

Blackheath and Greenwich Better Together group discussion summary - Resident input into the Royal Borough's response to the Mayor of London's draft London Environment Strategy – 9 October 2017

Residents participated in themed discussions to consider the scope and impact of the Mayor of London's draft 'London Environment Strategy'. Each discussion group mirrored a theme within the strategy to consider a topic in some detail. The themes included air quality, ambient noise, waste, climate change mitigation and adaptation and green infrastructure.

The table below is a summary of residents comments incorporated into the Royal Borough's response to the Mayor of London's draft London Environment Strategy.

Group discussion theme	Group concerns	Group suggestions to help
Air Quality	Residents felt 2050 was not ambitious enough and the target date for better air quality should be much sooner	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with Public Health, GPs, CCGs to assess and distribute better information on health effects of air quality 2. Greater emphasis on active travel 3. The strategy should be more open to new ideas; i.e. air filters on Trafalgar Road 4. Improved communications on plans, citing improving communication relating to Angerstein underpass would be a good step
	Concerned about the lack of Officers managing air quality in the Borough	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents suggested that the Royal Borough of Greenwich should employ more air quality officers and be more proactive
	Lack of enforcement, citing parking and traffic infringements on Woolwich Road	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greater enforcement and presence at peak times
	Residents were concerned about major pollution sources in particular the proposed cruise terminal (and resulting transport sources) and Blackwell tunnel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents wanted onshore power 2. Residents wanted the overriding aim to be an ethical position to not make the situation worse 3. Residents believe the Royal Borough should act more subversive and enact the will of the residents 4. Residents wanted better, less polluting and congesting options for

		transporting tourists from the terminal to Greenwich and beyond
	Pollution and impact of existing river transport options is a concern	1. The Mayor and RBG should review options; non-diesel derived
	Lack of access to active travel options and infrastructure and cars parking in cycle paths	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents were pleased with the Royal Borough's electric bike trial and with the possibility of Santander bikes coming to the borough and would want to see this delivered with greater urgency 2. Enforcement against problem motorists and/or improving infrastructure (i.e. physically segregated lanes) 3. Residents said they'd be more inclined to walk if cars were kept well clear of pavements
	Poor air quality around schools is a major issue	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schools need to continue working with parents and children to promote walking to school via clean air routes 2. Roads outside of schools could be pedestrianised with teachers and other volunteers helping meet children in 3. Areas of the community could start 'walking buses' to school 4. A resident was also concerned about indoor air quality and said there needs to be better ventilation in public buildings like libraries, housing and schools to ensure fresh air.
Ambient Noise	Rules concerning ambient noise are regularly broken, particularly by construction (noise after permitted hours on a weekend, or vehicles arriving early and not being challenged), but culprits act with impunity	1. Increase the Royal Borough's powers to take effective preventative and enforcement action against ambient noise
	Rules shouldn't be inflexible, particularly as technology and attitudes change	1. When planning new developments, The Mayor should be realistic in terms of how quickly people's attitudes will change and consider appropriate levels of residential parking to schemes. Residents suggested that perhaps

		there could be set conditions for parking which include schemes like car clubs using electric cars so that people would have access to a car if required
	Speaker phone technology appears to be a problem as does idling	1. Suggested greater powers to clamp down on such practices
	Noisy motor vehicles regularly cited	1. Expansion to electric vehicles should be encouraged further
	Mitigation measures aren't always natural/green infrastructure led	1. Residents felt that natural barriers such as more trees and green infrastructure could help and have additional benefits as long as management and maintenance wasn't excessive. Silver birch trees were highlighted as an example of trees that should not be used
	Areas of respite from noise could be improved	1. Generally residents highly valued the green nature of the local area. 2. Residents felt that parks were important – they provide space in which the community can meet, enjoy green space and take part in cultural activities
	Traffic contributes significantly to ambient noise levels	1. Speed control measures such as 20mph zones and speed humps (Coldbath Street cited as an example), will help slow traffic down to reduce noise 2. Improved and cheaper public transport – examples of cost of rail services being too high and the service not being reliable
	Lack of access of safe play areas and activities means young children play in the street	1. Increasing access and appropriate facilities would reduce noise, but it is also recognised that safer streets in which children can play is a benefit of reduce traffic, noise and improvements in the built environment/streetscape 2.

