



Ealing Borough Council
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Scrutiny Review Panel 2 (Active Citizenship)

Venue: Committee Room 1, Perceval House

Date and Time:

Thursday, 19 September 2019 at 19:00

Councillors: Karanvir Singh Dhadwal (Chair), Praveen Anand, Sitarah Anjum, Jaskiran Chohan, Seema Kumar (Vice-Chair), Tariq Mahmood, Gary Malcolm, Swaran Padda and Chris Summers.

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Urgent Matters

Any urgent matters that the Chair has agreed should be considered at the meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest

To note any declarations of interest made by members.

4 Matters to be Considered in Private

All items are proposed to be considered in public.

5 Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2019.

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 16 July 2019

3 - 8

6 Street Watch Scheme – Ealing Street Pastors

A presentation from Ealing Street Pastors on the Street Watch Scheme.

7 Plogolution

A presentation from Plogolution on their work in Ealing.

8 Nishkam Sikh Welfare and Awareness Team – SWAT

A presentation from the Nishkam Sikh Welfare and Awareness Team on their work in Ealing.

9 Scrutiny Review Panel 2 Work Programme

Scrutiny Review Panel 2 Work Programme

9 - 18

10 Date of Next Meeting

SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL 2 – ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

MINUTES

Tuesday 16 July 2019

PRESENT: Councillors: Dhadwal (Chair), Anand, Anjum, Chohan, Kumar (Vice-Chair), Mahmood, Malcolm, Padda.

Ealing Officers Present:

Harjeet Bains	- Scrutiny Review Officer
Paula Portas	- Democratic Services Officer
Chris Welsh	- Parks Operation Manager

1. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

Councillor Summers, Gillian Marston (Director of Environment), Carole Stewart (Assistant Director Arts, Libraries and Heritage), and Jackie Fisk (Senior Change and Transformation Officer), had tendered their apologies prior to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 2)

There were none.

3. Matters to be Considered in Private (Agenda Item 3)

There were none.

4. Panel Terms of Reference and Work Programme 2019-20 (Agenda Item 4)

The Scrutiny Officer presented this item asking if the Panel had any comments on the draft terms of reference and Outline Work Programme.

Panel members made the following comments and suggestions:

- The participation of Ealing Street Pastors. It was noted that they would be invited to the next meeting to explain about their work. There would possibly be a visit organised with them.
- The Panel should scrutinise the Council's consultation procedures and post Ward Forums.
- The Panel should consider inviting the following volunteer organisations to a meeting: Canal and River Trust, Let's Go Southall, Southall Green,
- There were no suggestions for co-option.

Resolved: That

- I. the Terms of Reference of the Panel be agreed;
- II. referring the Terms of Reference to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval be agreed;
- III. the provisional Work Programme be agreed; and
- IV. approved the agenda items and actions for the next meeting, due to be held on 19 September 2019.

5. Neighbourhoods Outcome Review.
(Agenda Item 5)

Chris Welsh, Parks Operations Manager, was invited to present the Neighbourhoods Outcome Review. He focused on the parks and green spaces aspect of the report.

Parks played a key role in the Active Citizen's strategy, supporting community engagement and participation in a range of activities such as food growing, community events, wildlife monitoring and habitat improvements, volunteer gardening and maintenance, litter picking, arts activities, outdoor education and forest school.

Officers expected that an increasingly empowered community and devolving management would reduce maintenance costs while aiming to maintain quality.

There were three main areas of activity: litter picking, volunteering in parks and devolving parks and open spaces management.

A substantial proportion of site budget was allocated to rubbish collection, so community involvement can make a major impact on a site's day to day running costs. Litter picking had a range of engagement initiatives on the ground:

- A. Better Points 'Love Parks' Programme. This was a free app that residents could download and join the Love Your Park rewards programme. The programme rewarded residents of Ealing for getting out and about and being pro-active in Ealing's parks. Participants could exchange the BetterPoints earned to reward themselves with vouchers with high street retailers or donate them to charities. The programme started in June 2018 and would be trialled for 15 to 18 months. Preliminary results were positive.
- B. Plogolution. This was an organisation set up to help support and promote active and engaged communities dedicated to protecting the environment, getting rubbish off our streets, parks, waterways, etc. Plogolution had been commissioned to deliver 9 Plogs (run/walk and rubbish pick up) events around Ealing in 2019. So far 3 plogs had been held: January in Northala (60 participants); Brent Lodge Park (25 participants); Pitzhanger Park (22 participants), with plenty of rubbish collected at each event. This was a total of

214 hours of picking by 107 people. Officers were looking to engage running clubs such as the Ealing Eagles in this work as a way to enhance participation.

