

## **THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**

At a meeting of the **CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held on **MONDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2023** at 6.45 pm in Committee Room 2, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

### **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT**

Councillors Awale Olad (Chair), Camron Aref-Adib, Nina De Ayala Parker, Sharon Hardwick, Matthew Kirk, Izzy Lenga and Gio Spinella

### **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT**

Councillors Rishi Madlani and Stephen Stark

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Councillors Adam Harrison (Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden), Sabrina Francis, (Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture), Liam Martin-Lane (remote attendance) and Linda Chung (remote attendance).

**The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.**

### **MINUTES**

**The meeting started 15 minutes late due to issues with the technology.**

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rishi Madlani and Stephen Stark who was substituted by Councillor Gio Spinella.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF STATUTORY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, COMPULSORY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND VOLUNTARY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were none.

#### **3. ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)**

The Chair announced that the meeting was broadcast live by the Council to the Internet and could be viewed on the website for six months after the meeting. After

that time, webcasts were archived and could be made available on DVD upon request. Those who were seated in the room or participated via Teams were deemed to have consented to their contributions being recorded and broadcast and to the use of those sound recordings and images for webcasting and/or training purposes.

#### **4. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)**

There were none.

#### **5. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT**

There was none.

#### **6. MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED –**

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be signed as accurate record.

#### **7. ROUTEMASTER BUSES AND VENTILATION**

Consideration was given to the report of Transport for London (TfL).

The Chair informed the Committee that he had invited TfL to the meeting to respond to safety concerns due to excessive temperatures experienced by passengers and staff on Route master buses on hot days in London.

Tom Cunnington – TfL Head of Buses Business Development made the following comments in response to the Committee's questions:

- TfL did not believe that the buses were dangerous for passengers and staff. The organisation was working to improve the temperature on buses, this however was offset by there being an increasing number of hot days.
- The organisation did not have a record of staff collapsing on Route master buses or other buses due to heat exhaustion in the last few years. There were a very small number of incidents of passengers feeling unwell on buses, however it was not certain whether this was due to heat or as a result of other issues and would need to be looked at more specifically.
- The new route master buses were owned by TfL, run and operated by TfL's bus operators who were responsible for keeping the buses in working order.

- Where there were issues with the drivers' air conditioning system in the buses, these were raised with the operators concerned when this became apparent. The drivers also raised this directly with their employer.
- In cases of extreme heat on buses, there were a number of steps drivers were advised to take including wearing cooler clothing alongside other mitigations such as taking breaks in appropriate places. It varied from operator to operator as each had their own hot weather plan.
- There was a separate cooling system for the driver's cab as it was recognised that this was a more challenging area of the vehicle, the focus had been on making sure the driver's air conditioning systems worked better.
- The new buses that had been ordered would come with improved heating and cooling for staff and customers. The improved fleet of buses that would be introduced had come about as a result of research over the last two to three years.
- TfL were the first in the world to undertake this research, it was aimed at understanding how staff and customers on board vehicles would feel comfortable in both hot and cold temperatures. It involved changing the design of the buses.
- The new fleet of buses would have improved heating and cooling to keep temperatures down on hot days, the challenge for TfL was to keep the current vehicles as cool as possible in the interim.
- The aim was to get the temperature in the buses on hot days down to the mid-20 degrees which was cooler than outside.
- The specification when considering the heat and cooling system would also consider the number of people on board the bus.
- The projection was for the new buses to be in operation towards the end of next year.
- TfL was moving towards replacing diesel buses first, currently there were about 1200 electric buses, with half of the fleet now either zero emission or hybrid which reduced the heat on the street and stopped some of the heat entering the vehicle on hot days.
- In terms of the breakdown of the number of people fainting on the different types of buses, fuel powered petrol buses compared to electric buses, this data was not available but could be provided to the Committee as far as it was available after the meeting.

**ACTION BY: TfL Head of Buses Business Development**

- TfL had set a target of achieving zero emissions by 2034 which it aimed to bring forward to 2030. This however relied on third party funding including from the government.
- The timeline was to replace at a rate of 600-700 new buses a year on average between now and 2034, depending on funding received this could be accelerated to 2030.
- The new buses would have a new improved ventilation system which would eradicate some of the issues with the buses currently in operation.

