

WINCHMORE HILL WARD FORUM

Thursday 11 February 2021, 7.30pm

Friends Meeting House, Church Hill, N21 1LE

Councillors: Maria Alexandrou (MA), Ian Barnes (IB),
Dinah Barry (DB)



PLEASE NOTE THAT WARD FORUMS ARE HELD FOR EVERY WARD AND ARE FOR RESIDENTS OF THAT WARD. Others may attend as observers.

CHAIR FOR THIS MEETING: DB

NOTES: MA and DB (Sections in italics are later information provided by council officers.)

1. UPDATE FROM POLICE: PS Matt Bloomfield

Crime dipped during lockdown. Winchmore Hill has one of the lowest crime rates in the borough.

We must report crime, each crime is put on a crime mapping system and we can see potential hotspots.

Catalytic converters being stolen.

Scams: false offers of the covid jab. You will be contacted by the NHS or your GP and will not be asked for your contact details. If asked for them it is a scam.

Residents raised specific concerns about :

Drug dealing in Derwent Road - This has been raised several times. DB asked for this to be a regular part of police reports in future.

Drug dealing on the grassed area of Firs Lane - This has not been raised with councillors before.

Police need to prioritise calls so may not respond immediately. Please report so that there is a record and mapping and prioritising are as accurate as possible.

INFORMATION

To compare to other areas, go on police.uk website:

<https://www.police.uk/metropolitan/>.

You can also see all the stats and get prevention advice on the team's web site:

<https://www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/met/enfield/winchmore-hill/>. In addition, this has a link where you can subscribe to the team's newsletter and information about future dates when you can speak to the team in person.

The most effective way to report crime is to do so online:

<https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/how-to-report-a-crime/>

101 is slower and goes to the same place.

2. PRESENTATION FROM HEALTHWATCH - Sue-Jane O'Keefe, Community Engagement Officer

- Healthwatch is an independent organisation
- Beware of scams, we can check for you

- Vaccines: Enfield has rapid response centres for testing, and Healthwatch can ask your GP to help with transport to get vaccinated, over 70's are getting vaccinated and unpaid carers are on the priority listed for vaccine
- Over 18 thousand people not registered with GP in Enfield

INFORMATION

- You can find out more about Healthwatch on their web site:
<https://healthwatchenfield.co.uk>
 or by emailing: info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk if you give your phone number, Sue-Jane will phone you.
 9.00am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday

3. PRESENTATION ABOUT THE NEW CARE HOME ON THE REARDON COURT SITE - Amena Matin, Enfield Council.

- We received a presentation about the Extra care home that is being built on the old Reardon Court site.
- 91 homes, 81, one bed and the remaining 10, two bed.
- Planning permission was granted in 2020 and demolition work has started. Construction work is expected to begin soon.
- Grants from the Mayor condition that the homes are available for over 55s with social & physical need
- Homes will have natural ventilation, control of heating, dedicated disabled parking bays, adaptable & accessible homes. The aim is to encourage independent living and the homes will be suitable for the full lifetime of the residents.
- Housing available to people with disabilities, aged over 55 on the council's housing list.
- Carbon emissions will be as small as possible.

Residents raised specific concerns about:

- Land being used for parking - there is some lack of clarity about the ownership of land that the council is proposing to use for parking. This land is currently a bund along Cosgrove Close on the Barrowell Green side. The ownership of the land is a matter for the Land registry and is being looked into. Residents are concerned that the bund protects them from the noise and pollution from the recycling centre. Amena promised to check on this with the Environmental team and what is being done to ensure residents are protected.
- Residents asked for some parking controls to be put in place to deal with parking by visitors. They want to have good relations with the new neighbours so are keen that potential areas for friction are dealt with in advance. Amena is working in this.

- Residents are concerned about the age and number of the people moving in and the impact this will have on Cosgrove Close.
- Residents complained they had not been consulted and that communication from the council has been poor. (See Ward forum notes for March 2020.)
- Councillors will be kept informed and updated on these developments. Residents of Cosgrove Close will be invited to a meeting.

4. LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOODS (LTNs)

The following points were made:

- **Cllr. Ian Barnes (IB)**

- **Too many cars on our Roads,**

- 120,000 cars in Enfield, prediction is for 24,000 more over the next two decades. And 10s of thousands rat run through residential neighbourhoods.
 - 34% of journeys are less than 2km (a 15 minute walk if you are able), 30% are for leisure and many cars have only one person in them.
 - 90% of Enfield residents live on residential streets (C or unclassified).

- **Safety**

- Drivers on residential streets are twice as likely to kill a child walking and three times as likely to kill a child on a bike than they are on main roads.
 - London's black children are more at risk than white or Asian children while black Londoners are less likely to own a car than white or Asian Londoners.
 - Cycling injures on residential roads has increased by 38% in the last decade.
 - The aim is to send traffic to the main roads which were built to take large volumes of traffic.

- **Health**

- 34% of 11 year olds are now overweight or obese.
 - With regard to the Fox lane LTN, there has been an 18% drop in the number of children being driven to school at St Monicas that is also on a School Street.
 - 4,000 Londoners died from air pollution in 2019. Air pollution particles found in children and linked to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.
 - 25% increase in asthma deaths in the South east of England. 17% increase in London in the last few years.