	Negative responses from Planning Enforcement (Tyler Street developments) received by residents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved communications, strict interpretation of planning guidelines and enforcement should be prioritised
Waste	Unsure of what is recyclable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better communication using all formats, not just online or local paper. 2. More information about the cost implications about contaminating recycling; 3. Better information regarding commonly used packaging i.e. Microwavable meals.
	Need to reduce waste, such as from single use packaging e.g. coffee cups.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement a refund scheme for cans and bottles where a levy can be refunded when the items are returned; 2. Promote multi-use coffee cups/discourage single use coffee cups using a financial incentive; 3. Encourage companies to use less packaging; 4. Promote behaviour change where people are encouraged to sit and enjoy a coffee and not drink while commuting.
	Disposal of hazardous waste, such as paint, is difficult.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Streamline the collection of paint or provide drop off points from which City of London can then pick the paint up from.
	Recycling at older communal blocks is difficult.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide grants or support for Local Authorities to retrofit older communal properties to enable better recycling/less contamination of recycling.
	Better education of people about the impacts and cost of littering and their waste collection.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better education of young people in schools to deter littering; 2. More road shows and events to discourage littering/promote recycling; 3. Easier identification of recycling bins and better design to enable cans/bottles only.

Climate Change mitigation and adaptation	Achieving 'zero carbon' will require significant changes in people's behaviour	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating alternative choices for people to accelerate positive behaviour change, for example; more efficient and cheaper public transport.
	We do not currently have the technology to become zero carbon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase investment in renewable infrastructure, such as electric vehicle charging points and heat pumps; 2. Promote research and development in new clean technologies.
	Most of our existing infrastructure is not designed for climate change adaptation and is particularly prone to flooding.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New collaborative and local solutions are needed to solve flooding issues – increasing soak-away and changing people's attitudes and behaviours towards drains and sewerage. 2. Increase tree cover and green space to improve drainage. 3. Encourage rainwater recycling and investigate inter-seasonal storage.
	It's expensive for people to improve the energy efficiency of their homes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grants & subsidies should be available to implement energy efficiency improvements. 2. Solar panels should be specified on all public buildings and new build developments. 3. Battery storage should be expanded to increase useful life of old car batteries and increase efficiency of PV. 4. Higher standards for new buildings are required. 5. Information should be simplified and provided by reliable sources.
Green Infrastructure	Reduced quality of green space e.g. weeds, flower beds not in good condition, poor maintenance regimes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More resources to support park staff and department; 2. Better trained park and maintenance staff; 3. Better maintenance contracts - Contractors to undertake works that best suit the needs of the green infrastructure and not just their own timetable.

Tree Protection Orders/Trees of Significance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National campaign to get people interested in tree protection and understanding the value of trees; 2. A competition to ask residents to nominate their favourite trees.
Improve the wildlife value of green infrastructure.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide access to ecologists by Local Authorities to help improve their maintenance regimes, their planting choices, to develop wildlife features and to provide advice to developers and residents on the best features for the local area; 2. Support Local Authorities and residents to install wildlife features; 3. More wildlife features along our cycle paths.
Greater oversight of developments to ensure wildlife features are protected enhanced and maintained.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be more prescriptive to developers on the amount and type of wildlife features that need to be included and the maintenance required to produce the greatest value from the included wildlife features; 2. Ensure that habitat loss is minimised by developments; 3. Ban certain plant species.
Use green infrastructure to improve the walkability of our streets.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a London wide Green Chain Walk and better connectivity of green spaces; 2. Provide flowers and greenery to unpleasant traffic intersections and roads, such as the Angerstein underpass/East Greenwich roundabout; 3. Facilitate residents who would like to green their streets and/or communal areas.