- In relation to paragraph 2.3 of the report looking at the possibility of optimising the current cooling systems on vehicles, tests were being carried out to determine the potential for the current systems to be improved, however a solution had not yet been found and there was nothing in place to indicate that improvements could be available next summer.
- TfL measured temperature on buses and were aware of the issues with the buses on hot days and the impact this had on more vulnerable members of the community, the organisation aimed to do what it could to address these issues by working with the supply industry to design solutions and improve the ventilation system on board buses.
- The aim was to make the buses as attractive as they could be including warm in the winter and cool in the summer using the available technology.
- TfL recognised the risk to recruitment and retention of drivers and had regular engagement directly with the trade unions or through the operators around the issues and drivers concerns. The organisation wanted to make the job as attractive as it could to drivers particularly in a highly competitive market.
- TfL had looked at the operation of buses in other Countries in Europe and talked to other operators around the world to understand how they were addressing heat issues and moving towards zero emissions.
- However, many of the Countries that had been referred to such as China were very much still using diesel engines and vehicles.
- The route master buses were designed about 15 years ago with the concept that the cooling and heating systems on board would keep the vehicle cool enough without the need for windows. In hindsight this was found to be wrong and the vehicles were retrofitted with windows.
- TfL contributed quite significantly towards the retrofit cost, the total additional cost that TfL paid towards the retrofit was available which could be shared with the Committee.
- It was a matter for individuals as to whether or not they liked particular bus types. These buses had been popular with customers throughout most of the year. Satisfaction levels of customers had been lower on hot days with all bus types and the new Route masters had been more challenging because of the way they were designed. They had however proved to be popular over time and every attempt had been made to make them as pleasant as possible on hot days.

The Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden invited to comment on the issue of route master buses and ventilation, remarked that bus ventilation was one important aspect, there were however many other important aspects such as improving bus journey times, getting more people using buses, the weight and location of bus stops. He informed the Committee that a lot of work was going on with TfL to improve bus patronage and journey times across Camden and he was happy to work with TfL to improve the customer experience.

The Chair thanked the TfL officer for attending the meeting.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted and asked that the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden continued to work with TfL to improve the customer experience on buses.

## **8. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN**

Consideration was given to the annual report of the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden.

Members made the following comments:

- It was lovely to see the library of things, it would be nice to have this in West Hampstead Library and good news about the retrofit programme.
- Looking forward to welcoming the grit bins in West End Lane following on from the trial in Belsize Village.
- The Cabinet Member was thanked for the pop-up community skip over the summer and requested that a regular pop-up skip be provided for the West Hampstead ward area.
- It was good to see references in the report to the increased use of fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping and looking forward to seeing more results on this in due course.
- The wildflower and sustainable planting projects in Brunswick Square and St Andrews Gardens in Kings Cross had made a significant difference to the overall perception of these areas with more people enjoying these amenities, this was a credit to the Cabinet Member and officers.
- Officers, the emergency services and the Cabinet Member were thanked for their support in responding to the flooding incident in South Hampstead last weekend.

In response to questions, Councillor Adam Harrison (Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden, Richard Bradbury (Director of Environment and Sustainability) and Oliver Jones (Director of Recreation) made the following points:

- With regards to the West Hampstead Primary School Health School Streets issues residents had in applying for exemptions, the Council's implementation team was looking into exactly what happened and would share details when the investigation was completed. The Cabinet Member agreed to provide written details to the Committee of this.

### **ACTION BY Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden**

- The Council was in the process of getting communications out to residents to set new start dates for Healthy School Street exemptions which would be shared in more detail as soon as possible.

- With regards to the deputation about inaccessibility of the borough pavements for disabled residents due to retail related clutter made at the last Council meeting, the Cabinet member informed the Committee that he had gone on a walkabout of the borough with the depute and Councillor Chung. The walkabout had been insightful and helpful, the Council was looking at the powers it had, it's current policy, how far it could go to minimise these obstructions and what the policy on this should be in the future.
- Officers agreed to share the carbon assessments from Lime with the Committee