- C. 2 Minute Litter Pick boards with pickers. Boards had been installed into 30 parks associated with the Better Points Love Your Parks programme. The boards were stocked with pickers and, after receiving feedback on social media that there were no bags provided (we preferred that users bring their own bags), now they were stocked with a few compostable bags at a time. There were social media prompts on the board to encourage users to share their activity across different platforms.

The feedback on social media has been mixed, with some pickers reported stolen, but anecdotal evidence from the cafes in Walpole and Pitshanger Park that oversee the boards suggest they are well used, particularly by dog walkers. The Park Rangers were responsible for re-stocking the boards.

- D. One off events and partnership working: Ranger-led walks; groups and organisations leading litter-picks. Some litter-picking events were held during 2019, often in partnership with other organisations and groups, including Greenwayers; Canal Rivers Trust, Thames 21, LAGER Can, Ealing Mencap, Southall Transition, Southall Alliance, corporate volunteers, Good Gym, Scouts, Friends of Horsenden Hill. Some of these groups were now programming regular litter-picking into their activities or corporate social responsibility actions.
- E. Rangers giving out and individuals requesting litter pickers. Rangers had face-to-face, regular contact with park users and had used this knowledge and experience to target regular park users (e.g. dog walkers) to litter pick and to give pickers to people who have shown interest and commitment. To date rangers had given out 40 individual pickers, which approximate to around 1,500 hours of picking from Jan–June 2019 (averaged at 30 mins, 3 times a week).
- F. Social media and comms. (Great British Spring Clean, Council, Do Something Good/Bubble, Facebook neighbourhood groups, LAGER Can) to promote and campaign. Officers had used both national awareness campaigns and local communications to raise awareness and increase participation in litter-action activities and events and volunteering.

Volunteering in Parks

The Parks Team had a good record of volunteering, particularly at sites where there has been dedicated staff for example Walpole Park and Manager where there were approximately 5,000 hours of horticultural and wildlife volunteering per year and Horsenden Hill, where there was strong, motivated Friends Group producing around 3,000 hours of volunteering per year.

Whilst, there were no records of previous years for comparison, in 2019 around 10,000 hours of volunteering from over 950 individuals had been recorded. Projects in this area would be, for instance, that run by Greenwayers, a community-led group

that had received training from Thames 21 to safely lead their own river clean up events. Officers supported them by providing promotional and logistical support and waste collections following events.

Devolving Parks and Open Spaces Management

Ealing was working with the organisations South West London Environmental Network and Shared Assets to progress the creation of new Friends groups and supporting existing groups to take on elements of devolved management, including the Blondin Consortium and Friends of Horsenden Hill.

The Chair thanked Chris Welsh for his presentation and invited Panel members to comment and ask questions.

Members:

- Noted that community organised litter picking events had suffered delays due to the difficulty in getting the tools from the Council to enable volunteers to work and the fairly small number of tools that were eventually provided. Heard that officers recognised and understood the frustration. The department was examining the possibility of installing containers in specific areas, accessible via a code to the door, in the borough where people could pick up tools but also providing a space to change or make a cup of tea, as it was recognised that part of the value of volunteering resided in it being a social activity. This was as yet an aspiration. Besides, from next year, when the new LATCO was in place, the Council would have more flexibility in providing tools to residents. Presently, some tools were obtained through AMEY, which requested ample notice to be given to them.
- Commented that there were litter picking machines now being shown in tool exhibitions that could be of interest to park rangers.
- Noted that Barons Pond had not been mentioned in the report. Heard that the sites mentioned were not exhaustive. Work had been carried out in Barons Pond. Some of the work planned there via Highways team in Transport for London included flood management.
- Queried how successful the social media strategy had been. Heard that previously, rangers were contacted via a mail inbox. Now the department had Facebook accounts and had joined social media groups for relevant activities. This way officers were engaging with residents in the borough. The website Do Something Good also referred residents to the Park Department.
- Asked about the level of engagement with volunteers. Heard that engagement fluctuated depending on the organisation. Officers tried to help organisations in becoming more sustainable and invested time and effort with many.
- Queried the level of savings that were estimated from these activities. Heard that now rangers and AMEY were involved in the activities, as they would need to attend sites to collect litter/empty bags. The main objective of the initiatives was to change the perception of residents around litter, eventually it was expected that would reduce the department's workload by producing less waste in the first place. The department's target was to reduce the park waste budget by 25%. But those sorts of savings had not been materialised yet.
- Asked what challenges had the department faced in carrying out these initiatives, Heard that they were very recent. One challenge had been the own

