

# Southgate Green Ward Forum

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 7:00 PM

## Agenda for the Virtual Zoom Meeting:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Covid response and update
- LTNs
- *TfL – Arnos Grove*
- *Cannon Hill – suggested slip road closure for outdoor dining*
- *Local Plan*
- *Councillor update*
- *AOB and date for next meeting*

Councillors in attendance: Daniel Anderson, Anne Brown and Claire Stewart

For those of you who were not able to tune in to this virtual ward meeting it's of interest to note that it was the first meeting since July 2019 and had much ground to cover as a result. No minutes have as yet been published on the council web site for the ward (further information can be found at: <https://governance.enfield.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=683>).

We thought it would be helpful as a minimum to cover the topics discussed and point to any key issues that arose. After the initial introductions and the technical wrangling that seems to prevail in these on-line virtual meetings, proceedings got under way.

Councillor Claire Stewart who chaired the meeting proceeded to cover the councils' activities around the covid 19 pandemic and shared a virtual presentation covering issues such as the vaccination program, track and trace, maintaining council services and a road map for Enfield. More information is available at: <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/your-council/enfield-response-to-covid-19/>

The next item on the agenda "LTNs" proved to be a popular topic with residents from outside the ward having joined the meeting expressing frustration at what they described as a "*lack of engagement*" within their own ward (Bowes) – Councillor Claire Stewart stated she would not take questions from residents outside the ward given it would be "unfair" on Southgate Green Ward residents.

It would be fair to describe the atmosphere as "charged" but respectful, given what appeared to be the first opportunity for many residents to voice their opinions directly in person to councillors outside of the formal consultation process. As you can imagine when it comes to the subject of "LTNs" people were not shy about coming forward whichever view they took. Topics covered were: (*Focussing on key issues raised and for the sake of impartiality only reflects the personal opinions of those who elected to express them during the meeting*):

**"The general approach to quieter neighbourhoods and in particular the use of LTNs"**: The resident that raised this issue suggested that the issue around traffic management should be viewed at a holistic level and that in his view localised road closures where not helpful or achieved the aims stated. Also made an observation around an increase of traffic on his own road.

**"Worried about my children walking down a main road to school"**: A parent expressed her concern about walking and cycling her children to school on a route she has taken for many years but is now witnessing an increase in traffic (which *she* associated with the introduction of the Fox Lane LTN) and is concerned about the level of pollution and the impact on her children.

**"No historic monitoring has taken place"**: The same resident raised a point around the lack of historic traffic monitoring and how would the comparison pre and post LTN be performed? Councillor Claire Stewart did respond by stating there had been monitors placed in a number of roads but didn't have the data available. The resident asked how the council planned to compare on her route given there was no monitoring being perform at this point in time.

**"I've seen ambulances reversing / bin lorries reversing"**: It was suggested that emergency services were being impacted by the access restrictions and that council refuse collections were having to reverse once they reached the modal filters on the Lakes Estate. The point was refuted by another resident who stated "this isn't true" and a conversation ensued around access to keys by the emergency services.

**"Numerous consultations"**: One resident asserted there had been a long history of consultations by the council and refuted any reference to a lack of consultation – mentioning the previous planters and open days held by the council.

**"Apartheid outside the LTN"**: One resident raised his concerns about residents outside of these schemes, he suggested that the figure quoted by the council of 10% of residents living on the busier A & B roads was not true in this part of Enfield and that the number is 35%. He asked why are we not concerned about those residents' welfare. The issue around new residential developments close to busy routes (north circular was mentioned) was also raised, councillor Claire Stewart stated these were not council controlled developments in response the resident asked if the council were not aware or in control of planning in the borough?

**“More traffic and congestion on roads”:** This was raised by a number of residents either in reference to their own road where they stated seeing an increase in thru traffic or to those on the boundary of the Fox Lane LTN scheme. One resident stated that “it was not *his* experience and that he had no problem driving to work in the morning”. Discussion covered the impact on public transport and in particular delays on the bus service and how it was monitored. The issue of accurate data was raised with some residents wanting to reserve judgement until they saw traffic data and some questioning the validity of data given their own anecdotal experiences to date, the lack of comparative data and a limited sample set.

There were numerous other issues raised and discussed covering topics such as:

“Not feeling safe at night when walking through the LTN”

“Takes too long to cross the road with my grandchildren”

“Street lighting needs addressing”

“Why isn’t the data being shared from the consultation process”

“What is the impact on the wider area”

“I’ve counted cars on my road increase from 6 per min to at least 18 per min”

“Why are you monitoring inside the LTN”

“How do elderly residents manage if they have to get a bus which is now delayed”

“Local businesses depend on transport access”

The topic of LTNs consumed the remaining time allotted, it was at this point Councillor Claire Stewart closed and left the meeting.

Councillors Daniel Anderson and Anne Brown elected to stay online and offered to discuss any topics the residents would like to cover and/or continue with the agenda.

The new proposal of: “Cannon Hill – suggested slip road closure for outdoor dining” was discussed and the proposal was outlined by the councillors making reference to the similar road closure in Winchmore Hill (The Green). A number of issues were raised by residents:

- Cannon Hill is a busier road and may not be suited to being closed
- The layout in Winchmore Hill is better suited to this type of proposal with it’s green space
- Expressed concern on how it would impact the businesses who wouldn’t benefit from “al fresco” dining

Councillor Daniel Anderson drew attention to a number of complaints that residents had raised in Winchmore Hill around:

- Noise, as people still congregated in the area after restaurants closed and how it impacted peoples sleep
- Deliveries for shops was an issue
- Litter & parking congestion

A resident raised the issue of bin collections being missed and suggested in some instances green bin collections happening where no payment had been made.

We discussed parking restrictions around and outside Southgate Underground Station and TFL proposals to develop land (specifically car parks)

A resident explained the process by which busses were monitored to indicate if they were running on time and suggested that the impact of LTNs was being veiled by routes that benefited from a drop in passenger numbers due to covid.

Finally, the remaining councillors (Daniel Anderson and Anne Brown) expressed a desire to hold more regular meetings and closed the meeting.

**This account aims to reflect the opinions and statements made by residents and councillors who attended the Southgate Green Ward meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and does not represent an FLDR endorsement.**