

Report to Environment and Community Safety PDS Committee – January 25th 2023

ULEZ

Undoubtedly the biggest issue facing the portfolio at the moment is the proposal by Mayor Kahn to impose the ULEZ on outer London from August 28th. The Council has made its views clear in the motion passed at the Council meeting on July 25th 2022. In conjunction with seven other London boroughs we are strongly opposing this levy which will particularly affect older drivers, trades people and shift workers.

We have issued with other boroughs a pre action letter to TfL and a KC has been commissioned to advise the councils on the legality of the Mayor's actions. In particular, following clear evidence revealed through the diligent work of our local GLA Member Peter Fortune AM, that the consultation process was seriously interfered with. The evidence shows that the Mayor's office was receiving regular updates on the votes and paid for a social media agency to run a campaign to encourage yes to ULEZ votes. Despite this the result showed a majority opposed and this was after 5,000 no votes were removed from the final result by TfL We have refused to sign a Section 8 agreement (and will continue to do so) to permit the cameras and signs to be placed on borough roads. The Mayor does not need our permission to place them on the A232 and A21 which are TfL roads.

Anti-idling Campaign

We are extending our campaign to more schools with banners outside to remind parents to switch off their engines whilst waiting for their children. Civil Enforcement Officers and local ward police teams have also be asked to tackle poor parking particularly on zig zag markings outside school entrances.

Chislehurst Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ)

Plans to introduce a CPZ in Chislehurst have, following public consultation, been given approval for further development.

Electric Vehicle footway trunking trial

A trial to trunk electric cables across the footway for those car owners, without a driveway, is to be undertaken.

5g aerials on lamp posts

An application has been approved.

Coronation street parties

As with street parties for Her late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee last June similar permission will be granted for the coronation of King Charles 111 over the three days of celebrations from 6th – 8th May 2023..

Junior Road Watch

A request by the Metropolitan Police for this scheme has been refused. It is inappropriate for children to be used to assist the police in speaking to drivers. They cannot give informed consent and is likely to be counterproductive.

Biggin Hill flooding

On my recent tour of Biggin Hill and Darwin wards with local councillors I was able to see at first hand flooding on a number of roads. The lack of main drains and blocked soakaways is the principal cause. In addition to using gully emptiers to remove detritus which the heavy rains have deposited I have asked officers to investigate what further action might be taken.

Electric Buses

Most of the buses on Route 119 (Bromley North to Croydon Palisades) are now operated by new Ee class electric buses. I and Nick Roger AM, Opposition Transport spokesman on the London Assembly, visited Bexleyheath Bus garage on December 6th to see the inverted pantograph outside the garage which charges the new double deck buses on Route 132. Similar chargers are being installed at Crystal Palace and Orpington Bus station in preparation for the forthcoming conversion of Route 358 to new single deck electric buses.



Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP

Executive Member for Transport, Highways and Road Safety