

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

Thursday 9th June 2020

ITEM 5 – PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Note

At the meeting a total of 30 minutes is available for public questions and comments. The questioner may ask one supplementary question at the meeting which will be answered without discussion. The supplementary question must be relevant to the original question put to the Chairman.

Agenda Item	Question	Response
Agenda Item 7 Sustainability Strategy Update	Mr Levy Will the initiative be promoted with prominent reference to energy/fuel saving, as that will help engage the widest range of people, especially considering topical issues?	We have committed, through our Sustainability Strategy Framework, to not only make the energy and fuel used by the residents, business and the Council more sustainable, but also improve the energy efficiency of the borough's built environment. Additionally, the Council has committed to holding a Citizens Assembly to inform the development of the Sustainability Strategy. Issues and views raised via this forum will be considered when developing the Strategy and its commitments.
Agenda Item 7 Sustainability Strategy Update / Item 10 Air Quality Action Plan	Ms Lorraine Ryan Thomas The recent E.On/LGN study shows only 47% of councils have confidence they will achieve their Net Zero targets. Barnet has modest ambitions in its Sustainability Strategy so what quick wins are you expecting as you refine and implement the Strategy, and what specific steps will you take to discourage car journeys and encourage green travel options across Borough and so reduce congestion and improve air quality? To deliver this, how will you engage TfL to secure	Barnet has committed to going further and faster in reaching its net zero targets, but this must also be done in a way which is feasible and achievable. We have therefore taken a data led approach in developing a Sustainability Strategy by producing a carbon baseline prior to the strategy's development. This baseline will inform the targets and commitments within the strategy to ensure that the borough is able to reach net zero within the proposed timeframe.

	<p>strengthened public transport particularly in the face of proposed cuts to bus routes in the south and west of the Borough?</p>	<p>The borough is also looking to embed change quickly where possible, with a particular focus on empowering residents to make the changes necessary within their own lives; for example, through its electric vehicle charge point programme the Council will have installed over 700 charge points by the end of the year. We will also continue to work with TfL to ensure public transport remains a viable alternative for residents.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9 Parks and Open Spaces update</p>	<p>Ms Lorraine Ryan Thomas</p> <p>As the new administration have declared a Climate Emergency, what practical actions are now being taken to ensure Barnet minimises use of environmentally harmful concrete, tarmac and plastic in the existing and developing public realm, and to particularly reject the use of artificial grass in all Barnet Metropolitan Open spaces, but specifically the Clitterhouse and Hendon playing fields'</p>	<p>Metropolitan Open Land has an important role to play as part of Barnet's green infrastructure, and both the draft Local Plan and the London Plan refer to supporting improvements in greenspace to optimise benefits such as supporting health outcomes, biodiversity and quality of life. Local analysis has identified that despite good geographical coverage of sports pitches across the Borough there is demand for additional sports provision. The councils playing pitch assessment also highlights challenges in respect of the quality of existing grass pitches and their accessibility. Artificial Turf Pitches (ATPS) are able durable, resilient and can provide a consistent quality playing surface which offers improved access and increased availability. The potential inclusion of ATPs at Clitterhouse Playing Fields and West Hendon Playing Fields has been considered for a proportion of the greenspace to ensure that environmental objectives can be met. Any schemes will need to pay due regard to the National Planning Policy Framework with supporting evidence provided as part of each individual planning application.</p> <p>Developments are required to demonstrate how sustainable design and construction methods are incorporated into proposals to mitigate and adapt to climate change over their intended lifetime. Greater detail on these measures can be found in the Council's suite of design guidance SPDs together with the Green Infrastructure SPD</p>

		https://www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policies-and-local-plan/local-plan
Agenda Item 10 Air Quality Action Plan	Mr Levy Will the council consider holding a public engagement evening to help gather ideas for, and refine, the Air Quality Action Plan, similar to such an event conducted by Camden Council a few years ago?	We will be undertaking a public consultation on our new Air Quality Action Plan over the Summer. This will allow residents to input into the design of the Action Plan.
Agenda Item	Comment	
Agenda Item 7 Sustainability Strategy Update	Mr Dave McCormick To help the council learn from best practices we draw your attention to Friends of the Earth & Ashden council climate action case studies that were published last month and a full day conference that will go into these case studies in more detail (together with presentations from those involved in delivering the projects) on 14th Jul	