

Greening the Grey:

Reimagining Corridor Spaces for Improved Cycling and Walking in H&F

05 September 2024

Sands End Community & Arts Centre

Summary Notes

H&F Policy & PMO



INTRODUCTION

On 5 September 2024, H&F Council organised a workshop with local residents, resident groups and interest groups, together with national partners and Councillors, to hear views and expertise about how we can work to improve grey corridors and spaces in the borough. Attendees met for this exploratory workshop to discuss how our roads, footpaths and kerbside spaces can be transformed to become greener, safer and more accessible for everyone.

Councillor Lisa Homan (Labour Councillor for Coningham ward, and Chair of the H&F Policy and Oversight Board) chaired this workshop, in which H&F officers presented current H&F policies and opportunities for this work.

The objectives of the workshop were to capture ideas on a range of areas which may go on to inform longer-term policy work.

This paper summarises the key conclusions from the workshop, drawing on a review of the flip-chart records of the table discussions and the plenary discussion at the end of the workshop. This paper is a summary and is not intended to provide a verbatim record.

H&F Council would like to thank all those who attended (see Appendix A) and contributed to make this exploratory workshop a success. Full notes of the plenary discussion and of the breakout table discussions have been recorded by Council officers and will be drawn on to inform future work.

KEY WORKSHOP FINDINGS

1. Tackling air pollution and climate-related flood risks, through better, more sustainable urban planning

- Speed zone implementation: A wider rollout of 20mph zones and consistent speed zones to reduce pollution.
- School streets: Better coordination around school streets to reduce congestion, particularly at peak times.
- Electric vehicles (EVs): EVs have a role to play although it may be that greater clarity is needed around their efficacy, and how much usage there is of both the vehicles and charging points that are rolled out.
- Regulation of utilities companies: Stricter regulations to minimise road works and resultant traffic issues.
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): Expand to open up paved areas and improve flood water storage and filtration. Solutions around effectively channelling flood water need to be considered, besides relying overly on sewer capacity.
- Better communication and messaging about why it's important to tackle it. Raise the level of importance in the minds of residents.

2. Improving infrastructure for active travel

- Cycle spaces: Addressing the increased demand for cycle storage and cycle pathways.
- Cargo bike storage: Participants supported building more storage units to encourage the use of cargo bikes.
- Greenery: Incorporating trees and greenery in walking and cycling areas will make them more attractive to users.
- Walkways: Making walkways more pleasant (such as through greening grey areas and reducing parking on kerbsides) to encourage walking.
- Behavioural change: We can help promote behavioural change, such as moving people away from short and inefficient car trips, and promoting greener alternatives.
- Connecting our sites: Linking our green spaces (for example, as part of a designated walking route) serves as an example of how we can encourage greater and purposeful use of our outdoor spaces.
- Reducing car dominant streets to attractive places, putting people first.

3. Involving communities in designing safer and more accessible public spaces

- Encourage public ownership and responsibility: Emphasising community involvement in maintaining public spaces, to encourage enjoyment and a sense of community.
- Taking Pride in H&F: The borough offers residents and users a wealth of public spaces in which our people can be proud, including x21 green flag spaces and numerous blue plaque sites.
- Improving safety and accessibility: Improvements to lighting, accessibility, and safety in public areas came through strongly in discussion. Such improvements will make green and public spaces more accessible to all

residents, preventing exclusion, and allowing for safe and full enjoyment of our spaces.

- Improving biodiversity: Implementing measures and initiatives (such as planting wild flowers) to encourage a richer natural habitat in which plants and creatures can thrive.
- Improving art and culture making public places people are proud of.

4. Considering our strategic approach to potential barriers

We will need to engage and co-produce further to ensure that the involvement of residents and local stakeholders is embedded in those changes which will directly impact the borough. Some of the challenges to change could include:

- Potential resistance to changes, some of which may come from residents.
- Commercial pressures and impacts.
- Logistical challenges, such as loading and unloading zones.
- Challenges to ensuring spaces are effectively adapted for all residents to access and enjoy.
- Prioritising policing and safety concerns of our public realm.
- Communications and messaging so that people understand the benefits.

Next Steps

1. Engage the Council's Policy and Oversight Board. Part of the Board's role is to develop policy and make recommendations to H&Fs Cabinet. It is proposed to have a future discussion at Policy and Oversight Board, to which all attendees of this workshop will be invited.
2. The priorities and ideas captured through this workshop will be considered as part of the Council's longer-term policy work.

APPENDIX A – ATTENDEES

Forename	Surname	Organisation / Role (where provided)
Lisa	Homan	Chair for this event. H&F Councillor. Chair of Policy and Oversight Board and other Members of the Board
Sharon	Holder	H&F Councillor. Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Lead Member for Inclusive Community Engagement and Co-production.
Wesley	Harcourt	H&F Councillor. Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology.
Jacolyn	Daly	H&F Councillor. Chair of Housing and Homelessness PAC and member of Policy and Oversight Board.
Brendan	Smith	Local resident
Calum	Wyllie	Wandsworth Bridge Residents Association
Casey	Abaraonye	H&F Cycling
Debjani	Biswas-Hawkes	Hammersmith BID
Douglas	Leroy	OurBike
Edward	Jospe	Wandsworth Bridge Residents Association
Fatma	Ahmed	Local resident
Gary	Fannin	Wandsworth Bridge Residents Association
Houel	Gautier	Local resident
Mark	Robinson	Local resident
Michelle	Lindson	Urbanwise London
Patrick	Frank	Local resident
Penny	Neu	Social Engine
Peri	Abaraonye	H&F Cycling
Rachel	Purcell	Local resident
Tim	Louie	Ramblers
Valeria	Enriquez	Local resident
Vanessa	Slawson	Ramblers
Adam	Webber	H&F Air Quality Strategy and Policy Lead
Amric	Sangha	H&F Transport Planner (Strategy)
Charis	Champness	H&F Programme Lead, Public Health
Clancy	Connolly	H&F Policy Officer
David	Abbott	H&F Head of Governance
Hinesh	Mehta	H&F Assistant Director for Climate Change
Ian	Hawthorn	H&F Assistant Director of Highways
John	Galsworthy	H&F Director of Climate Change and Transport
Mark	Raisbeck	H&F Director of Public Realm
Kulpreet	Sangha	H&F Climate and Ecology programme officer
Mark	Fanneran	H&F Assistant Director of Parking

Forename	Surname	Organisation / Role (where provided)
Masum	Choudhury	H&F Assistant Director of Transport
Matthew	Sales	H&F Assistant Director of Programmes and Assurance
Russell	Trewartha	H&F Assistant Director of Capital Projects (Climate Change and Transport)