- **Climate change**

- 39% of Enfield's (carbon) emissions come from vehicles; 20% in the UK as a whole.
 - Speed bumps are ineffective and disliked by ambulance drivers.
 - Electric cars still emit particulates from bike pads and tires and there are ethical concerns about the batteries.
 - A borough wide 20mph won't reduce the number of vehicles but it could make our roads safer.

▶Interested in road user charging by the mile.

• **Cllr. Maria Alexandrou (MA)**

▶School streets such as the very successful one in Ringwood Way, are the way forward, they will encourage children (and parents) to walk and cycle in the future.

▶They do not block roads or increase congestion.

▶There are too many cars but LTNs just push them and the pollution they cause onto the surrounding roads in poorer areas of the borough. Traffic is not evaporating - it's just going somewhere else.

▶We should meet with other councillors especially those from Bowes to work together and discuss alternatives: ladder systems, speed cameras, 20mph Brough-wide limit; things that do not block streets, delay emergency services and buses and harm businesses.

• **RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (these are amalgamated / grouped into topics)**

▶Traffic is not evaporating

▶Pollution is increased on the surrounding roads. Cycle Lanes have narrowed Green lanes and the LTNs have pushed more traffic onto Green Lanes, Bourne Hill and Alderman's Hill. There are also large housing developments in the area which will increase traffic - this is making pollution worse for people living on or near this roads.

▶Children and others have to use these more polluted, peripheral roads to walk to school etc.

▶Green Lanes is too polluted to cycle on.

▶LTNs are illogical, they increase journey distances and cause congestion which reduces speed.

▶Some short journeys by car are necessary e.g. to the supermarket to bring shopping home.

▶If public transport was better people could reduce car use.

▶Childhood obesity would be better tackled by encouraging healthy eating.

▶The Fox lane area did not need an LTN. There have been no serious injuries / fatalities in the last 10 years and it has the lowest obesity rates in Enfield.

▶The cost of travel for disabled people has increased because taxis have to drive further.

▶The LTN trial should be allowed to continue so that we can see if it works.

▶The LTN has tackled the 1,000s of cars on these roads some of which travel at 70mph

▶If people who don't need to use a car didn't it would help those who have no alternative but to use a car for a journey.

• **FURTHER COMMENTS BY COUNCILLORS**

▶Central Government involvement: Grant Shapps has written that if councils fail to demonstrate improvements as a result of an LTN and to show community

engagement including in neighbouring areas, funding will cease and be clawed back. (MA)

The surrounding area was leafleted. Two consultations are open at the moment. Grant Shapps gave us funding for one LTN and has since given us £1.5m for further work. (IB)

- ▶ Much of the work has been modelled on Waltham Forest, which a 2018 study by Kings College suggests that there has not been a decrease in air quality on main roads following the introduction of LTNs. (IB)
Government statistical data in Waltham Forest, showed that traffic on the surrounding roads had increased by 15% since the introduction of LTNs. (MA)
- ▶ TfL will appeal the High Court ruling - it is irrelevant because it was about taxis not being able to pull over for people with disabilities in Bishopsgate. (IB)
Since this ruling, one borough has removed an LTN and others are likely to follow. (MA)
- ▶ I don't believe speed cameras or ladder systems would work in reducing the amount of vehicles on our roads. (IB)

• ANSWERS TO RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

- ▶ **Future plans:** no funding for Connaught Gardens yet, possible plans for an LTN in Upper Edmonton, (IB) (Fernleigh Rd Quieter Neighbourhood - no plans to revisit. Richard Eason)
I want the whole borough to be covered in LTNs. Fox lane was the first because of a school street and its proximity to cycle lanes. (IB)
- ▶ Southgate roundabout isn't fit for purpose. (IB)
- ▶ A box-junction at the junction of Green Lanes and Alderman's Hill is being considered. (IB)
- ▶ Like to see more cycle lanes because they distance homes from cars. (IB)
- ▶ In favour of road-user charging. (IB)
- ▶ Main roads are not being ignored: green barriers and tree cover are being planned. (IB)
- ▶ Southgate circus is not fit for purpose as it was never designed for this amount of vehicles on our roads. (IB)
- ▶ Hoping to put a school street into Hazelwood Lane. (IB)
- ▶ **Fox Lane LTN:** will continue to the end of the planned consultation. Decisions will be made following that on the basis of the report. Measurements cannot be taken at present because rate current circumstances are not normal. Something else will be tried if it is not successful. (IB)
- ▶ **People with disabilities** make 32% fewer car journeys each day but are five times more likely to be injured by a vehicle (IB)
There are 10,500 disabled blue-badge holders in Enfield - many of them depend on their cars. (MA)
- ▶ People's views must be considered, I have received nearly 700 emails, most are against the Fox Lane LTN; I haven't counted the phone calls, some of them tearful: people late for work, miss appointments and house sales are falling through because people don't want to live in an area where there is gridlock.

(MA)

• **MAJOR ISSUES THAT EMERGED (DB):**

- Many people living within the LTN enjoy it.
- Concern for people living on and using the peripheral roads especially in terms of increased pollution.
- Concern for disabled people living within LTNs as well as outside.
- Enthusiasm for greening.
- Interest in exploring alternatives to LTNs.

COUNCILLORS' CONTACT DETAILS:

Maria Alexandrou clr.maria.alexandrou@enfield.gov.uk

Ian Barnes clr.ian.barnes@enfield.gov.uk

Dinah Barry clr.dinah.barry@enfield.gov.uk