

Dear Ian

We all hope you are, and remain, well in these difficult times.

We would like to express our concern over the lack of progress on developing a Climate Change strategy for Enfield. I know we are in the centre of a major pandemic and that this has necessarily captured much of the Council's energy.

However climate change is also an emergency and one that will almost certainly be more severe than the present pandemic, serious though this is. We cannot just put this on the back burner. It is worrying that predictions suggest that there may be a second and more severe pandemic crisis this winter, and if there is will it mean that climate change is relegated yet again. It is coming up for a year since the Climate Emergency was declared by Enfield Council and 18 months since it was first tabled.

It is hard to believe that there is no one on the Council who is focussing on climate change. The consultation on the Climate Action Plan is, I believe, complete; and even though the consultation meeting was cancelled we understand that individuals and groups nevertheless responded by the deadline. Good for them, they need to know that you are acting on their feedback. After all the website says that the Task Force is overseeing the development and delivery of the action plan. You've committed to sharing the dates of the meetings but the last meeting is dated 1 April 2020. There are no minutes and it probably didn't take place. Most of us have adjusted to working online and I would have thought that a new meeting had at least been scheduled.

Also the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) plan to access performance reports and profile information on member councils throughout the UK and it will be important to examine this to ascertain Enfield's comparative performance - something we will keep a close eye on as will many others.

We have written to you more than once to engage with Encaf online to help take this agenda forward but there is always procrastination. That really is not supportive of the hundreds of residents who take an active interest by affiliating through their community groups and as individuals to Encaf.

It may be that you are processing this and that few know about it but it is important that we know what is happening and what steps and contingency plans you have for the reasons already given.

So we would ask you again if you would give us an update about progress and join us online to discuss both progress and objectives. It is in all our interests to do this and EnCaf is willing to engage with you at any time.

We would welcome Bevan Jones into the discussion. We know his work has been fundamental to the development of the action plan but if for some reason he is unable to join us then discussion with you would be valuable and our many members would welcome it.

So please let's get this moving again as the clock is ticking. Communities are newly aware of how fresh the air is, how birds sing, the roads are quiet, walking and cycling is safe. We are more than willing to take this forward with you.

Best Wishes,

Francis

Morning Francis

Officers have been working hard to incorporate the feedback received on the draft climate strategy into the final document whilst continuing other Covid related duties.

I hope to take the strategy to the second virtual cabinet on 10th June 2020 so this issue is far from being on the 'back burner'. From what I hear you might have sadly been unaware of the first virtual cabinet meeting which took place on 13th May 2020 in accordance with permission from the Chief Monitoring Officer. We had sixteen members of the public watching which I think is a good start.

We have received some really great feedback from the many climate groups across Enfield and much of it has been incorporated into the final document. All submissions received a reply which included our reasoning concerning particular issues.

Now that the lockdown is easing off I have been talking to the Executive Director about releasing her officers from Covid and other duties to take part in a virtual launch of the strategy where we will be fielding questions online. I will of course let your organisation know when this will take place.

And as you say the air is fresh, the birds are singing, the roads are quiet so it would be great to see Encaf finally put its head above the parapet and come out in support of the low traffic neighbourhood programme instead of the continued silence. Yes it's controversial, but there are many more controversial strategies ahead of us if we're to address emissions/climate change across the borough!

Best wishes,

Councillor Ian Barnes
Deputy Leader of the Council

Chair of the Brexit Panel
Chair of the Climate Change Task Force
Vice-Chair of the Enfield Community Resilience Board

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Many thanks, Ian, for your quick response, we appreciate its many positive aspects.

However EnCAF members remain concerned about the limited time allocated to respond to the proposed draft Climate Emergency Strategy and that, for some at least, there was no feedback on their contributions.

There is a more general concern that your responses have been on an individual basis, thus disallowing those individuals who have responded from seeing where their concerns resonate with others and understanding the bigger picture of the response

We welcome the fact that you have contacted many local groups and given that to tackle climate change requires collective and wholehearted action, a list of those you've contacted and those who've responded would be good practice and most welcome.

We also welcome the paper to cabinet at their next meeting in June, however for this to be meaningful to our members we would appreciate a link to the meeting in order that they can listen in. So we ask

- Will you provide the link asap so that we can publish it in our newsletter along with the link to the report which we presume will be published on the council website.
- Will you ensure that all community submissions and council replies be published as an addendum to the report to cabinet,
- Will you inform us if Elected Members on the task force have had sight of the responses and have contributed to the final report.

- if it is the case that elected members of the task force have not been involved in the response, can you tell us how local democratic accountability has been served by this process.

