

Community Safety and Environment Policy and Accountability Committee Minutes

Monday 8 November 2021

NOTE: This meeting was held remotely. A recording of the meeting can be found at:
https://youtu.be/lCX35_4R3rl

PRESENT

Committee members: Councillors Frances Umeh (Chair), Iain Cassidy, Ann Rosenberg and Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler

Other Councillors: Councillors Wesley Harcourt (Cabinet Member for the Environment), and Sharon Holder (Cabinet Member for Strategy)

Officers: Sharon Lea (Strategic Director of Environment), Jim Cunningham (Climate Policy and Strategy Lead), Steve Hollingworth (Assistant Director Leisure, Sport and Culture), Ian Hawthorn (Assistant Director Environment Special Projects and Highways), Abi Oluwande (Senior Service Manager), Donna Kelly (Service Manager – Highway Operations and Protection), Richard Duffill (Cycling Officer), Mathew Bonomi (Senior Service Manager) Bram Kainth (Chief Officer - Public Realm) and Masum Choudhury (Head of Transport)

External: Timothy Prager (Chair of the Parks Commission)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sue Fennimore and Fiona Smith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th July 2021 were noted. As this was an informal meeting, minutes will be formally agreed at the next meeting.

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler requested that the action under item 5 (Law Enforcement Team Update) from the previous meeting be followed up with Officers.

Action: Amrita White

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair noted that the Committee had received public questions on two of the items on the agenda. The questions and answers can be found under Item 5 (Safer Cycle Pathway Update) and Item 6 (3-year Highways Planned Maintenance Programme 2021-2024).

5. SAFER CYCLE PATHWAY UPDATE

Abi Oluwande (Senior Service Manager) provided an update on the progress made to date to deliver the Safer Cycle Pathway, noting that the interim scheme was 70% underway and was scheduled for completion in December 2021.

The Chair explained that the Committee had received a written question from a member of the public in advance of the meeting and Officers would be invited to answer the question or make a comment to address the main areas of concerns raised as follows:

1: A resident commented that it was great to see that action was being taken to create cycle lanes along King Street. However, other key routes such as Wood Lane, Uxbridge Road, Shepherds Bush Green had either no cycle lanes or poorly painted "temporary" cycle lanes that created more risk to both cyclists and cars. They asked what the schedule was to fully implement a network of safe cycle routes across the borough that allowed North-South/East -West and fully networked cycle travel?

In response Masum Choudhury (Head of Transport) noted that in addition to the upgrading of the cycle lane on King Street to an interim scheme, the Council was also working on developing the permanent cycle lane once the interim scheme had been installed. A similar approach would also be used for the cycle lanes on Wood Lane, Uxbridge Road and Shepherd's Bush Green where the Council first looked at upgrading from temporary barriers to an interim scheme followed by the longer-term development of a permanent route. Officers were aware of the key North-South routes such as North End Road and Fulham Palace Road as well as Scrubs Lane. Together these would formulate a 'strategic cycle network' on our main roads. To supplement this further the approach would be to look at other main roads and consider the available road space and look to change advisory lanes to dedicated lanes. This approach would also be considered on residential areas where the Council was looking to calm and reduce through traffic to create a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

Unfortunately, due to the funding uncertainty that had emerged as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the Council was unable to provide a defined programme and was working with sponsors and partners to continue to bring a programme forward. However, the Council had committed to achieving net-zero carbon by 2030 and the cycling infrastructure as part of the borough was a key component of realising this goal.

Councillor Iain Cassidy asked for further clarification to be provided on the timescales for the completion of works for the full route, including King Street Hammersmith Gyratory and Hammersmith Road. Abi Oluwande (Senior Service Manager) commented that the timescale to complete King Street was mid-December 2021. Hammersmith Gyratory was being implemented by Transport for London (TfL) and this work would commence in November 2021. The interim scheme for Hammersmith Road had been completed. However, the timetable for the permanent Safer Cycle Pathway scheme was not yet available.

Abi Oluwande (Senior Service Manager) confirmed that the permanent scheme would be implemented once the experimental traffic order for the interim scheme was completed. It was noted that the experimental traffic order could only stay in force for a maximum of 18 months.

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler enquired what consultation had been undertaken for the Safer Cycle Pathway scheme. Abi Oluwande (Senior Service Manager) explained that the consultation would take place during the experimental period of the interim scheme (18 months) and the feedback gathered would determine the next steps for the permanent scheme. Matt Bonomi (Senior Service Manager) noted that an experimental traffic order would require stakeholders, residents and businesses to provide their feedback during the time it was in place. The Council would carry out a comprehensive and outreaching engagement exercise for a 6-9-month period approximately. Feedback would be sought on the interim scheme to help inform the Council of how a future permanent scheme should be implemented. This included mitigating any concerns of residents and businesses before a plan for the permanent scheme was executed.

