

Environment and Community Services PDS Committee June 13th 2024

1. Meeting with Riney

On May 13th 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 25th/26th 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 10th 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 13th) 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 19th. 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 9th. 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 7th 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

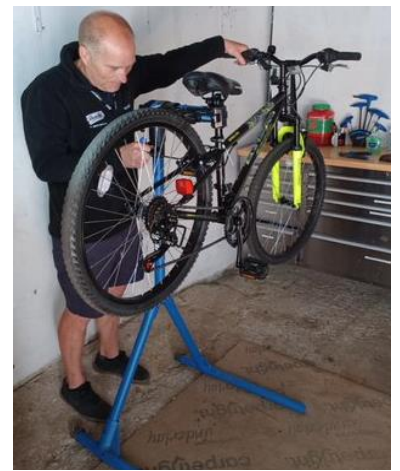
Dr Bike sessions are delivered by our qualified mechanics and run throughout the year. Often, they are at Norman Park, but pop-up sessions are run around the borough some before school Bikeability Courses and as part of the team's other promotional events. Recently they have been delivered at Hoblingwell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

Feedback from Dr Bike Norman Park