park rangers' initial attitude to them, as most were sceptical that they could work. Now most rangers were supportive.

- Queried whether most activities were led by a ranger. Heard that that was the case in most events, but not always. The department did not have a specific budget for the events so they had been using revenue or park funding to carry them out. They had an officer tasked with promoting corporate volunteering, so not all activities were about active citizens.
- Asked how young people were engaged in these events. Heard that there was a fair amount of engagement with primary schools as these events and activities were part of their curriculum. The same was not true of secondary schools. Some engagement had happened with secondary schools as a result of their pupils being caught littering.
- Noted that the department could engage with ward councillors and other departments about these events.

As the Parks Operations Manager was not familiar with Ealing Council Neighbourhoods Research which was appended to the report, the Panel deferred this to the next meeting of the Panel.

Resolved: That

- I. the presentation on Active Citizens in Parks and Green Spaces be received.
- II. the appropriate officers, and if possible representation from Year Here which had conducted the research, to attend the next meeting to present their findings.

6. Date of Next Meeting
(Agenda Item 6)

The next meeting of the Panel was due to take place on Thursday 19 September 2019.

Councillor Karanvir Singh Dhadwal, Chair.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Report to Scrutiny

Item Number: 9

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information

No

Subject of Report:	Panel's Work Programme
Meeting:	Scrutiny Review Panel 2 – 2019/2020: Active Citizenship 19 September 2019
Service Report Author:	Harjeet Bains Scrutiny Review Officer Email: bainsh@ealing.gov.uk Tel: 020-8825 7120
Scrutiny Officer:	Harjeet Bains Scrutiny Review Officer Email: bainsh@ealing.gov.uk Tel: 020-8825 7120
Cabinet Responsibility:	Councillor Julian Bell (Leader plus Policy Overview, Regeneration and Transport) Councillor Peter Mason (Housing, Planning and Transformation)
Director Responsibility:	Helen Harris Director of Legal and Democratic Services Email: harrish@ealing.gov.uk Tel: 020-8825 8615
Brief:	To consider the updated work programme and agree the agenda items for the next meeting, including external engagement and site visits.
Recommendations:	The Panel is asked to agree the agenda items and actions for the next meeting on 14 November 2019.

1.0 Panel's Work Programme

1.1 The updated Work Programme of Scrutiny Review Panel 2 – 2019/2020: Active Citizenship is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report for the Panel's consideration and agreement.

1.2 The forward plan identifies topics to be addressed at each meeting. It is a rolling programme of work that is amended throughout the period. Items can be addressed as and when they arise or come to the attention of the Panel.

1.3 An updated Work Programme is presented at each Panel meeting. This allows the Panel, officers and others to know well in advance the topics of enquiry that will be addressed throughout the year; schedule items into the Work Programme accordingly and track the progress of issues.

External Engagement

1.4 The Panel members are asked to consider how else they would like to engage local people and other key stakeholders in the next main topic for review which is **Ealing Parks Foundation**.

1.5 The Panel is asked to agree on which witnesses to invite to the meeting and suggest any other ways to seek views on this topic.

Guidance on Selecting Topics

1.6 General guidance on selecting a scrutiny topic is that it should be:

- specific (there is a clear remit/question to answer);
- achievable (in the time given and the resources available);
- likely to generate productive outcomes;
- timely and relevant (a community or Council priority); and
- of public interest.

1.7 The Panel is asked to consider and agree the agenda items and actions for the next meeting on 14 November 2019.

2.0 Legal Implications

2.1 The general scrutiny functions and powers are set out in the Council Constitution.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Support to the Scrutiny Panel is contained within the allocated budget. Value for money will come from having appropriate agenda items on the Work Programme that will help the Panel to achieve the key expected outcomes.

