

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Environment Scrutiny Commission held on Tuesday 23 July 2019 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Leanne Werner (Chair)
Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Radha Burgess
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Michael Situ

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Richard Livingstone, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency

OFFICER SUPPORT: Jin Lin, Deputy Director of Public Health
Julie Timbrell, Scrutiny Project Manager
Sarah Newman, Business Unit Manger Environmental Health & Trading Standards

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Damian O'Brien gave apologies for lateness.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATION

There were none.

4. AIR POLLUTION

The chair invited Casper and Ella, Eco School Councillors at Judith Kerr Primary, to present. They gave their top priorities for tackling air quality and improving the environment. These include ending single use plastic in school. They are also working to understand air pollution and educating their classmates. Monitors have been put up at school to measure nitrogen dioxide. They are looking at journeys to school, most of which are by walking. Once the results of the monitoring are back they intend to look at more ways to lower pollution, and this will include stopping cars and tracks going past, planting more trees and plants, and teaching parents about the dangers of air pollution.

Dr Ian Mudway, senior lecture at the School of Population Health and Environmental Sciences at King's College London provided a presentation. The Commission was then invited to ask questions. Points raised included:

- The impact on major highways of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and how much traffic moves elsewhere or evaporates
- The extent of internal air pollution
- The success of regulation to tackle air pollution versus behaviour change. California chose regulation with scrappage schemes, taxations and banning substances. It now no longer has a diesel problem

Southwark Council officers Sarah Newman, Business Unit Manger Environmental Health & Trading Standards, and Jin Lin, Deputy Director of Public Health, then provided a presentation on Southwark Air Quality action plan.

This was followed by verbal and written presentations and reports from:

- Mums for Lungs
- Dulwich and Herne Hill Safe Routes to School
- London Living Streets: (report provided and additional written submission)
- Fossil Free Southwark
- The Zero Emissions Network (presentation)

5. CLIMATE EMERGENCY

On 27th March 2019 Southwark's Council Assembly resolved to call on cabinet to declare a Climate Emergency and do all it can to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030.

Cllr Richard Livingstone, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency, provided a verbal report back on the recent Climate Emergency Summit, with reference to the presentations provided to the summit.

He offered to come back in October with a draft Carbon Reduction Strategy, which the Commission welcomed. Cabinet will be agreeing the final plan in December.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

The Commission identified the following issues and people to hear from to inform the Air Quality review:

- Traffic closures around school and the impact on surrounding roads.
- Low Traffic neighbourhoods, and the work of Waltham Forest in particular.
- Domestic fuel consumption
- Heidi Alexander, Deputy Mayor, Transport
- European cities

The Air Quality scope will be updated and distributed for comment.