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler commented that many residents felt there would be an increase in air pollution as a result of the roads being narrowed for the implementation of cycling lanes across the borough. She enquired if this was an aspect that had been considered by the Council and whether this would be included as a question as part of the consultation exercise. In response Mathew Bonomi (Senior Service Manager) explained that a comprehensive monitoring plan had been put together in partnership with TfL, therefore areas such as air quality, traffic volumes and safety data would be captured and presented before a final decision was reached.

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler commented that she was approached by a group of visually impaired users, with regards to accessibility concerns on the roads as a result of the implementation of the Safer Cycle Pathway scheme. She asked how these concerns were being addressed by the Council. In response Mathew Bonomi (Senior Service Manager) noted that the Council was working in collaboration with the disabled resident's team, to

mitigate any concerns around the design and layout of the scheme. Officers were making good progress on this.

Councillor Iain Cassidy asked for an update to be provided on the success of the cycleway in Chiswick. Mathew Bonomi (Senior Service Manager) noted that this data was not available to hand, however this could be obtained from the London Borough of Hounslow and circulated to Committee Members for information.

Action: Mathew Bonomi

Councillor Wesley Harcourt (Cabinet Member for the Environment) noted that funding had been approved to implement a similar scheme on the Uxbridge Road and asked Officers to provide a progress update on this. In response Abi Oluwande (Senior Service Manager) noted that Officers were currently in the process of mapping out the full design for the scheme and work had already commenced on the Uxbridge Road.

Members praised Officers for the positive work that was carried out with the disabled resident's team to address their concerns as part of the project delivery plan.

Members noted the report.

6. 3-YEAR HIGHWAYS PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2021-2024

Donna Kelly (Service Manager – Highway Operations and Protection) gave a presentation on the planned maintenance programme currently being delivered in the Council and provided a summary of the following key points:

- The highway planned maintenance programme identified the carriageways and footways in most need of planned repair.
- This was formulated based on annual condition surveys undertaken by the highway engineers and the routine inspection condition ratings.
- The roads were prioritised based on their scores.
- Requests made by the Highway Inspector and/or a Councillor or Resident for planned maintenance were also taken into consideration.
- The budget of £1.88m would be split between footway and carriageway schemes, with footways taking 60% of the budget.
- The 3-year programme gave the planned maintenance engineers flexibility to move schemes between the three-year period if something happened on site
- Once the 3-year programme was in place, Officers continued to carry out annual condition surveys as some roads, currently in fair condition, could worsen following a bad winter.
- A summary was provided of the completed footway and carriageway schemes for 2021/22.

The Chair explained that the Committee had received a written question from a member of the public in advance of the meeting and Officers would be invited to answer the question or make a comment to address the main areas of concerns raised as follows:

1: A resident commented that it was disappointing that Sterne Street and the area known as "Caxton Village" had not been identified in the planned maintenance works. It was felt that the area and the streets were rapidly being used for excessive HGV delivery vehicles to the shops and food outlets along Uxbridge Road creating pollution, congestion and safety issues as there were no turning points for these vehicles. They asked why this conservation area had not been included in the planned maintenance schedule to try and protect the conservation area for both residents and the community and requested that this conservation area along with several listed buildings was included in these plans. They also recommended that this area was in need of stricter loading and parking/access rules to ensure long term protection of the historic buildings and setting.

Donna Kelly (Service Manager – Highway Operations and Protection) noted that in relation to the roads in Caxton Village not being on the planned maintenance programme, it was confirmed that the Council had undertaken a number of schemes in the area over the last 12-years with two footways due to be repaved within the next 3-years as follows:

*Bulwer Street
Carriageway resurfaced in 2009
Footway repaved in 2016*

*Sterne Street
Carriageway resurfaced in 2010
Footway repaved in 2019 - from Shepherd's Bush Place to Caxton Road*

*Aldine Street
Carriageway resurfaced in 2010
Footway due to be repaved in 2023/24 subject to funding and further surveys*

*Caxton Road
Carriageway resurfaced in 2010
Footway repaved 2019*

Masum Choudhury (Head of Transport) commented that in addition to the planned maintenance programme the Council also conducted reactive maintenance, so where a street may not be on the planned maintenance programme, inspectors regularly assessed the condition of the asset and if it required organised repairs based on the assessment.

Masum Choudhury (Head of Transport) explained that with regards to the traffic, parking and loading concerns raised, these were outside of the maintenance programme and would require more careful consideration to balance the needs and demands for the area. There was also a motorcycle permit trial being conducted in the area as well as work likely to come forward in terms of upgrading the temporary cycle lanes. Part of this work would need to look at the loading and traffic movements. If re-surfacing needs were identified, then this would be requested by either coordinating with the Council's planned maintenance programme or delivered by the capital delivery team as part of any project coming forward.