4.0 Other Implications

4.1 There are no other implications arising.

5.0 Background Papers

5.1 Ealing Council's Constitution, available at
http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200892/decision_making/597/council_constitution

Scrutiny Review Panel 2 – 2019/2020: Active Citizenship – Agendas, Minutes and Reports, available at
https://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/318/Default.aspx

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Agendas, Minutes and Reports, available at
http://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/34/Default.aspx

Current agendas and reports are available at
<http://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Committees.aspx>

Report Consultation

<i>Name of Consultee</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Date Sent to Consultee</i>	<i>Date Response Received from Consultee</i>	<i>Comments Appear in Report Para</i>
Internal				
Helen Harris	Director of Legal and Democratic Services	N/A		
Ross Brown	Chief Finance Officer	N/A		
Sam Bailey	Head of Democratic Services	06.09.19		
Cllr Karanvir Dhadwal	Panel Chair	25.07.19		
Cllr Seema Kumar	Panel Vice Chair	25.07.19		
External				
None				

Report History

Decision Type:		Urgency item?	
Non-key Decision		No	
Authorised by Cabinet Member:	Date Report Drafted:	Report Deadline:	Date Report Sent:
N/A	24.07.19	10.09.19	09.09.19
Report No.:	Report Author and Contact for Queries:		
	Harjeet Bains Scrutiny Review Officer Email: bainsh@ealing.gov.uk Tel: 020-8825 7120		

SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL 2 - 2019/2020

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

WORK PROGRAMME

Item No.	Item Details	Brief/Comments
Meeting 1 - Tuesday 16 July 2019		
1	Panel Operations in 2019/2020 (Director of Legal and Democratic Services - Helen Harris/Scrutiny Review Officer - Harjeet Bains)	To consider and agree the Terms of Reference for the Panel (including co-option arrangements and external engagement). To consider, plan and agree the agenda items, where feasible, for all the Panel meetings in the year including any site visits.
2	An Overview of the Active Citizenship Programme (Leads: Director of Environment - Gillian Marston/Assistant Director Arts Libraries and Heritage - Carole Stewart/Assistant Director Leisure - Chris Bunting/Senior Change and Transformation Officer - Jackie Fisk)	To receive an overview of the Council's Active Citizenship programme and confirm areas for further review accordingly. <u>Potential Site Visits:</u> - Homeless shelters, charities (e.g. Nishkam Sikh Welfare and Awareness Team - SWAT), religious institutions e.g. churches, gurdwaras, temples, mosques, etc.
Meeting 2 - Thursday 19 September 2019		
1	Street Watch Scheme - Ealing Street Pastors (Lead: Katherine Thomas, Co-ordinator, Ealing Street Pastors)	To consider the work of Ealing Street Pastors and how it could successfully be replicated in other parts of the borough. <i>This item is a PowerPoint presentation.</i> <u>Expert Witnesses:</u> - Richard Ward, Director, Ealing Street Pastors <u>Potential Site Visits:</u> - Local programmes and best practice examples in other boroughs.

Item No.	Item Details	Brief/Comments
2	<p>Plogolution - Run/walk and rubbish pick ups <i>(Leads: Dermot Kavanagh and Michelle Parkes - Co-founders, Plogolution)</i></p>	<p>To consider the work that Plogolution undertake in the borough (and elsewhere) and how this could be extended to the other areas.</p> <p><i>This item is a PowerPoint presentation.</i></p> <p><u>Potential Expert Witnesses:</u> - Ploggers</p> <p><u>Potential Site Visits:</u> - Local plogs and best practice examples elsewhere.</p>
3	<p>Nishkam Sikh Welfare and Awareness Team - SWAT <i>(Leads: Randeep Singh Lall - Global Operations Director/ Kirpa Kaur - Volunteer)</i></p>	<p>To consider the work of the SWAT team undertaken in the borough (and elsewhere) and how this could be extended to the other areas.</p> <p><i>This item is a PowerPoint presentation.</i></p> <p><u>Potential Expert Witnesses:</u> - Users of the service</p> <p><u>Potential Site Visits:</u> - Nishkam SWAT headquarters and join an assignment.</p>
4	<p>Updated Work Programme for Scrutiny Review Panel 2 - 2019/2020: Active Citizenship <i>(Director of Legal and Democratic Services - Helen Harris/Scrutiny Review Officer - Harjeet Bains)</i></p>	<p>To agree the agenda items and actions for the next meeting of the Panel.</p>

