

## Barnes Ward Community Conversation

**Date:**23.9.21

**Time:** 6.30 - 8.00pm

**Venue:** Zoom

**AGENDA:**

Agenda Item One: Update from Councillors

Agenda Item Two: Presentation (on video/Slides shared with attendees)

Agenda Item Three: Key theme breakout discussion groups

Agenda Item Four: Open floor questions

**Ward members in attendance**

Cllr Baker

Cllr Rita Palmer

Cllr Paul Hodgins

**Apologies – Cllr Brandreth**

**Chair: Paul Clement, Independent Chair**

**Agenda Item One: Update from Councillors**

<b>Headline Topic: Ward Achievements</b>	
<b>Councillor name</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<b>Cllr Paul Hodgins/Cllr Rita Palmer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hammersmith Bridge, open for walking/cycling, huge impact on residents last year. Now long-term plan, but questions still need to be answered. Ferry still being discussed between TFL and the Dept of Transport. A planning application has been put forward for Richmond and Hammersmith and Fulham Council, in case the bridge closes again and a ferry is required. Stabilisation work is being carried out, and a business case from Hammersmith and Fulham Council to release funding from Dept. of Transport has been put forward. Foster and Partner’s design is being considered by Hammersmith and Fulham. By the end of September, the Dept. of Transport’s response is due in relation to the business case for funding. Richmond Councillors still applying pressure on the situation.</li> <li>• Future High street changes were consulted on recently. Meanwhile there has been a new loading zone at Marks and Spencers, pavement widening and the parklet at Church Rd. New bus stop opposite Marks and Spencers is also a key change.</li> <li>• Cllr Palmer and Cllr Brandreth are dealing with bus issues, turning of 378 service at Rocks Lane and Mill Hill junction. Parking on Lonsdale Rd is also an issue.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Palmer working with Police Liaison Group on graffiti, anti-social behaviour on Station Rd. The Police report that the highest crime priority is drugs in Barnes Ward and the theft of catalytic convertors, especially from underground garages.</li> <li>• Mortlake Brewery planning application rejected. The developer is considering an appeal or modification of plan. Councillors are continuing to advocate for a school on the site, as students from Lowther School need a local secondary school to progress to.</li> <li>• 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct ULEZ introduced, need to make cars compliant. Townmead tip is in the ULEZ zone and Barnes Ward.</li> <li>• Heavy rains recently caused flooding in Barnes, working on drainage with the Council</li> <li>• Issues on litter collection – Council’s service is insufficient</li> <li>• Fly tipping - overflowing public bins, the council estate has had heavy fly tipping</li> </ul>
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**Agenda item three: Key themes arising from discussion groups**

Theme Retail / Hospitality	Group’s Key Comments
Suggestions/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring the farmer’s market into the High St to create community hub and bring to North Barnes whilst roads are closed to traffic, to bring life to that part of the ward</li> <li>• North Barnes shops tend to be forgotten and with the bridge closure they need greater support, an attraction to make people shop there and a better offer of shops</li> <li>• Shops and restaurants ion Barnes need ramps and better disability access to allow for disabled shoppers</li> <li>• Not as good an offer as Wimbledon, use minimally as confined during lockdown, need more café culture/al-fresco dining to attract shoppers</li> <li>• Need toy shop and children’s shops (clothes/games etc) Shops are for the older age group</li> <li>• Sustainable living should be promoted more in supermarkets/grocery shops</li> <li>• Expensive local shops for everyday goods</li> </ul>
Existing positives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shopped more locally during pandemic, appreciated the excellent local offer (previously shopped in Hammersmith)</li> <li>• Need to support local shops, very dynamic in Barnes with constant changes of offer-veg shop was superb during the lockdown offering free local deliveries</li> <li>• Barnes charity bike shop very successful</li> </ul>

Theme Leisure / Arts / Cultural Events	Group's Key Comments
Suggestions/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming pool needed</li> <li>• Need a project to support the youth, like the paddle boarding event in Richmond, need more activities for young people as current offer caters for older ages ie theatre/cinema programme. Need to revamp Castlenau Youth Centre. Starbucks is the current 'hangout' for young people</li> <li>• Council are reactive, rather than proactive. Stopped MenSheds project planned for the Wetlands</li> <li>• Wetlands needs to offer more cultural events</li> <li>• Christmas Fair by Hammersmith Bridge would be lovely, draw in St Paul's School</li> <li>• Need more activities/events at the weekend for younger audiences – cinema/jazz not appealing to under 40's</li> </ul>
Existing positives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas Fair on White Hart Lane has a great community feel, perhaps have a Summer one as well</li> <li>• OSO open air film nights were excellent, need to restart again</li> <li>• Parklet space has been a huge success, attracted people to sit and enjoy the shopping offer</li> </ul>

