



Barnes Ward Community Conversation

Ward: Barnes

Date: Mon 1st July

Time: 6.30 – 9.00pm

Venue: Castelnau Centre, Barnes

Ward members:

- Cllr Aphra Brandreth
- Cllr Paul Hodgins
- Cllr Rita Palmer

Chair: Steven Mindel

Agenda Item One: Achievements

Headline Topic: Ward Achievements	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last October there was a rat infestation in Church Road due to trader's commercial waste bins being left open and overflowing. We have worked with the local traders on this, it took a few months to sort out, but the rat problem is now solved. We must work together to make sure that leaving rubbish laying around / fly tipping stops as rats can use paper etc for bedding• We are aware that flipping on the Castelnau estate is becoming a nuisance and are working with council officers to stop this• We are working on a cleaner Barnes campaign. A lot of it now is garden waste. We have been negotiating with council officers to get some forceful posters. Do let the Council know if you know anything about fly-tippers• More trees have been planted across the borough• We are continuing to work with the Town Centre Manager and Barnes Community Association on progressing ideas for the High Street• Suffolk Road play area has been opened• The big issue is Hammersmith Bridge closure and the lack of bus service that is impacting everyone in Barnes. We all continue to work with and put pressure on TfL to resolve these issues as quickly as possible

Agenda Item Two – Pre-Submitted Questions

Headline Topic: Removal of hedges (Andrew Duncan)	
Question 1	<p>Does anyone feel like me that the character of our garden suburb estate is gradually being eroded by unsympathetic developments, and in particular by the removal of hedges - a key feature of a garden suburb estate?</p> <p>I have noticed recently that the council has been planting trees on the estate (eg junction of Stillingfleet Road and Barnes Avenue) and yet at the same time has allowed a developer to remove 40m of hedge at an important road junction site nearby (north of corner of Barnes Avenue and Boileau Road). These two things seem inconsistent to me.</p>
Response	<p>Cllr Hodgins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, will all agree with this. The biggest challenge we have across London over the next 10 years or so is for more housing, though we do need to retain the green aspects of our areas • We as Councillors need to do as much as we can around this matter • The council have no powers over the removal of hedges on private land
Supplementary Question	Is it possible for the council to introduce the equivalent of by-laws on the removal of hedges?
Answer	<p>Cllr Brandreth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are limits in what the council can do – we do encourage people not to pave over their front gardens <p>Cllr Palmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently there has been more attention paid by developers to ensure that trees and hedges aren't cut down. Please do check planning applications and make officers aware if you have any concerns
Headline Topic: Bus services in Barnes (Amy Ruby)	
Question 2	I speak on behalf of many people in the Castelnau estate on Verdun Road - we are wondering will the buses continue to run past here as various people say they will yet some disagree.
Response	<p>Cllr Brandreth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to wait for the TfL consultation results and review to see what plans TfL have • Currently there is not enough space around Hammersmith Bridge for buses to turn. This also need looking into <p>Cllr Palmer</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 419 is the greatest concern. At the last Community Conversation in November this issue was a priority for me. I have been assured by TfL that the 419 is here to stay The Barrier at Boileau Road and Lonsdale Road was put in to stop fast rat-running, but the suggestion now is that if the bridge is going to be closed for 3 years then the barrier could be opened, and the buses could start from there
Headline Topic: Responsible cyclists (Jeffrey Freeman)	
Question 3	<p>I have lived in Barnes for approaching 6 years. I welcome the increase in bicycle use in the area which I have noticed. I rejoice in the thought of the internal combustion engine be made obsolete in the not too distant future. However, cyclists, like everyone one, must be responsible. They are subject to hardly any regulations and I am alarmed by the increased recklessness. There will inevitably, be accidents if nothing is done. It is a simple and inexpensive procedure to solve this problem. I have already had more than one narrow escape. There is no point in trying to speak to the cyclists because, putting it politely, they obviously consider themselves above the law.</p> <p>I would like steps put in place so that cyclists are aware of their responsibilities and make it less like that accident will occur. "Hotspots are Hammersmith Bridge, Barnes Primary School, Railway side and Barnes Pond.</p>
Response	<p>Cllr Brandreth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We all sympathise with this, cyclists are not above the law and cycling on pavements is illegal. When cyclists behave inappropriately it is a police enforcement issue. We can work with the police on this issue.
Supplementary question	Chair: Do we still have cycle proficiency in schools?
Response	<p>Cllr Hodgins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, we do have cycle proficiency in schools
Supplementary question	Towpath walking - the cyclists ride far too fast. They should use bells!
Response	<p>Cllr Hodgins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to educate and change the culture that it is not acceptable behaviour to ride tide too fast on the towpaths and pavements
Headline Topic: Community involvement around Hammersmith Bridge (Charles Campion)	
Question 4	How will the community be involved in shaping a future vision around Hammersmith Bridge and getting around the area and across the bridge in a more sustainable, cleaner and inclusive way for the medium term and long-term future?
Response	<p>Cllr Hodgins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can feedback your thoughts and ideas through the local Councillors, via the councils' survey and TfL survey

