

Charlton and Woolwich Better Together group discussion summary - Resident input into the Royal Borough's response to the Mayor of London's draft London Environment Strategy – 25 October 2017

Residents participated in themed discussions to consider the scope and impact of the Mayor of London's draft 'London Environment Strategy'. Each discussion group mirrored a theme within the strategy to consider a topic in some detail. The themes included air quality, ambient noise, waste, climate change mitigation and adaptation and green infrastructure.

The table below is a summary of residents comments incorporated into the Royal Borough's response to the Mayor of London's draft London Environment Strategy.

| Group discussion theme | Group concerns | Group suggestions to help |
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| Air Quality | Residents felt 2050 was not ambitious enough and the target date should be much sooner | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with Public Health, GPs, CCGs to assess and distribute better information on health effects of air quality 2. Greater emphasis on active travel 3. The strategy should be more open to new ideas; i.e. air filters on Trafalgar Road |
| | Concerned about the lack of Officers managing air quality in the Borough | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resident's believe the Royal Borough should employ more air quality officers and be more proactive |
| | Residents were concerned about major pollution sources in particular the proposed cruise terminal (and resulting transport sources) and Blackwell tunnel | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents wanted onshore power 2. Residents wanted the overriding aim to be an ethical position to not make the situation worse 3. Residents wanted better, less polluting and less congesting options for transporting tourists from the terminal to Greenwich and beyond |
| | Lack of access to active travel options and infrastructure and cars parking in cycle paths | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents were pleased with the Royal Borough's electric bike trial and with the possibility of Santander bikes coming to the borough and would want to see this delivered with greater urgency |
| | Poor air quality around schools is a major issue | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schools need to continue working with parents and children to promote |

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| | | <p>walking to school via clean air routes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Roads outside of schools could be pedestrianised with teachers and other volunteers helping meet children in 3. Areas of the community could start 'walking buses' to school 4. A resident was also concerned about indoor air quality and said there needs to be better ventilation in public buildings like libraries, housing and schools to ensure fresh air. |
| Ambient Noise | Rules concerning ambient noise are regularly broken, particularly by construction (noise after permitted hours on a weekend, or vehicles arriving early and not being challenged), but culprits act with impunity | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the Royal Borough's powers to take effective preventative and enforcement action against ambient noise |
| | Noisy motor vehicles regularly cited | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expansion to electric vehicles should be encouraged further |
| | Areas of respite from noise could be improved | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generally residents highly valued the green nature of the local area. 2. Residents felt that parks were important – they provide space in which the community can meet, enjoy green space and take part in cultural activities 3. The facilities in the parks; toilets, play areas, cycle parking etc. ought to be improved 4. Residents felt that Kidbrooke could do with more green spaces as there parks in the area tended to be football pitches. 5. Small green spaces needed to be better maintained so that local people can use them. More pocket parks should be encouraged |
| | Traffic contributes significantly to ambient noise levels | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage more people onto public transport. Public transport should also have quiet zones. |

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| | Noise from vehicles going over speed humps. | 1. No suggested action |
| | Increase positive noises | 1. Cheering from Charlton Athletic was seen as a pleasant noise and should be repeated more! |
| Waste | Unsure of what is recyclable | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better communication using all formats, not just online or local paper. 2. More information about the cost implications about contaminating recycling; 3. Better information regarding commonly used packaging i.e. Microwavable meals. |
| | Need to reduce waste, such as from single use packaging e.g. coffee cups. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement a refund scheme for cans and bottles where a levy can be refunded when the items are returned; 2. Promote multi-use coffee cups/discourage single use coffee cups using a financial incentive; 3. Encourage companies to use less packaging; 4. Promote behaviour change where people are encouraged to sit and enjoy a coffee and not drink while commuting. |
| | Disposal of hazardous waste, such as paint, is difficult. | 1. Streamline the collection of paint or provide drop off points from which City of London can then pick the paint up from. |
| | Recycling at older communal blocks is difficult. | 1. Provide grants or support for Local Authorities to retrofit older communal properties to enable better recycling/less contamination of recycling. |
| | Better education of people about the impacts and cost of littering and their waste collection. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better education of young people in schools to deter littering; 2. More road shows and events to discourage littering/promote recycling; 3. Easier identification of recycling bins and better design to enable cans/bottles only. |
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| Climate Change mitigation and | Achieving 'zero carbon' will require significant changes in people's behaviour | 1. Creating alternative choices for people to accelerate positive behaviour change, for example; more efficient and cheaper public transport. |

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| adaptation | We do not currently have the technology to become zero carbon | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase investment in renewable infrastructure, such as electric vehicle charging points and heat pumps; 2. Promote research and development in new clean technologies. |
| | Most of our existing infrastructure is not designed for climate change adaptation and is particularly prone to flooding. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New collaborative and local solutions are needed to solve flooding issues – increasing soak-away and changing people’s attitudes and behaviours towards drains and sewerage. 2. Increase tree cover and green space to improve drainage. 3. Encourage rainwater recycling and investigate inter-seasonal storage. |
| | It's expensive for people to improve the energy efficiency of their homes | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grants & subsidies should be available to implement energy efficiency improvements. 2. Solar panels should be specified on all public buildings and new build developments. 3. Higher standards for new buildings are required. 4. Information should be simplified and provided by reliable sources. |
| Green Infrastructure | Reduced quality of green space e.g. weeds, flower beds not in good condition, poor maintenance regimes. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More resources to support park staff and department; 2. Better trained park and maintenance staff; 3. Better maintenance contracts - Contractors to undertake works that best suit the needs of the green infrastructure and not just their own timetable. |
| | Make parks feel safer and more inviting. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide greater presence in parks of park staff; 2. Provide toilet facilities that are maintained and preferably staffed; 3. Provide tea and coffee facilities. 4. Encourage the use of parks by school groups and local communities - this could include adoption by groups or provision for allotments. |

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| <p>Improve the wildlife value of green infrastructure.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide access to ecologists by Local Authorities to help improve their maintenance regimes, their planting choices, to develop wildlife features and to provide advice to developers and residents on the best features for the local area; 2. Support Local Authorities and residents to install wildlife features. |
| <p>Greater oversight of developments to ensure wildlife features are protected, enhanced and maintained.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be more prescriptive to developers on the amount and type of wildlife features that need to be included and the maintenance required to produce the greatest value from the included wildlife features; 2. Ensure that habitat loss is minimised by developments. |
| <p>Use green infrastructure to improve the walkability of our streets.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a London wide Green Chain Walk and better connectivity of green spaces; 2. Provide flowers and greenery to unpleasant traffic intersections and roads; 3. Facilitate residents who would like to green their streets and/or communal areas. |