



Update to ECS PDS Committee June 29th 2023

ULEZ

On May 26th Bromley was successful at the High Court in reviewing the decision of Sir Ross Cranston KC which struck out three of the grounds for the Judicial Review by a coalition of councils into the proposed expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). Mrs Justice Ellenbogen granted the appeal, with two additional grounds for challenge added to the Judicial Review.

Those were:

- unfair and unlawful consultation in relation to expected compliance rates in outer London
- scrappage scheme - irrationality due to uncertainty and inadequate consultation.

On 12 April the High Court granted permission for the coalition to challenge the legality of Transport for London (TfL) and the Mayor of London's plans to expand the ULEZ to outer London from August 2023.

The permission then was granted on the following grounds:

- failure to comply with relevant statutory requirements
- whether the Mayor properly considered the previous "buffer zone" approach as a material consideration in relation to the scrappage scheme.

The full hearing in the High Court will take place next week on July 4th and 5th.

RingGo

The remaining on street and car park machines were bagged over in early April when the decision, supported by the PDS last November to end pay and display was implemented.



To date we have the figures for April and May 2023.

As expected, the April 2022 to April 2023 figures show a decrease of 10.8% (April 2022 – 282,278, April 2023 – 251,613)

May 2022 – May 2023 – the reduction had fallen to 5% (May 2022 - 308,870 May 2023 – 293.321)

However, it should be also noted that May 2023 usage is actually 4% above April 2022. A further report will be given after six months operation of the new system.

To assist those unfamiliar with using the system two leaflets explaining the system and how to download the app or register online or by phone have produced and are available from libraries and other council offices. In addition to 'pop in' sessions at Biggin Hill Library (27th March), Ravenswood Car Park, West Wickham (29th March), Chislehurst Library/Redhill Car Park (30th March), Bromley Civic Centre (June 5th and 19th) further sessions are organised at Orpington Library on July 21st (11 – 13.00) and Beckenham Library July 25th (11 -13.00)

Potholes

When Riney attended the PDS meeting they stated that they had 13 gangs in the borough completing 70 jobs a day. It now transpires that this figure was for all works; footways, carriageways and emergencies. The equivalent figures for last week were 455 jobs in total, or 91 jobs per day. This is an improvement in productivity so will assist in clearing the backlog. The table in the appendix shows the number of jobs being raised each month by Highway Inspectors;

The number of jobs issued peaked in January 2023. In May we issued a total of 1387 jobs, or 347 jobs per week, so if the numbers remain consistent on both sides the backlog should be reducing by 100+ each week. This should allow the backlog to be cleared by the end of September. Riney are looking to employ additional gangs from 10th July to expedite the process.

As Members will be aware I authorised, with the Leader, the employment of a second contractor O'Rourke to increase the number of potholes repaired. They have concentrated on residential roads but I have asked that their gangs should also be used on the major roads where the weight of traffic has caused the most serious problems.



The good news is that several major roads have had a complete resurface. Westmorland Road, which was particularly badly potholed was resurfaced over a number of nights in May.

I recently spent ten days on the continent and, although it is of no comfort to our road users, contrary to some critics, I found that the Belgium, German and French authorities are facing same problems as the UK.



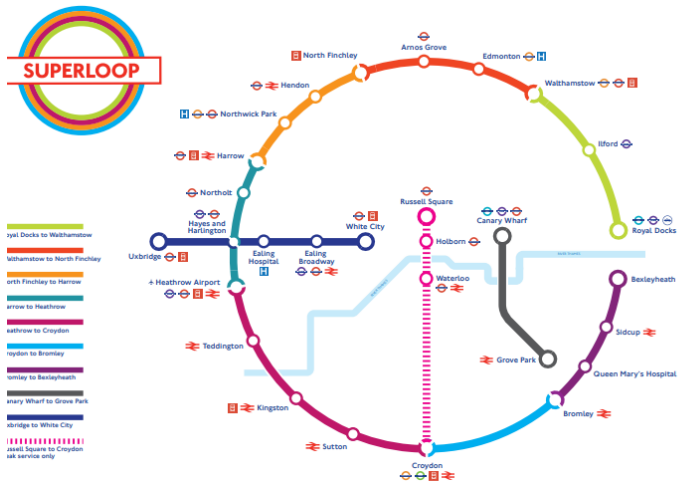
Bullay in Germany.

Ward Tours

I visited Clockhouse ward on April 15th and had an interesting tour with Cllrs King and Adams.

Superloop

TfL have announced plans for what they call 'Superloop'. It consists of several express bus routes, largely based on existing routes but with fewer stops. There is a proposal for a new route connecting Canary Wharf with Grove Park using the Silvertown tunnel when it opens in 2025. At London Councils and at the Bus Action Plan conference on May 23rd I expressed some scepticism that just reproducing existing routes (in Bromley's case the 119 and 269) would not add to the public transport offer. It would be better to introduce new routes which opened new transport corridors for instance Bromley to Blackheath and Greenwich in our neighbouring borough and that the routes should end at big transport interchanges and to that end it was suggested that the X269 might be extended from Bexleyheath to Abbey Wood one of the termini of the Elizabeth Line. I also argued that the new Canary Wharf to Grove Park route should be extended to Bromley North.



The new Electric bus

The new electric buses for route 358 are still unable to enter service as TfL are still negotiating with a sub lessee at Orpington Bus Station. The buses, built by Irizar in Spain continue to arrive and are being stored or used for driver training. Several members of the council visited Go Ahead London's garage at Orpington on March 28th and rode on one of the new vehicles to Bromley and back along the line of the 358 route.



Public Transport Forum

Following the successful public Transport forum for members I hope to organise another one in the late autumn.

New law to halt road disruption

Attached Appendix B is a letter from Richard Holden MP, Parliamentary Secretary at the Department of Transport setting out measures local councils can take to prevent

'Just Stop Oil' and other demonstrators from disrupting right of other citizens to go about their business.

Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP

Executive Member for Transport, Highways and Road Safety