**Action by: Director of Environment and Sustainability**

- The retrofit credits were a positive piece of work. It allowed businesses to open up credit on retrofit work in the borough as part of a wider set of schemes about funding retrofit.
- The Council was also working with Islington on funding the greening infrastructure through the credit approach. It was also being used as a trial, issues were being looked at to understand how scalable it was and comparing this with many other financial institutions and credit models to determine how well the trial worked.
- The Fixing Factory, repairing items other than electricals was a good suggestion and was something that the factory was likely to be interested in doing. It could be an issue of funding this suggestion would be taken up and included along with the increasing amount of work that was taking place. This included the staff making themselves available to repair and teaching people the skills to learn to repair themselves at events such as Abbey Green taking place this Saturday.
- The idea around green spaces was a good suggestion. The Council was looking to open up and create as many new green areas as possible in the borough within the bounds of the funding. For example, the Council was looking at its roads like it did with Alfred Place which was turned into a green space. Over the years some housing land such as the Community Garden was now established as a green space, which was a real community asset, and another project in Highgate Ward, Donnington which the Council was working on to turn into green space.
- Camden's Ice Cream Project was governed by the street trading licence between Camden and the Ice Cream provider. Part of that would involve their use of electricity which would only be charged on the amount of electricity used and also charged for the use of the site which was one of the better ways Ice Cream vendors could be regulated.
- Construction and demolition waste was the largest type of waste in the Country but not something Camden managed alone as a local authority. Developers and their private waste firms were managed by the Planning system and Construction Management Plans.
- The Council was focusing some of its anti-flood measures on the areas that needed it most, such as South Hampstead and Southend Green, the Council was looking for more sources of funding.

- With regards to Thames Water, it was disappointing over the weekend to hear about the latest water pipe burst from residents. The agency protocol did function quite well, the Director and officers did respond quickly, visiting and speaking to residents. Councillors were told the reason the information did not reach them was because the emergency services did not think the incident was serious enough although there did seem to be a substantial amount of damage.
- The Council would again need to remind the emergency services and Thames Water to improve their notifications to Councillors and the Council.
- The Council had made representations on Thames Waters investment plans particularly, in relation to South Hampstead and Belsize Road to make it safer in the future.
- The flooding incidents were viewed from two different perspectives, the Council looked at the devastating impact the flooding had on residents whereas from Thames Waters perspective they worked through their engineering issues and viewed it as business as usual. The Council did need to meet with Thames Water to discuss what had happened at the weekend to work through and recognise the impact it had on communities.
- The Council made very minimal use of pesticides, this issue was on the Committee's work programme scheduled to be considered at a future Committee meeting after the European Union's latest assessment.
- On the Community Green Deal, a lot of information was being revamped and being put on-line. The aim was to enable residents to be able to easily access the information once the project was completed.
- With regards to mapping of individual food growing projects, the numbers would not be very accurate because the Council mapped and monitored its green spaces based on specifications such as was it grass or hedges and with food growing it was marked as community managed.
- With regards to the recommendation in the Cabinet Adviser report for a Biodiversity Officer to be employed by the Council, the Council had a partnership with the Greater the Green Infrastructure (GIGL) a London wide organisation which managed green spaces and species monitoring information. The Council through this partnership had been able to complete its Greenspace Officer team.
- For those residents living on Housing Estates wanting to start a community growing space, they would need to contact their housing neighbourhood officer who would then contact the Green Spaces team.
- With regards to illegal parking and possible abuse of the Blue Badge scheme that was the sort of thing people would always be encouraged to report to the appropriate authority.
- There appeared to be a low uptake of blue badges in the borough of those eligible to apply and work was being undertaken to encourage take up.
- Any new locations for the community skip event were welcomed.
- The Council could look into the suggestion about approaching Airbnb to dissuade landlords from encouraging their tenants to dispose of their waste in local tree pits.

- Lime had indicated that they had completed the roll out of GPS on their bikes, an update from Lime was due to be presented to this Committee later in the year.
- The increased fly tipping fines were part of the Council's general enhanced approach to enforcement which had been put in place in conjunction with Kingdom contractors and Council officers on patrol.
- With regards to Euston Road the Council was speaking regularly to TfL about making the area safer and the issues regarding HS2 were not a reason to delay implementing safety measures. In numerous areas along the road there was inadequate provision and infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road. The Council was working with TfL on using Healthy Street projects for which it was hoped there would be short- and medium-term results but also to put in place a longer-term vision for Euston Road and the area.
- It was also an opportunity during the pausing of the HS2 works to make the area safer.
- With regards to 'Keep Britain tidy' all the wards were listed using the index of multiple deprivation and then sampled across a three-year cycle, every ward would be surveyed. The survey was conducted every four months between April and August, September and December which also provided a seasonal variation and an indication of what cleanliness looked like for a year.
- With regards to social prescribing the Council had been working with Castlehaven for a couple of years on social prescribing at Elm Village, the upper area. Castlehaven had brought a new energy and a lot of good work including offering therapeutic gardening sessions. With regards to statistics on residents' feedback and take up of the programme, officers agreed to obtain more information from Castlehaven and provide this to the Committee.