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately, Richmond council are not in control of the bridge. All councillors are constantly talking to TfL and Hammersmith and Fulham Council. • TfL have taken over management of the repairs to the bridge from Hammersmith and Fulham Council. Hopefully this will speed up the process. Once we see what the proposals are then we shall go back to both organisations to discuss • We need to look at strategic travel all around. We are aware that Clifford Avenue junction is particularly dreadful
Headline Topic: School run (Charles Campion)	
Question 5	Has the Council considered banning school runs in particular as part of the planning conditions for the new school at the Mortlake Brewery site?
Response	<p>Cllr Brandreth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We anticipate that a secondary school will have fewer car journeys than a primary school • There is no plan to completely ban the school run around the Brewery site as far as I am aware. The school will have a school travel plan (A School Travel Plan (STP) sets out how a school intends to increase levels of walking, cycling and use of public transport for the journey to and from school. It is developed through a partnership involving the school, the Council (in particular Transport) TfL and the community, and is based on consultation and engagement with teachers, parents and carers, pupils, governors/boards and other local people) • We need to influence a change in behaviour to encourage parents not to drive their children to school, which will happen over time <p>Cllr Palmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have already spoken to TfL about the 419 bus – this will be helpful for children going to the new school from Lowther school. TfL have said that if there is a demand for it then a school bus can be put in place

Agenda item three: Open Questions from the floor

Headline Topic Bus routes to hospitals	
Question 1	I've put forward 2 ideas for bus routes to TfL that I would like the Councillors to support. They are for buses that can take people to the local hospitals
Response	<p>Cllr Brandreth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TfL have said that they are reviewing the bus service • Richmond is one of only 2 London Boroughs that are increasing their bus usage • The whole of Barnes needs to be looked at holistically regarding the bus service routes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 3 of us Ward Councillors are on this and will be keeping up the pressure with TfL
Headline Topic: Ice cream vans and anti-idling	
Question 2	Ice cream vans – are they covered by the anti-idling campaign?
Answer	<p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, unfortunately ice cream vans are not. The BCA have spoken to the ice-cream vans in Barnes about idling. They do now switch off their engines until they need to charge up their freezers
Headline Topic: Major of London and Hammersmith Bridge	
Question 3	Hammersmith Bridge is totally messing up people's lives. Why is the Major of London not involved? There is no sense of emergency
Response	<p>Cllr Hodgins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think that it is now recognised that this is an emergency TfL have been very slow, and we have been critical of both TfL and Hammersmith and Fulwell council TfL are now project managing the repairs (instead of Hammersmith and Fulwell council) so we hope that this should speed the repair process up
Headline Topic: Traffic light re-phasing	
Question 4	The traffic lights need removing or re-phasing on Lonsdale Road.
Answer	<p>Cllr Brandreth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have raised this, and they have said that this will be done. It is taking too long though - we are working on this
Supplementary Question	2 pelican crossings were put in Barnes High Street a couple of years ago which need re-phasing again. People press the button to stop the traffic, but it takes so long to turn red that they have already crossed the road. This is causing unnecessary back-log for vehicles. I have been onto TfL to sort this issue out.
Answer	<p>Cllr Brandreth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't give up! TfL can take a long time to do things so persevere with this.
ACTION	Cllr Brandreth: Work with officers to re-phase the traffic lights on Lonsdale Road.
Headline Topic: Idling buses	
Question 5	The TfL buses are always idling

Response	<p>Cllr Brandreth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have also raised buses idling with TfL and the drivers have been told not to idle • The drivers can be fined. TfL have said that they will start to fine drivers and that this will then soon put a stop to them idling
Headline Topic: North Barnes High Street	
Question 6	The footfall has more than doubled recently on North Barnes High St. Is there any monitoring of this going on? (Regarding the bridge closure and effect of this on local businesses)
Response	<p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Centre Manager and Barnes Community Association are both monitoring the shops along the High Street and Castelnau Parade • Business and retailers are meeting next week to discuss what they can do to help themselves whilst the bridge is closed <p>Cllr Palmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have noticed that there are over flowing bins along Castelnau Parade due to increased footfall. I have put in a request to get an extra bin put on each side of the road
Question 7	Can you encourage more meadows – grass verges are being cut far too short and this is having a negative impact on wildlife
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some verges are being left as meadows as are various places around our Borough's green spaces