now and service launch.

As we look to the future, it's never been more important to support London's transition to a greener, more inclusive road network while taking steps to reach our net zero targets by 2030 which will only be achieved by ensuring our public transport remains a reliable and efficient option for bus users, while moving towards the Mayor's strategic objective to reduce the number of car vehicle kilometres by 27% by 2030.

The A21 Bromley Common is a key corridor for bus services between Catford, Crystal Palace, Lewisham and Bromley Town Centre with five daytime and one nightbus (N199) operating along this road. Its revision of restrictions to the lane to 24/7 has provided TfL with both resilience to the network and continuity to road users while also ensuring a safer environment for cyclists who wish to cycle beyond at time of the day.

Currently, there is little supporting evidence to suggest that current restrictions have negatively impacted the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN) in this area and considering the benefits to cyclists in particular, TfL would be hesitant to return to the previous restriction.

TfL has provided London Boroughs with circa £4.6m of funding for renewals on the Borough Principal Road Network (BPRN) in 2023/24. This comprises around £2.5m for structures maintenance and renewals and £2.1m for carriageway maintenance and renewals. The latter includes the road condition surveys of the BPRN which TfL undertakes and provides data to the Boroughs.

TfL has engaged with the Boroughs, through the London Bridge Engineers Group (LoBEG) and the London Highways Engineers Group (LoHEG) to identify the most urgent priorities for both the structures and carriageways funding respectively. A similar level of funding will be made available for renewals on the BPRN in 24/25. TfL continues to work with the London Boroughs through the London Technical Advisory Group (LoTAG) Asset Management Forum, to produce of the State of the City Report and make the case for improved funding from Department for Transport (DfT) for London's highways.

The introduction of the Superloop service (SL5) has been transformative to its bus services in Bromley and has quickly become a popular service for commuters travelling between Bromley and Croydon town centres. You will recall that in the planning stage, TfL considered West Wickham as a part of the route, however owing to width restrictions along the proposed corridor; it was decided that running via Eden Park would provide the quick connectivity.

Adding the SL4 service to the network will complete the delivery of the current Superloop programme. TfL undertakes extensive planning before introducing a new service to the network and it was considered that extending the SL4 route beyond Grove Park onto Bromley North would present a significant cost implication which currently offers little value for money. I am assured by TfL however, that once the new service is introduced in 2025, the route would be kept under continued review.

Yours sincerely,

**Seb Dance**

Deputy Mayor for Transport

Dear Seb

Thank you for your letter of June 4<sup>th</sup> reply to my email of February 16<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Unfortunately, your reply contains several factual inaccuracies.

There are no night bus routes along the bus lane on Bromley Common. The N199 turns left at The Toby Carvery and is routed along Southborough Lane.

Our proposal for routing the SL5 did not involve a width restriction. We suggested that the route should follow along the line of the 194 route to continue along South Eden Park Road and Beckenham Road to the traffic lights at the Swan PH and turn left along the High Street rejoining the existing route at the junction of Monks Orchard Road and Shirley Road roads. This would greatly increase the patronage and profitability of the service by giving access to a densely populated area and one of the Borough's major town centres.

It is difficult to understand how the extension of the SL4 from Grove Park to Bromley North (where it would connect with the SL3 and SL5), less than two miles, would not be cost effective. The population of the central Bromley wards, many of whom work in Canary Wharf, is more than 35,000.

Bromley residents find it difficult understand how TfL, having been granted planning permission for the pantograph at Orpington more than three years ago in June 2021 and more than a year after the first buses arrived from Spain, the route remains diesel operated.

Best wishes

Nicholas

**Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP**

**Executive Member for Transport, Highways and Road Safety**



**Environment & Public Protection**  
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Our ref: AC/T&P

Date: 24 May 2024

## **APPENDIX 2**

Rt Hon Mark Harper MP  
Secretary of State for Transport,  
Great Minister House,  
33, Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 4DR

### **Plan for Drivers – call for evidence**

The London Borough of Bromley has responded to the *Plan for Drivers* Survey, setting out our responses to the proposals. We are concerned that if the surplus generated by Bromley were transferred to Central Government there would be a serious impact on our revenue when we are having to take tough budgetary decisions to ensure we continue to be solvent. Bromley is an extremely well-run authority with a reputation for being efficient, effective and economic. Despite receiving the second lowest rate support grant in London and being the only London authority with no debt we face a £40m budget gap by 2027 without further deep economies

Bromley ensures the free movement of traffic, and use of the public highway through carefully targeted parking controls. Our parking charges are the lowest in London and our enforcement is scrupulously fair and correct for both moving traffic and parking offences.

For instance, all CCTV footage is reviewed by an officer before a PCN is issued, allowing for only those who truly contravene a box junction or bus lane to be served with a PCN. Also, when a motorist inadvertently contravenes and they demonstrate that they made a genuine mistake, on the first occasion, the PCN will usually be cancelled.

Our civil traffic and parking penalty charges for contraventions are as prescribed by the national charging rates. The income received from the penalty charge is used for the enforcement service, any surplus is ring fenced for other transport operations, in particular, the £10m we spend on providing Freedom Passes. Without this income our ability to maintain the road network from serious decline would be worsened as we would have to replace the lost income for concessionary fares from our highway maintenance budget. We have already had to use part of our budget to maintain the Principal Road Network, as the Mayor of London has provided almost no funding since 2018 – in total a shortfall of £6m.

As a former Parliamentary Private Secretary to Roger Freeman in the Department in 1990 I appreciate that some authorities may be misusing the income from PCNs and penalising motorists but it would be grossly unfair to punish responsible authorities such as Bromley. It would be much better to target those councils who are using the system unfairly.

**Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P.**  
**Executive Member for Transport, Highways & Road Safety**  
**London Borough of Bromley**

Cc Sir Robert Neill KC MP, Gareth Bacon MP,  
The Rt. Hon. Bob Stewart MP, Ellie Reeves MP