**Action By: Director of Recreation**

- With regards to docking bays for the e-bikes, the Council had extended parking bay areas in the past and if it saw the need to relocate bays this would be looked at. Westminster and Islington Councils were now rolling out docking bays similar to what Camden had done which was likely to also reduce the congestion in one area.

The Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden and Officers were thanked for their work, time taken to attend the meeting and their responses.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the report be noted.

**9. CAMDEN CULTURAL PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**



Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Economy, Regeneration and Investment.

Members made the following comments:

- Thank you for setting up the Culture, Education, Learning and Support Fund, it was welcomed and clearly focussed in the right place for cash scrapped organisations. Outreach was loss making and without the grants supporting this it was likely to go.
- Thank you for the report, Camden was a cultural powerhouse and the report indicated that events in the borough this year had been nonstop with celebration and recognising the heritage of its diverse population, which was really needed at this moment, particularly at a time when cultures were being marginalised and denigrated. Could the Council have more events in the Northwest of the borough similar to little Amar which was outstanding emotional and thought provoking.
- The Windrush 75 homecoming event was amazing and it was good to see Camden leading on that which was really positive and hopefully could be an annual event. It was also really positive to see that Camden had an artist network which Camden artists could tap into.
- There was lots of derelict space in South Hampstead which hopefully could be turned into space that could be used by artists.
- It would also be good if Camden could have more interfaith celebrations like little Amar.

In response to questions, Zerritha Brown (Head of Culture) and Councillor Sabrina Francis (Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture) made the following points:

- In relation to complaints from Grime artists that they were being prevented by the Police from performing at venues in Camden, the Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture indicated that as part of her role, she regularly met with Camden Police to discuss youth safety and would take this away and raise the issues relating to Grime artists with the Police.

**ACTION BY: Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture**

- The Camden Fringe was run by Camden Cultural organisations such as the People's Theatre, the Council did however promote the event through its various channels but did not deliver it.
- With regards to closing off the borough's high streets to stage events, the Council trialled the Camden Music Festival event on Camden High Road at the weekend which included pop music and a walk of fame. Part of the high road was closed off and was a test to see how the Council could have more of such events, shut off some of the high roads and include other venues and spaces for such events next year.
- In relation to evening and night-time entertainment, there was an Evening and Night-time Entertainment Strategy that was being worked on that would be

presented to Cabinet and Council later in the year and was also scheduled to be presented to this Committee. There was a lot of consultation going on incorporating the views of all stakeholders, balancing the various issues to look at how to get the best for Camden's night-time economy.

- The Culture Team did have discussions with the Planning team and developers to ensure that new developments in the borough had sufficient space for the performance arts and culture.
- With regards to use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money to support Arts and Cultural Organisations, it was down to the various ward councillors how they choose to spend this money bearing in mind the various competing interests and competing priorities. The Council should be minded however not to get into a position where it was funding one big organisation every year, however using the CIL money at this particular time to support organisations that were finding it really hard due to the huge cuts to their funding would be really helpful to them.
- The Council had been in discussion with some of the art and culture groups who had been talking about working together to save money, by sharing staff, changing how their budget worked and working out new business plans.
- In relation to creating space and support for the art and culture organisations, the Council was connecting up the different conversations to speak with one voice to see how it could provide further support to these organisations.
- There were some new art and cultural organisations in the borough that did get some money for the first time, it was hoped that they would be able to flourish in the borough.
- The Cultural Programme was about reflecting people's culture in unusual places for them to understand that they were cared about recognised and seen. This was why the Wind Rush events were important and taking events to the north of the borough was also important to include everyone in the culture of the borough.
- In relation to encouraging Camden schools to tap into the Culture programme, every time the Council did a big cultural programme it looked at how it could tap into schools and include this as part of the school's seasonal programme of work. There were opportunities for workshops and activities to take place in some of Camden schools as well as the Council inviting some of these schools to some of these events and activities the Council was doing. A powerful example was the response received from the 4 high schools invited to the Windrush pit lecture event. They all requested to be invited to more of such events.
- The Council was also a partner with Camden Start which was the borough's local education partnership and functioned as a broker between cultural organisations and schools to ensure that young people were getting access to higher quality corporate experience within a school setting.
- The other half of the Cabinet Member's remit was young people, not all of whom were in school. The remit being both young people and culture meant that thought was always being put into how the two sides could be brought together. Camden was also lucky to have Creative House Studios based in Kentish Town and offered podcast and space for dance, music and disc

