

Area Action Groups

Bloomsbury Ward

Notes of meeting held on Monday 5 September 2011, 6 – 7.30pm
Committee Room 1 & 2

Bloomsbury councillors

Cllr Adam Harrison (Chair); Cllr Milena Nuti; Cllr Abdul Quadir

Residents

20 residents attended the meeting.

Officers

Sam Longman, Transport Policy Team Manager (CE) – presentation on Olympics and construction management plans

Brian Foxton, Network Manager (CE) - presentation on Construction and permit schemes for road works

Monica Mulowoza, Environmental Health Officer (CE) – presentation on Silent deliveries and general provision

Janette John, Senior Officer (CSP)

Fung yee Lee, Support Officer (CSP)

1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr Harrison opened the meeting, thanked residents for attending and introduced himself, Cllr Nuti and Cllr Quadir. He also introduced Sam Longman, Brian Foxton and Monica Mulowoza as speakers for the evening.

2. Presentation on Olympics and Construction Management Plans

Sam Longman gave a presentation on an Olympic Route Network (ORN) that Transport for London (TfL) have proposed and how traffic would be managed along this Route. Afterwards, he described the use of Construction Management Plans secured through the planning process.

The Olympics will be held in London between mid-July and mid-August next year and it will be a busy time for transport and roads. Russell Square is on the ORN and this will affect Camden because the press and media hub will be based in Russell Square so there will be numerous coaches departing from this area at all times of the day.

A London Lorry Control Scheme (LCS) is an existing scheme which operates overnight and restricts 18-ton vehicles from accessing roads that are not part of the “Excluded Roads Network (ERN)”. The scheme is operated by London Councils. Heavy Goods Vehicles wishing to use roads outside the ERN at night, must apply for permission to do so. During the Olympics, there will be a need to reduce general traffic during the day to allow the addition vehicles associated with the Olympics.

London Councils and TfL have agreed to encourage more businesses to apply for permits to make deliveries at night and more flexible approach

to enforcement will also be used during the Olympics.

Other measures include encouraging businesses to stockpile to reduce deliveries.

TfL will be consulting on diversions from the Russell Square media hub. Details of appropriate road closures are likely to be finalised by late Summer 2012.

TfL will be launching a campaign with a strong message asking people to consider their travel behaviour during the Olympics (such as flexible working and working from home) to help accommodate the increased travel demand (particularly at peak times) during the Olympics.

Further details about the ORN are available from Simon Piper on Tel. 020 7974 2421, email simon.piper@camden.gov.uk.

A copy of Sam's presentation on the ORN is attached to these minutes.

Sam also described the use of Construction Management Plans secured through the planning process.

Where appropriate, the Council will ensure that applicants provide Construction Management Plans to demonstrate how a development will minimise impacts from the movement of goods and materials during the construction process. Construction Management Plans should deal with the hours of site activity; pick-up and delivery times for materials and equipment; limits on construction vehicle size; trip numbers and routes; the safety of road users during construction; and any temporary use of the highway for siting of construction plant. They should also deal with any temporary disruption or severance of highway links needed during the development process, as well as any other relevant measures needed to manage the construction phase.

Questions and issues about the ORN and traffic management

- Why were the 28 flats on Montague St not consulted?
Response – Transport for London should have consulted residents who are affected by the proposed ORN.
- Some buses/coaches are currently leaving their engines on eg. at 3.30am even though they are not driving away.
Response – the council is in the process of containing powers to enforce bus and coaches idling at specific problem locations. **A list of locations is included with these minutes.** The consultation on this scheme has now closed and a decision whether to proceed will be taken in the next few weeks. It is likely that the scheme will proceed given the positive response to the consultation.
- There are a number of vehicles who park illegally on Malet St despite the traffic cameras.

Response – This has been passed of to Parking Services for special enforcement attention.

- Why isn't the media village on the main Olympic site in Stratford?
Response – the London Olympics events are being held at locations all across London, so the press and media would still need to travel to these different sites. The used of Hotels around Russell Square is also much more sustainable than building a dedicated temporary “media village”, as was the case for previous Olympics in other countries.

3. Presentation on Construction and permit schemes for road works

Brian Foxton co-ordinates traffic activities on the Camden's highways, also known as Camden Network.

He gave a presentation on how road usage by utility companies is co-ordinated and what steps are being taken to improve co-ordination.

