

Better Together Community Meeting

Eltham and Shooters Hill

Eltham Library, 23 October 2019, 7pm to 9pm

Panel:

- Cllr Matt Morrow - chair
- Cllr Linda Bird
- Cllr Charlie Davies
- Cllr Nigel Fletcher
- Cllr Pat Greenwell
- Cllr Chris Kirby
- Cllr Sarah Merrill
- Cllr Roger Tester
-

Services in attendance:

- Business Engagement
- Children's Services
- Community Safety
- Greenwich Local Labour and Business
- Highways
- Housing
- Leisure Services
- Library Services
- Metropolitan Police
- Neighbourhood Growth Fund Team
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Public Health
- Universal Credit
- Waste and Street Services

Attendees: 25

Meeting notes

Item	
1	<p>The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the panel and ward councillors. Questions were then invited from the audience.</p>
2	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>There is a major issue with motorists idling outside primary schools. It's an issue that ties in with the climate emergency – what is the Council doing about it?</p> <p>The Council responded:</p> <p>The Council runs initiatives such as School Streets which close roads outside of some schools during morning and afternoon drop-off and pick-up times. The Council has requested powers to enforce anti-idling measures and the Cabinet Member for Public Realm has been doing walkabouts in wards to identify environmental issues including idling hot spots.</p>
3	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>The bench in Mottingham Village next to the betting shop has become a 'giant ashtray'. There is a bin near the bus stop but people are not putting their cigarettes in it. It is a nice bench for older people to sit on, but they are being put off. Can the Council help by putting a bin, including a public health message about smoking, by the bench?</p> <p>The Council responded:</p> <p>It is a great shame that people cannot be bothered to take their litter to the close-by bin. The Council will take the suggestion away and see what is possible.</p>
4	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>Are there any plans to tackle air pollution in schools by monitoring pollution or using green-screens (screens made from plants that absorb pollution)?</p>

	<p>The Council responded:</p> <p>School Streets is one of the initiatives in the borough to help combat pollution around schools. Children at Haimo primary school have also been wearing air pollution monitoring backpacks as part of a pilot scheme to monitor the impact.</p> <p>Air quality is part of the larger climate emergency and taking action also involves more intangible measures such as making sure the Council pension scheme does not invest in 'dirty money'.</p> <p>However, the idea of green screens is an interesting idea which the Council will investigate further.</p> <p>Extra information:</p> <p>The Council's Air Quality Action Plan details what the Council is doing to improve air quality in Royal Greenwich. It is available at www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/airquality</p>
5	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>Puddles have formed on the footpaths down the back and side of the new Vue cinema. Has the Council checked to see if the work was done properly as there shouldn't be puddles. Additionally there is an electric box which obstructs Carpenter's Path.</p> <p>The Council responded:</p> <p>The Council is aware of issues on the High Street and has been working hard to clear them. The resident's comments will be taken up with the appropriate team.</p>
6	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>The old council toilets in Well Hall Road are in a very bad state – they have just been left and don't get cleaned up. £6 million plus has been spent on Eltham High Street – leaving the toilets this way is a disgrace.</p> <p>The Council responded:</p>

	<p>Ward councillors are supportive of the toilets being refurbished, but said that the funding needed to be available to do this. Previously, when toilets at the Slade in Plumstead were refurbished into a café, this was done by using ward budgets to fund a feasibility study and holding public meetings to gain community support for the project. Councillors acknowledged the Well Hall Road site is both a prime location and of historical value as it includes one of the last remaining tram sheds.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>What is being done to secure policing resources for the area and to reopen Eltham police station?</p> <p>The Met Police responded:</p> <p>Eltham Police Station has not closed, it is still a fully occupied police station. However it now has no front office. Most time in the front office was not effectively used and options such as visits to homes and reporting online make better use of resources. It is unlikely the front office will ever be reopened, with the money instead being directed into frontline policing.</p> <p>New recruits are starting to filter through following the government’s promise of more police officers. It’s not always about the number of police available, but how the resources are used.</p> <p>The Council responded:</p> <p>The Council is constantly working with the police to try to keep resources in the borough and support them to do their job effectively. We would like to see more police back on the streets and have campaigned against cuts in the past.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>The Q and A session ends, the Chair thanked people for their questions and invited attendees to visit stalls.</p>