

Hillrise Ward Partnership Meeting
Caxton House
Wednesday 27th January 2016
Notes of Meeting

Attendees

Cllr Marian Spall

Cllr Michelline Ngongo

Heather Salmon (Hillrise Link Officer, Islington Council)

Rachael Campbell (Hillrise Ward Co-ordinator, Islington Council)

Martin Holland (Head of Service, Highways Service, Islington Council)

Residents: approx. 14

1. Welcome from Councillor Marian Spall

Apologies from Cllr Dave Poyser, and confirmation of the agenda for the meeting:
The proposal to pedestrianize Sunnyside Road between Elthorne Park and Sunnyside Gardens.

2. Sunnyside Road Proposal – presentation by Martin Holland

Following a request to the Executive Member for Transport and the Environment, Islington Council's Highways Services Team prepared a brief proposal to present to Hillrise residents to decide how they wished to move forward. The proposal was in its preliminary stages and resident responses would be returned to the Executive Member for consideration. The first stage of the scheme would be to pedestrianize Sunnyside Road, with the aim of later converting it into parkland.

Martin Holland covered first the benefits of the proposal – by uniting the two parks it would increase green space in the ward and create a more pleasant, well-equipped park – and then the considerations: primarily the impact on bus routes, what construction would entail and the estimated costs of the scheme.

- Bus routes – the 210, 41 and 91 bus routes use the surrounding roads (Beaumont Rise, Sunnyside Road and Hazellville Road). If Sunnyside Road were to be pedestrianized then there would have to be turning points for buses established on both the other roads. This would also require the removal of some footpaths and parking spaces.
- Sunnyside Road has a major sewer main, utilities points and electricity conduits for lighting columns beneath the surface. These could not be relocated and would prevent the planting of trees in the area, although it could be grassed over.
- Drainage down Beaumont Rise would also need to be addressed.
- The estimated cost of the project (based on an initial assessment in 2014) would be upwards of £100,000. As well as issues with securing the funding,

this would also affect the timescales of the project as the finance would need to be spread over a number of years

3. Residents' responses

Cllr Spall then invited residents to respond with any queries for Martin Holland or the councillors. Whilst the proposal to unite the two parks was greeted as positive in theory, residents raised a number of critiques of the proposals:

- There were very serious concerns about the issue of the buses turning. Criticisms raised were the idea that the procedure was unlikely to occur as smoothly as it was modelled, and cause obstructions or delays; that the buses would be turning in a residential area and this could affect quality of life for local residents and the knock-on effects on traffic jams and reduced parking spaces
- The proposal was called piecemeal due to the extended timeframe and lack of clarity (about funding streams, dealing with existing problems in Elthorne Park and the origins of the proposal) and residents expressed concerns that if the project were started and then abandoned due to poor planning and preparation they would be left in a worse situation
- It was asked how the costs for this proposal could be justified when the council was facing severe cuts across its services. Residents pointed out that other projects in the ward had long been awaiting funding and might be a better use of £100,000 than a project that would bring about a comparatively small improvement
- It was also noted that both parks have unique characters (particularly Sunnyside Gardens) and in combining them these might be lost to the overall detriment of the green offer
- A resident asked whether it would be possible to include cycle lanes in the pedestrianized road

4. Feedback

Cllr Spall called for a vote by show of hands for or against the proposal. All 14 residents present at the meeting voted against the proposal. Martin Holland collected residents' responses to take back to Cllr Webbe. He also suggested that residents who had strong feelings about the proposals should raise them at the next full council meeting on Thursday 25th February (questions should be submitted in advance to Patricia Keating, patricia.keating@islington.gov.uk, and residents attend in person to ask them to the council; full details of the process can be found [here](#). Queries may also be submitted to Cllr Claudia Webbe, Executive Member for Transport and the Environment, Claudia.Webbe@islington.gov.uk)

5. Thanks

Cllr Spall thanked all attendees and closed the meeting.