

OPEN FORUM 28 OCTOBER 2019 – Q&A Summary

This document responds to questions pre-submitted for discussion at the 28 October 2019 Open Forum that there was no time to include on the night. The document is being published on the Open Forum website to ensure that the council has responded to all questions raised.

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MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting took place at Westminster Academy, 255 Harrow Road, W2 5EZ and was attended by full Cabinet. Also in attendance were representatives from Transport for London (TfL) and the Metropolitan Police (a list of Westminster City Council and partner representatives can be found in Appendix 1).

The Westminster Housing Service held a pre-meeting drop-in session, inviting residents to come and speak with Cllr Andrew Smith (Cabinet Member for Housing), Neil Wightman (Director of Housing) and other housing service colleagues, about any questions and concerns they had about the new housing service.

Information stalls were available before the meeting commenced for attendees to find out more about campaigns and projects that Westminster is currently running. These stalls were Customer Experience, 20mph consultation, Don't be Idle and Hidden Networks.

ENVIRONMENT (PUBLIC REALM) & TRANSPORT

Q. Andy Beverley – What is the council doing to improve cycling conditions in Belgravia?

- Westminster was working with TfL to develop a connection between Cycle Superhighway 5 and Hyde Park through Victoria and Belgravia and a few alignments were proposed. Progress on this connection has stalled and we are looking to begin discussions again with TfL in order to progress this connection.
- There is also the Quietway 15 extension from Holbein Place in RBKC further east into Belgravia that the City Council is looking to progress in 2020/21.

Q. Marc Rothman – Does the council have any plans to re-introduce traffic cameras, and if not, what is the reasoning behind this decision?

- The Council has operated an estate of traffic enforcement cameras since 2005. We currently have enforcement cameras in operation at 17 locations, enforcing a variety of moving traffic contraventions such as box junction, no entry, vehicle prohibition, prohibited turn and directional non-compliance.
- We are in the process of carrying out a Traffic Enforcement Camera review and have been monitoring several new locations where regular non-compliance has been identified. As a result, we plan to install cameras at 11 new locations by the end of 2019. The review has also identified one location where the presence of a camera has resulted in compliance being achieved, which enables us to decommission the camera from this location and move it to one of the new identified sites.
- Work is also ongoing with Westminster schools regarding the installation of a number of ‘school street’ schemes. These introduce localised vehicular restrictions at the start and end of a school day, enforceable by traffic camera. The schemes aim to discourage car use by parents and carers in bringing and collecting children from school, thus easing localised congestion, improving air quality and being of benefit to children’s health and wellbeing.

Q. Marion Kretish – a) Pavements in Boundary Road, St Johns Wood Block Buttermere are cracked and very dangerous.

b) Finchley Road - bushes and overhanging Trees are spreading to the middle of pavement and are dangerous.

c) Telephone boxes from Swiss Cottage to O2 Centre Finchley Rd are filthy. Who is responsible for them?

- a) Responsibility for the maintenance of Boundary Road rests with Camden Council. We have made them aware of this enquiry.
- b) Finchley Road is a TfL road, and we have passed this query onto them.
- c) The maintenance and cleaning of BT boxes rests with BT and they can be informed of issues by emailing the telephone number and location of the faulty phone box, together with the nature of the fault and your contact details. Send your email to: customer.serv.payphones@bt.com.

Q. Martin Kelmanson – Can a Public Spaces Protection Order be set up on Marylebone Road to deal with motorcycles and supercars misusing the road?

- A Public Spaces Protection Order may not be the best way forward in this case.
- Kensington and Chelsea had one around Harrods that did have some results, but they also had a large police team.

- The Council do not have the power to stop a vehicle and require police to stop the vehicle.

OTHER

Q. Dave Brookfield – How do Temporary Event Notices (TEN) work? Can a TEN be given in respect of any premises even if a previous application for a premises licence has been refused?

- In short, the answer is yes. It is possible for any individual to give a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) at any time and it is therefore possible for such a TEN to be given in respect of any premises even if a previous application for a premises licence has been refused. The event will be allowed to proceed unless either the police or the environmental health service object to the event taking place. If such an objection is made, the matter must be determined by a Licensing Sub-Committee. Having regard to any objections that have been made, the Licensing Sub-Committee can decide to give a counter notice if it considers it appropriate to do so for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The counter notice will prevent the event from taking place.
- Residents do not have the opportunity to oppose a TEN, but they can express their concern directly to the environmental health service and the environmental health service can have regard to such communications in deciding whether they will lodge an objection. Environmental Health can, of course, object based on their knowledge of the premises and the area in which the premises is situated.
- A TEN can only be given in respect of the same premises on 15 occasions each calendar year and for a maximum of 21 days. The maximum duration of an event authorised by a TEN is 7 days.
- It is possible for the person giving the TEN to appeal to a magistrates' court if a counter notice is given.
- If a resident is concerned that a premises that is operating under a TEN is undermining any of the licensing objectives, a complaint should be lodged with the licensing authority. The licensing authority has no power to stop permitted temporary events once they have started but the environmental health service may be able to utilise powers that it has under other legislation (such as serving an abatement notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in the event that there is a statutory nuisance). Police have the power to instantly close down premises in respect of which a TEN has effect, that are disorderly, likely to become disorderly or are causing a nuisance as a result of noise from the premises.
- As a general note, it is worth noting that not all events feature licensable activity and that a large number of events that take place in Westminster do not require a licence. Either way, we do not issue an event licence. However, all event applications

are subject to a number of checks and balances that will dictate whether or not the event is considered appropriate and can go ahead.

Q. Yawooz Ezzat - Issues with regards to four schools which are now run as academies; Churchill Gardens Primary Academy, Pimlico Primary Academy, Millbank Academy and Pimlico Academy.

- Future Academies is an educational charity and multi-academy trust that now looks after the four schools mentioned above.
- Pimlico Academy, the Trust's flagship secondary, was in special measures when Future was selected to sponsor the school in 2008, and the Academy was rated 'outstanding' at a Section 5 inspection in 2010.
- In 2013, Future Academies took on Churchill Gardens Primary School (RI). In its first year as a Future Academies school, its combined English and Maths KS2 results increased by more than twenty percentage points and it achieved a 'good' judgement from Ofsted in 2016.
- The Trust's other two primaries, Millbank Academy and Pimlico Primary, are both rated 'outstanding'.
- Students receive an excellent standard of education and enrichment opportunities, such as, free music tuition, free kayaking at Westminster boating base and a variety of cultural visits – all funded by Future Academies.

APPENDIX 1 – List of Westminster City Council and Partner Representatives

Westminster City Council Cabinet Members:

Councillor Nickie Aiken - the Leader of Westminster City Council

Councillor Tim Mitchell - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment and City Management

Councillor Rachael Robathan - Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Regeneration

Councillor Tim Barnes - Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education and Skills

Councillor Iain Bott - Cabinet Member for Sports, Culture and Community

Councillor Heather Acton - Cabinet Member for Family Services and Public Health

Councillor Andrew Smith - Cabinet Member for Housing Services

Councillor Richard Beddoe - Cabinet Member for Place Shaping and Planning

Councillor Ian Adams - Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Licensing

Councillor Paul Swaddle - Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Digital

Transport for London:

Raza Abbas - Public Affairs Officer

Iain Killingbeck - Community Partnerships Lead

Lorraine Hinds - Engagement Officer

Metropolitan Police:

Superintendent Mark Lawrence

Chief Inspector Ellen Lovatt - Community & Business Engagement Inspector for the West End of London