

Hillrise Ward Partnership Meeting
Caxton House
Wednesday 21st March 2018
Notes of Meeting

Attendees

Cllr David Poyser, Chair

Cllr Marian Spall

Cllr Michelline Ngongo

Hannah Kirby (Ward Partnership Co-ordinator, Islington Council)

Hermela Habtegebrel (Economic Development Officer for Archway, Islington Council)

Deanna Walker (Economic Development & Projects, Islington Council)

Faisal Shabbir (Hillrise Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Met Police)

James Ryder (Hillrise Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Met Police)

Bob Foster, Elthorne Pride

1. Welcome from Councillor David Poyser

2. Safer Routes to Estates

Deanna Walker from the Economic Development & Projects Team at Islington Council gave a brief presentation on the Safer Routes to Estates programme. There is funding available to look at entrances and routes to estates, to make them safer, more attractive and more accessible. A number of wards are being looked at, and residents asked to suggest ideas that would fall between £10-20k. Deanna gave several examples of successful ideas from other areas and outlined the process for submission and delivery.

Ideas from Hillrise residents included:

- Improving lighting around parking areas on the Elthorne Estate (directly behind the Royal Oak pub)
- Placing magnets on the gates to the Duncombe road garages (Elthorne Road) to improve security and reduce vandalism
- The park behind the community centre needs better lighting to make the park safer
- Greenery behind Caxton needs to be pruned to avoid another break in

Any other ideas please submit to Deanna.Walker@islington.gov.uk

3. Navigator Square

Hermela Habtegebrel, the Economic Development Officer for Archway, gave an update on recent developments in the area, particularly the completion of the gyratory works. The council will be delivering events on Navigator Square, such as the Archway Market trial, an Islam awareness event and the Archway Summer

Festival. She also gave information on the Archway Zero Emissions Network (funded by the GLA) which is installing electric vehicle chargers, running Dr Bike sessions, supporting Walk to School schemes and providing grants to local businesses and organisations. The Council is working with the Archway Town Centre Group to investigate other ways of improving local air quality, such as City Trees (a bench that grows moss). Hermela then took questions about the local area from the meeting attendees.

- The lighting in Navigator Square is currently on 24 hours a day – the Council have flagged this issue with TfL to rectify before they hand over responsibility for the Square to the Council. Similarly, it is a TfL responsibility for the condition of the trees around the square; TfL is aware of the condition of the dead tree on the traffic Island. Responsibility for gritting the Square lies with the Council and Hermela will look into getting a grit bin
- The Council has not received a planning application or any details from the Methodist Hall/church building
- Sandridge street seating area often has rubbish dumped on it – Hermela confirmed that TfL are responsible for the road but the Council has flagged it as a priority area for the Street Clean team and will explore whether TfL will install a bin.
- The Council has been in contact with the owners of the Archway Tavern about broken tables and other issues. Hermela will conduct another inspection; Dorothy Leng from WHPARA suggested that the resident's association could also write to the owners in order to increase the pressure.
- There are two CCTV cameras around the Square but ongoing reports about people being hassled.

Any community groups who would like to be involved or run events on Navigator Square please contact barry.causton@islington.gov.uk

4. Crime

Faisal and James from the Met Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team attended the meeting to hear resident's concerns about increased crime in the area. Faisal provided an update on recent occurrences, namely a spike in burglaries and robberies (19 in January and 11 in February). The Police have altered their shifts and increased patrols (including plain clothes officers around Archway) in response, as well as meeting with local groups such as The Neighbourhood Watch. A male was arrested in early March and charged with handling stolen goods and will be going to court. Faisal mentioned that there has been a recent increase in burglaries around Cheverton Road and advised residents to place heavy plant pots on windowsills and trim hedges to prevent burglars from accessing properties through smashing windows. These burglaries have mainly taken place around 2/3am. The Police are intending to further increase police presence and signage for Neighbourhood Watch (funding has been approved for more signs).

Residents raised concerns about muggings, phone snatching, people being hassled, drugs being sold on local estates, and the difficulties with reporting these incidents to the police. Faisal said that police on patrol try to disperse suspicious groups and conduct stop and searches in local estates and parks, but cuts to police services hinder further efforts.

Residents asked what they could do as a community – requested more signs telling people to put their phones away; carry personal alarms; stay in groups around the ward (especially children); call 999 if you see anyone that looks suspicious; don't walk with headphones in. The Council is doing prevention work with local schools such as Family Support, local youth support groups, Ben Kinsella foundation, police liaison offers in schools, Chance UK charity etc but residents and the Met emphasized that police presence was a stronger deterrent, although Faisal noted resident requests for more notices and CCTV (Miranda Estate, Navigator Square etc). The Councillors offered to write on behalf of the community to Jeremy Corbyn MP and the Crown Prosecution Service requesting higher charges for crimes of this nature, and to try and flag the issue on the national agenda.

The next Safer Neighbourhoods Team meeting is on 25th April at St David's Church on Whitehall Park.

5. AOB - Elthorne Pride

Bob from Elthorne Pride provided an update on the work of the organisation and the lottery funding they have available to spend in the local area. A 'big lunch' event is planned for 3rd June at Royal Oak pub to get residents involved and share their views. Residents suggested:

- youth forum (to help tackle youth crime)
- self-defence training for young people on estates

For any additional queries concerning the ward partnership meetings please contact the Ward Coordinator Rachael Campbell
(Rachael.campbell@islington.gov.uk)