Since 1993, highway authorities such as the Council have gradually been allowed more control over utility companies. This improved further with the introduction of the Traffic Management Act in 2005. In 2010, 17 London authorities signed up to a Permit Scheme, which gave highways authorities the power to give permission to utility companies to work on their sites. Since this scheme was introduced, the council has received approximately 21,000 applications, including 3,400 in Bloomsbury. Although most utilities comply with the Permit Scheme, there is little incentive for some utilities to adhere to the permit scheme requirements or conditions, as the maximum fine imposed is £120. This is increased to £500 if they work on street without a valid permit. Court action is an alternative but this is very resource intensive for the council.

A Lane Rental Scheme (LRS) is currently being proposed which charges utilities on a daily rate for occupying a public highway. A working group which include transport representatives in Camden will respond to the proposal by November this year. Further information on the LRS can be found on the TfL website at www.tfl.gov.uk.

Further details about construction and permit schemes for road works is available from Brian Foxton on Tel. 020 7974 2410, email Brian.Foxton@camden.gov.uk.

Residents' questions and issues about construction and permit schemes for roadworks

- If TfL and not the council manages Euston Road, how can we stop vehicles from diverting to side streets in Bloomsbury?
Response – Drivers do not wish to sit in traffic congestion caused by roadworks or streetworks and will seek alternative routes to continue their journey's. The routes in respect of the Euston Road area are public highways without weight or vehicle type restrictions placed on

them, so they are legally allowed to be used as an alternative. TfL involve officers in Camden when works are proposed on their network, which includes Euston Road, Marylebone Road, Finchley Road etc., to discuss traffic impacts and we will consider what if any restrictions to place on affected streets.

- There may be situations where sub-contractors don't follow the rules although the main contractor might do. What can the council do about companies who flout the law?

Response – there will be fines, but injunctions and court cases are very resource intensive for the council. Officers from the Network Management Team meet regularly with utilities to discuss performance and seek to improve their presence on street, by effectively planning works which cause disruption to residents/businesses.

- How can I find out about the streetworks that are going on in the local area?

Response - Works in my street will tell you everything about the streetworks going on in your local area. The website is at www.camden.gov.uk/streetworks/

4. Presentation on Silent deliveries and general provision

Monica Mulowoza gave a presentation on delivery-type noises and the available legislation that the council can apply in response to residents' complaints.

She explained that many of the complaints the council receives relating to noise relate to the empty metal roll cages being loaded or unloaded at night or very early in the morning e.g. Tesco Express 24 hour stock delivery.

Monica emphasised that the council is only able to respond to complaints about noise as set out in the current legislation. In order to investigate a complaint the council will ask the complainant to keep a noise diary sheet for approximately 2 weeks and explain:

- the noise that you can hear in your home;
- how the noise affects your daily life and how you use your property.

If the complainant can explain how the noise interferes with how they would normally use their dwelling, then the noise is classified as a statutory nuisance, which means a noise abatement notice can be served on the persons responsible for the noise. If the perpetrator breaches the notice legal proceedings can be instigated, this is done under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Residents can make a complaint by contacting Monica Mulowoza on Tel. 020 7974 2737 or by email at Monica.Mulowoza@camden.gov.uk

There are a number of initiatives looking at reducing delivery-type noises.

They include:

- a Delivery Toolkit 2004, which the Noise Abatement Society was involved in developing, which looks at changing practice and silent deliveries for larger retail groups. In 2010, 7 large stores and several local authorities have started adopting advice and recommendations within the Toolkit.
- development of technologies to reduce noise such as the materials used to make quieter delivery cages.

Residents' questions and issues about delivery type noises

- Is there a time when deliveries aren't allowed?
Response – each complaint is decided individually.
- Do vibrations also count as noise?
Response - Yes, and it is included in the legislation.

5. Summing up

Having heard the presentations, Cllr Nuti commented that the council has less power than originally thought. Cllr Nuti stated that a successful complaint relies on good reporting by both the council and the residents. However, residents need the council to tell them what they need to pay attention to in order to make a successful complaint. Cllr Nuti believed that engaging in dialogue with the businesses can help towards reducing noise and make living in Bloomsbury more pleasant for everyone.

She added that councillor surgeries are held on Friday evenings and this continues to be an important mechanism to communicate problems and issues.

Cllr Harrison reminded residents to use the We are Camden online discussion forum for Bloomsbury residents, at www.wearecamden.org. This online forum provides another way for residents and Councillors to share their views about issues in Bloomsbury.

Cllr Harrison would welcome ideas or suggestions for future topics for discussion. Please contact him by email at adam.harrison@camden.gov.uk, or tel. 020 7974 3111.

6. Date of next meeting

Monday 28 November 2011, 6.30pm to 8pm

[**Marchmont Community Centre**](#)

62 Marchmont Street

WC1N 1AB