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler raised concerns around the condition of the roads in Fulham which had been left with patches, following the utility works that had been carried out by G Network. She asked for further clarification to be provided on the terms agreed with G Network in relation to the resurfacing of these roads. Donna Kelly (Service Manager – Highway Operations and Protection) provided a summary of the terms agreed with G Network, noting that regular inspections would be carried out by an Inspector to monitor their work and if there were any issues with the reinstatement, these would be picked up by the network management team. She requested that further information be provided on the roads in Fulham that were of concern so that this could be raised with the relevant team. Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler noted that she would contact Donna Kelly, following the meeting to provide additional details.

Action: Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler/ Donna Kelly

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler enquired whether the Council had any plans to install porous asphalt pavements across the borough. Donna Kelly (Service Manager – Highway Operations and Protection) explained that Officers were working closely with the Council's contractors (FM Conway) to explore different options for the materials that could be used as part of the carriageway programme for next year. As an alternative to porous asphalt, Officers confirmed they were currently investigating warm mix asphalt due to its low carbon footprint.

Councillor Iain Cassidy noted the challenges the Council had previously faced in engaging with utility companies. He enquired if the situation had improved in more recent years. In response Donna Kelly (Service Manager – Highway Operations and Protection) explained that the Council's position with utility companies had improved slightly, however the issues still remained the same.

Ian Hawthorn (Assistant Director Environment Special Projects and Highways) commented that the Council had made several efforts to improve their engagement with the utility companies by holding regular coordination meetings, in advance of any works being carried to resolve any issues and discuss the Council's forward plan. Despite attempts by the Council to improve the situation, engaging with utilities companies remained a challenge.

Members noted the report.

7. PARKS COMMISSION REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Steve Hollingworth (Assistant Director Leisure, Sport and Culture) introduced the report and noted that the Commission launched in January 2020. Their recommendations followed a year of extensive research and engagement with Council Officers, residents, other park users and stakeholders.

In June 2020, the Commission produced interim recommendations to support the development of the Council's procurement strategy for the ground's

maintenance of parks, public open spaces and housing estates. The commission's report made twenty-two practical headline recommendations concerning democracy and decision-making; how parks were maintained and used; how they were financed; and how green space and biodiversity were enhanced and protected.

Timothy Prager (Chair of the Parks Commission) noted that a group of residents with mixed perspectives and a wide range of skillsets were appointed by the Council. It was also felt that geographic representation within the Commission would be necessary in help developing its recommendations. He thanked Sharon Lea (Strategic Director of Environment), Steve Hollingworth (Assistant Director Leisure, Sport and Culture) and Jim Cunningham (Climate Policy and Strategy Lead) for the extraordinary support provided by the Council. It was noted that the Commission made a call for evidence from residents during spring 2020. They engaged widely with residents, park users and local communities, despite limitations presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Commission spoke to a wide range of stakeholders and was extremely grateful for the wealth of input received.

Timothy Prager (Chair of the Parks Commission) highlighted that two key areas from the Commission's findings needed to be improved and monitored by the Council, these included park affordability and democracy.

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler thanked the Commission for their hard work in developing their findings. She enquired of the twenty-two recommendations that were made by the parks Commission, which of these were being considered by the Council. In response Councillor Sharon Holder (Cabinet Member for Strategy) noted that as part of this process tonight's Community Safety and Environment PAC was given the opportunity to provide feedback and comment on the Commission's recommendations, prior to the report being presented at the next Cabinet meeting for final approval.

Councillor Sharon Holder (Cabinet Member for Strategy) welcomed the close working between the Council and Commission. She felt that any issues with the recommendations would aim to be resolved and highlighted that should any of the recommendations require amendment, these would need to be referred back to Cabinet for approval.

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler felt that maintenance in parks, including the overgrown grass and wildflowers was a key area of concern. Timothy Prager (Chair of the Parks Commission) explained that a greater sense of oversight and an improved engagement plan would be developed amongst Officers and contractors to monitor and tackle maintenance concerns going forward.

Councillor Sharon Holder (Cabinet Member for Strategy) thanked Timothy Prager (Chair of the Parks Commission) and the commissioners for their hard work, time and expertise in developing the report.

The Chair asked if there were any positive experiences that could be shared with the Committee around the inclusivity work that had been carried out by

the Commission. In response Timothy Prager (Chair of the Parks Commission) provided a summary of the approach and key engagement methods implemented to support and achieve the findings of the Commission.

The Chair individually acknowledged and thanked all members of the Commission for their dedication and the tremendous work that had been carried out to support the detailed and well thought out report and recommendations.

Members noted the report.

Meeting started: 18:30pm
Meeting ended: 20:06pm

Chair

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