jockeying. This was space which young people could use for free, it was also available to access mental health facilities which was an additional benefit with all this being available in one place.

- Residents had requested more of these cultural type events and the Council was looking at how it could create more cultural type events for all the community.

The Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture commented that culture was really important as a means of understanding people and their culture and aiding in community cohesion. Remarking that the next step in taking this forward and delivering the Culture Programme was getting the assistance and support of ward councillors who could articulate the value of culture to communities and explain why certain events were being held in their areas.

She noted that local ward Councillors could also provide intelligence around support from local businesses and any other assistance that could be provided to extend the programme.

The Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture and the Head of Culture were thanked for their work, time taken to attend the meeting and their responses.

#### **RESOLVED –**

THAT the report be noted.

#### **10. TREE MAINTENANCE AND TREE PLANTING UPDATE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Recreation.

Members made the following comments:

- The Chair and Committee congratulated Oliver Jones on his permanent appointment as Director of Recreation.
- It was a great report and it was good to see the Tree Strategy growing from strength to strength.

Oliver Jones (Director of Recreation) and David Houghton (Tree Manager) made the following comments in response to members questions:

- As to why there had been increased number of tree losses since the pandemic, this could be looked into. However there had been a net increase of 1000 trees from 28,000 to 29,000 over the period.
- In some years there had been more tree felling than other years, it would be difficult to tell why it happened during the pandemic, the Council had however been planting more trees than it had been removing.

- With regards to new trees in wards such as Kilburn, Kings Cross and Holborn, 79 new trees were planted in Kilburn in 2021/22, 23 in Kings Cross last year and 35 in 2021/22.
- Some new trees had been planted in Holborn which was largely through funding from the Urban Tree Challenge Fund
- There were some years that new trees were not planted, it was determined by the programme cycle.
- The Council was open to looking at and investigating more sites if suggestions were to be made by members.
- With regards to the skill level of the Council's Tree team, Camden was the host borough of the London Tree Officer Association, the current Chair of the Association worked for Camden's Tree Manager, Camden's Tree Manager sat on the national executive around trees and advised the Woodland Advisory Committee nationally.
- The Council's Tree team was well placed and at the forefront of policy development as well as day to day work on trees.
- The Council did have, which was a sector problem challenges with recruitment particularly when officers left or changed jobs. The Council had more success more recently in recruiting officers compared to during the covid years.
- With regards to felling of trees, there would be upcoming guidance in November on the duty to consult with residents. Once further information was provided the Council would be looking at how it would comply with this requirement.
- The Council did notify residents through its website which provided a map and the reason for the felling/removal of a tree.
- Officer contact details were also provided on posters stuck on trees.
- In relation to leaning trees, the Council did not consider these to be dangerous. It was only seen as dangerous if the roots had started to lift up or it were felt that it would catch the wind in a peculiar manner.
- For the tree outside the pub, that appeared to have been felled because the roots were starting to lift. Officers agreed to find out further information on this.

**ACTION BY: Tree Manager**

- With regards to planting of evergreen trees, the Council was always looking in the north of the borough for places to plant trees. The Council did however get a mixed response from residents especially in conservation areas where they were not quite keen on these types of trees.
- Officers were happy to look into planting evergreen trees in the right place. The trees would still drop their leaves but would have less of an impact.
- With regards to tree stumps with danger tape all around it, this was probably due to a bacterial reaction or yeast as there was no water coming up from where the tree had been felled. The tape was probably put on by the Council's contractor to highlight that there was a stump there and to prevent people from walking into the stump.