Item No.	Item Details	Brief/Comments
Meeting 3 - Thursday 14 November 2019		
1	Ealing Parks Foundation (Leads: <i>Interim Director of Environment - Gary Alderson/ Assistant Director Leisure - Chris Bunting</i>)	To consider the contextual safeguarding approach including prevention initiatives for safer spaces in the borough. <u>Potential Expert Witnesses:</u> - Canal and River Trust - Representatives of Transform Your Space Projects <u>Potential Site Visits:</u> - Local parks/open spaces e.g. Transform Your Space Projects - The Grape and Honey Farm, Katherine Buchan Meadow, The Piggeries, etc. - Best practice examples elsewhere.
2	Ealing Council Neighbourhoods Research (Lead: <i>Interim Director of Environment - Gary Alderson/ Assistant Director Arts Libraries and Heritage - Carole Stewart</i>)	To consider the findings of the qualitative research undertaken by Year Here on the two contrasting neighbourhoods of Hanwell and Northolt. <i>This item was deferred from the first meeting on 16 July 2019.</i>
3	Updated Work Programme for Scrutiny Review Panel 2 - 2019/2020: Active Citizenship (<i>Director of Legal and Democratic Services - Helen Harris/Scrutiny Review Officer - Harjeet Bains</i>)	To agree the agenda items and actions for the next meeting of the Panel.

Item No.	Item Details	Brief/Comments
Meeting 4 - Thursday 13 February 2020		
1	Resident Engagement (Leads: <i>Interim Director of Environment - Gary Alderson/ Assistant Director Arts, Libraries and Heritage - Carole Stewart</i>)	To consider an update on how residents are engaged in shaping their community/ environment including the implementation of the new libraries strategy. <u>Potential Expert Witnesses:</u> - Representatives of the Every One Every Day initiative, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham - Volunteers <u>Potential Site Visits:</u> - Various projects within the borough and elsewhere.
2	Updated Work Programme for Scrutiny Review Panel 2 - 2019/2020: Active Citizenship (<i>Director of Legal and Democratic Services - Helen Harris/Scrutiny Review Officer - Harjeet Bains</i>)	To agree the agenda items and actions for the next meeting of the Panel.
Meeting 5 - Wednesday 8 April 2020		
1	Draft Final Report of Scrutiny Review Panel 2 - 2019/2020: Active Citizenship (<i>Director of Legal and Democratic Services - Helen Harris/Scrutiny Review Officer - Harjeet Bains</i>)	To consider and agree, with any amendments, the Panel's final report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Item No.	Item Details	Brief/Comments
Planned Site Visits		Comments
1	<p>Plogolution Events Cuckoo Park Cuckoo Avenue, Hanwell, North London, W7 1BX (Meeting Point: Hanwell Community Centre) Saturday 3 August 2019 13:00-14:30 <u>and</u> Northala Fields Middlesex Football Association Rectory Park Avenue, Ruislip Road, Northolt, UB5 6AU Saturday 21 September 2019 11:00-12:30</p>	<p>To observe/join the two plogs in Cuckoo Park and Northala Fields.</p> <p>Plogolution is a mixture of running/walking whilst picking up rubbish at the same time. It aims to bring together local communities to help clean up the scourge of plastic and promote healthy living.</p> <p>All equipment including gloves, rubbish bags and a free Plogolution t-shirt is provided.</p> <p><u>Cuckoo Park</u> Plogolution will be partnering with Ealing Half marathon to run/walk some of the course and pick up rubbish along the way. There will be a 5K run and a 2K walk available.</p> <p><u>Northala Fields</u> There will be 2 routes: a 2k walk and a 5k run.</p>
2	<p>Ealing Street Pastors (September 2019 - date(s) to be confirmed)</p>	<p>To join the team on their patrol(s) in the borough.</p>
3	<p>Nishkam Sikh Welfare and Awareness Team - SWAT Nishkam SWAT HQ Kiran House, Springfield Road, Hayes, Middlesex, UB4 0JT Wednesday 18 September 2019 13:00</p>	<p>To visit the SWAT headquarters and join the team on an assignment.</p>