Theme Transport and Traffic	Group's Key Comments
Suggestions/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congestion is an issue on the High St. Too much traffic makes shopping an unenjoyable experience</li> <li>• High St needs to remain accessible for parking for shoppers, but need to limit through traffic</li> <li>• Need to encourage more sustainable modes of transport for High St shoppers, to discourage car congestion</li> <li>• Space in front of shops in Castlenau Parade is imbalanced, could this be redesigned</li> <li>• Closure of Hammersmith Bridge, could perhaps be repurposed for active travel options and light vehicles only but counter argument is that residents need access to Hammersmith for schools and hospital, needs to carry public transport/vehicles especially for elderly and disabled.</li> <li>• Bridge is not that special, preferable to knock down and rebuild, rather than maintain at great expense</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cargo bike scheme for deliveries to be encouraged and rickshaw for public transport over the bridge. The Council and TFL need to look at alternative ways to cross the bridge</li> <li>• Pavements have too much street furniture, including shop signage, makes it difficult for access for elderly and disabled</li> <li>• Need for more bus shelters for elderly and disabled</li> <li>• Too much focus on car users, has stalled other developments like outdoor eating, cashpoint,</li> </ul>
Existing positives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20mph helped during lockdown</li> </ul>

Theme Look and Feel	Group's Key Comments
Suggestions/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more outdoor space to sit in the High Street and raise the level of cleanliness of the High St.</li> <li>• Close the High Street once a month and have street activities</li> <li>• Want a project where we are looking after the wildlife and environment led by young people</li> <li>• Need to engage more seriously in recycling and food waste in the High St.</li> <li>• Traffic free days, market spill over into the streets</li> <li>• Need for more night-time economy, more variety of offer</li> <li>• Difficult for flats to recycle</li> <li>• More tables and chairs on the pavements, Local Plan has included this as a proposal for Barnes</li> <li>• Sheltered space to sit by the pond in inclement weather</li> <li>• Need for shop front strategy – consistency in shutters/awnings etc</li> <li>• Irresponsible dog owners, sometimes too many dogs</li> </ul>
Existing positives	

**Agenda item four – Open floor questions**

Headline Topic	Hammersmith Bridge
<b>Question</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Need for serious resolution for Hammersmith Bridge, should we pull down the bridge?
<b>Response</b>	<b>Cllr Hodges:</b> We do not control it. The ownership of the bridge is with Hammersmith and Fulham Council. Ideally the bridge could be put into a trust in the future. The fundamental problem is listing of features on the transport system, as they need constant maintenance.

	<p><b>Cllr Palmer:</b> At the original bridge meeting, English Heritage were adamant that the bridge won't come down, rather that it would be refurbished and remedied. Plan for its management in the future is key. Barnes has been impacted the most complaints that Councillors have received have been about the bridge, but yet Barnes Councillors have not had any communication from Richmond Council. Hammersmith and Fulham Council work with Richmond Council, so all political parties need to be involved. Barnes Councillors have been left in the dark. The public and the Councillors were informed at the same time when the bridge was opened for pedestrians/cyclist.</p>
<b>Headline Topic</b>	<b>Enforcement of 20 MPH speed limit</b>
<b>Question 2</b>	The traffic laws need to be more fully enforced
<b>Response</b>	<p><b>Cllr Hodgins:</b> Rules need to be enforced, need to minimise impact of cars. Fan of smaller vehicles. There is no easy solution. The parklet is great on Church Rd and adds character to Barnes.</p> <p><b>Cllr Palmer:</b> Speeding on Lonsdale Rd is unacceptable. It is a forgotten road, near St Pauls School with constant tailgating.</p> <p><b>Cllr Hodgins:</b> Lonsdale Rd is a long narrow road which is misused, but do not want to introduce speed humps, rather have better enforcement of 20mph limit.</p> <p><b>Cllr Palmer:</b> Police state that in Barnes drugs is a key issue. On Castlenau parade there was a Police drugs raid recently. Borough wide catalytic convertor theft is a problem. The ringleader was caught (organised crime) but seems to have been replaced by another leader.</p>
<b>Headline Topic</b>	<b>Flood risk in Barnes</b>
<b>Question 3</b>	<p><b>Sanjay:</b> A recent map on the Barnes What's App group (from the Evening Standard) showed areas of London that would be underwater from climate change and it included all of Barnes. Could we mitigate against flooding in the Local Plan?</p>
<b>Response</b>	<p><b>Cllr. Palmer:</b> Castlenau Estate is in zone 3 flood risk, yet the building of basements still possible despite risk of flooding. The Environment Agency has approved resident's plans for basements stating that the Thames Barrier is sufficient to avoid a flood risk.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Young people prefer areas where environment considered</p> <p><b>Cllr Hodgins:</b> Barnes has the advantage of green spaces, but there is a need to improve and clean up transport from larger vehicles. 60% of journeys in large vehicles have only 1 person in the car. The Council needs to encourage better vehicles and better use of vehicles. This is a cross party consideration. Need for more electric charging points.</p>
<b>Headline Topic</b>	<b>Alternative traffic solutions to traffic lights</b>
<b>Question</b>	<p><b>Charles:</b> Need to commission study to remove traffic lights at Church Rd and Castelnau and introduce roundel; looks like a roundabout, slow passing through junction eg Preston, Bodmin. It slows cars down and has low maintenance with no traffic lights, traffic crosses at will</p>
<b>Response</b>	<p><b>Cllr Hodgins:</b> There are too many traffic lights in Barnes which have caused incidents, especially with the bridge shut. Yet traffic light phasing has not been changed. We need to move away from traffic light control and this would also improve air quality. We could use the ward budget for projects like this, estimate of study – submission to ward budget.</p>
<b>Action</b>	<b>Cllr Hodgins: to pursue possibility of feasibility study through Local Area Fund for Barnes (ward budget)</b>