However we acknowledge the response to EnCAF and were pleased that so many of our points were received positively. We eagerly anticipate the final version to see how our members helped to shape the strategy.

You raise Encaf's public position and assumed endorsement of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods.

In principle we support LTNs and in our internal documentation have said so but we are surprised that you are asking about EnCAF'S commitment when you can have no knowledge of our position as you have not, yet, engaged with us or our hundreds of members.

However, many believe that Enfield's low traffic neighbourhoods scheme is controversial precisely because it is being imposed from above, with an inadequate consultation process, and contentious local proposals.

Clearly our focus is Climate Action and our concern is the reduction of carbon emissions. So we would like to know

- how your plans for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods will reduce carbon emissions across Enfield.
- Will it reduce traffic flow or will the same amount of traffic be merely diverted,
- What is your evidence of the impact on emissions and
- how will that evidence be verified e.g. in-house verification or independent?

Carbon emissions should be the ultimate arbiter and can be objectively assessed.

So, therefore, we would like to invite you to an online meeting with our members to discuss Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, your overall proposals and the empirical evidence that you have that it will lower carbon emissions to such an extent that this should be a priority.

We would welcome a discussion, too, about the more recent proposals from the Mayor of London and TfL on the Covid 19 Streetplace plan and

how Enfield is taking up that challenge, which we welcome. <https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/covid-19-streetspace-plan>

So please engage with us online. It is disappointing that once more you seem to have evaded the invitation which we can only interpret as a refusal. In our view, your willingness to engage is the litmus test of your commitment to meaningful action and sincerity in public consultation.

We really would welcome you at all or any of our regular meetings.

Best Wishes,

Francis

Good morning

Thanks for your email.

On 27 May 2020, at 09:43, Francis Sealey <fsealey@gmail.com> wrote:
Many thanks, Ian, for your quick response, we appreciate its many positive aspects.

However EnCAF members remain concerned about the limited time allocated to respond to the proposed draft Climate Emergency Strategy and that, for some at least, there was no feedback on their contributions.

> Where a response to feedback was requested, a response was given.

- Will you provide the link asap so that we can publish it in our newsletter along with the link to the report which we presume will be published on the council website.

> You can find this online. The agenda and link are published a week before the meeting.

- Will you ensure that all community submissions and council replies be published as an addendum to the report to cabinet,

> A summary of the main comments from groups on the draft CAP will appear in an appendix.

- Will you inform us if Elected Members on the task force have had sight of the responses and have contributed to the final report.

> Yes of course Councillors on the Task Force have contributed and given their valuable thoughts on the draft strategy.

- how your plans for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods will reduce carbon emissions across Enfield.
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- What is your evidence of the impact on emissions and
- how will that evidence be verified e.g. in-house verification or independent?

> This can all be found online, and a report will elaborate further down the line. Low traffic neighbourhoods have been hugely successful wherever they have been implemented. A multitude of boroughs now have low traffic neighbourhood programmes (Lambeth, Hackney, Lewisham, Hounslow etc etc). I really shouldn't have to convince a climate group that they are a great idea and will be of benefit to the environment.

So please engage with us online. It is disappointing that once more you seem to have evaded the invitation which we can only interpret as a refusal. In our view, your willingness to engage is the litmus test of your commitment to meaningful action and sincerity in public consultation.

> As I've said we are preparing an online launch and all groups will be invited to ask questions at this launch. You can continue to claim that I have made a refusal but you are only misleading your audience, much as you did last week by claiming that no Cabinet meetings had been held online.

Best wishes
Stay safe
Ian

Ian I will answer your email in due course but my answer is never just me but it comes from the core group in EnCaf who always agree it together.

It is really a shame that you do not take part in our activities. For example tonight we will be dividing up into break-up groups and one of these will be looking at retrofitting homes for those on low income. Camilla Berens from SELCE in South London will be helping with this as they help many poorer families and also work with the Council

She will be bringing her retrofit engineer with her. Tristan Owen, one of Selce's experts on retrofitting for low income households will also be joining in the discussion this evening. He is on furlough from Selce at the moment so he will be giving a perspective from his other work with a local co-operative called, RetrofitWorks.

So they can teach us a lot and help us to make recommendations to discuss with you. But Ian you have to learn to engage by not just email. We are in a different age now. Don't worry no one is going to eat you. But you need to engage much more openly and not just behind closed doors and the mail box bunker. Engagement means dialogue not mutual monologues so jump on board and join us in this new century. We are already twenty years in!

Francis