- With regards to pollarding, a high percentage of pollarding carried out by the Council was due to subsidence which was a big problem in Camden.
- A lot of the borough was on very shrinkable clay and the trees in those areas had to be pollarded where they had been damaged to control their water uptake. However, pollarding was only carried out on 7% of the borough's tree population and they appeared to be the most prominent on the street which people saw.
- The Council did frequently receive insurance claims from residents which were increasing and as the climate continued to change there were predictions that this would continue, so unfortunately pollarding would continue to occur. The Council would rather have a pollarded tree than have a tree dug up due to a subsidence claim.
- With regards to planting of trees by community groups, the Council did try to collate figures from other organisations such as Camden Forest, the Heath, Royal Parks as well as internally to get a good picture of the planting figures. Officers would be happy to collect the planting figures from Dream for Trees, Growing Green and other community groups.

**ACTION BY: Tree Manager**

- The planting figures were on the Council's website for the community groups collected from so far.
- The Council worked with Dream for Trees on the Highgate Reservoir providing advice on species choice.
- With regards to falling of leaves, where complaints were received from residents about a large fall of leaves, the Council's Environment team would be notified and would be looked into.
- On the pollen, the Council tried to avoid planting silver birch trees near people's homes and schools because people got a big reaction from these types of trees.
- The Council did have some pollarded Hornbeams which were on a 3-year cycle. Officers were happy to have a look at these trees in more detail and provide information on what cycle they were on.

**ACTION BY: Tree Manager**

- A breakdown of who was providing canopy cover was difficult because the Council was working off of a remote data set. The Council was looking at refreshing all its data, a canopy assessment report was published in 2017, the Council was looking to do this again in the future to get an idea of private canopy cover, however it was not a figure which the Council had at the moment.
- With regards to planting trees, the Council looked at replacing all of its trees unless it was not good to do so because for example the tree was in the wrong place or a self-seeded tree. The Council would also look at changing the species if it were more appropriate to do so.

- The Council also had its trees mapped out, so it was aware of roads that may not have as many trees. The Council would also carry out a survey where an officer would go out to check if there were any utilities across the street. This involved the use of a CAT scanner. If the location was found to be okay, a trial pit was carried out, which would check if planting could be carried out at the location.
- This would then go into the Council's planting programme, a species would be allocated based on its location and then planted in the winter. The planting element would be carried out by the Council's Tree Planting Officer

Officers were thanked for their excellent report.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the report be noted.

**11. FIRE SAFETY RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Environment and Sustainability.

In response to questions, Richard Bradbury (Director of Environment and Sustainability) made the following points:

- Officers agreed to speak to colleagues in Housing about whether there was a register of people with lithium-ion battery powered vehicles in their homes, so that those with bad or old batteries could be advised when an upgrade was required.

**ACTION BY: Director of Environment and Sustainability.**

- A Committee member suggested it was a good idea to establish a register of these vehicles in the borough so it could be identified where they were in the borough.
- It was noted that Housing Officers had looked at a range of measures so action could be taken to identify and ensure safety in communal areas.
- Within Council buildings any e-powered vehicle would need to be registered and have the right safety accreditation.
- A Committee member pointed out that there also the need to take into consideration people with mobility scooters who had limited mobility and mindful of not creating unnecessary hardship and difficulty for users of this type of vehicle.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the report be noted.

**12. WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Director Supporting Communities.

Members discussed the work programme and suggested that items on the Committee's Work Programme should be moved around.

For the November 2023 meeting the following items were expected:

- Annual report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities
- Evening and Night-time Economy Strategy
- Environment Services Contract
- Report of the Circular Economy Scrutiny Panel

The Use of Pesticides should be moved to a later date – probably February/March.

NLWA Joint Waste Strategy to be moved to the January meeting and the Committee was looking to invite Thames Water back for an update also in January 2024.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the above changes to the Work Programme be agreed.

**ACTION BY: Senior Policy and Strategy Officer / Principal Committee Officer**

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was none.

The meeting ended at 9.26 pm.

**CHAIR**

*Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee - Monday, 11th September, 2023*

**Contact Officer:** Sola Odusina  
**Telephone No:** 0207 974 6884  
**E-Mail:** sola.odusina@camden.gov.uk

**MINUTES END**