



‘Cleaner air’ policies in neighbourhood planning

by Simon Birkett

Founder and Director

Clean Air in London

<http://cleanair.london/>

Chair

Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forum

<http://www.knightsbridgeforum.org/>

Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forum



Evening Standard coverage

London Evening Standard
Thursday 23 February 2017 **FREE** **Independent**

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WEST END FINAL

DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORIC HYDE PARK BASE TAKES A MAJOR STEP FORWARD

RECORD £2 BILLION HOUSING PLAN FOR BARRACKS

EXCLUSIVE
Nicholas Cecil, Joanna Rowles and Jonathan Prynn

PLANS to turn the Household Cavalry's historic barracks in Hyde Park into a record-breaking £2 billion super office neighbourhood have taken a major step forward. Evidence shows the "green" legislation paving the way to sell the home of the mounted regiment charged with guarding the Queen, the Standard has learned. Senior property figures said the development would "take one of the most valuable and beautiful sites in the city and turn it into a major employment hub".

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KATY JOINS ELLIE'S BRIT PACK

Harry eyed Ellie Goulding and Katy Perry were among the stars celebrating the early hours of a London party after the Brit Awards, the biggest night in the UK music industry's calendar. **FULL STORY Page 9**

LONDON BATTERED BY STORM DORIS PAGE 10 **SPURS/MILLWALL TICKET SAFETY PLEA** BACK PAGE

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Cappuccino with extra shot of pollution

Café tables beside fume-filled roads put lives at risk, says campaigner

Jonathan Prynn
Consumer Business Editor

LONDON'S progress towards an al fresco "café society" should be halted in areas blighted by high levels of air pollution, a leading campaigner said today.

Simon Birkett, founder of the Clean Air in London group, said drinkers and diners were putting themselves at risk by lingering over coffees on pavement tables next to the most badly-affected streets.

The former investment banker is also chair of the Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forum, which today demanded that planning applications to put tables and chairs on pavements should be refused if local air quality is below World Health Organisation guideline limits for exposure.

Mr Birkett said: "Health must come first. The WHO guidelines state that there should be no human exposure to more than 200 micrograms of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) per cubic metre for longer than an hour.

"The reality is that you could well be sitting at a café for more than an hour and you certainly might visit more than once."

He said that the NO2 hourly limit had been breached 159 times already this year at the monitoring station on Brompton Road near Harrods, compared with a legal limit of 18. The average concentration over the year has been 76 micrograms – almost twice the legal maximum of 40.

There are a number of cafés near the monitoring station with outdoor tables in the warmer months including branches of the Caffè Concerto, Caffè Nero, Venice Café, Kichoux and Pret a Manger chains as well as the Indian restaurant Chapati & Karak. Today's document includes the proposal that applications "to place tables and chairs on the pavement will only be permitted if the World Health Organisation's guideline for hourly mean exposure to nitrogen dioxide is unlikely to be exceeded in that location."

Mr Birkett said: "We are trying to send a powerful signal to the Mayor, Kensington & Chelsea council, the City of Westminster council and Transport for London that they have got to do something. The current situation is just not good enough."

"Brompton Road is a classic street canyon that traps the emissions because of the tall buildings on either side. But it is also one of the busiest streets in London in terms of pedestrian traffic."

The Birth of a Nation

Progress and next steps

- 27 March 2014 Neighbourhood area designated
- 21 July 2015 Forum designated. Grateful to Locality for £15,000 of grants
- 8 December 2016 Pre-submission consultation. 49 policies under 10 objectives. First in City of Westminster
- May/June 2017 Submission?

<http://www.knightsbridgeforum.org/planning/consultation/>

Important policies for cleaner air

1. Metropolitan Open Land
2. Knightsbridge Code of Construction Practice
3. Neighbourhood Stress Area
4. Motor vehicle use
5. Utilities and communications infrastructure
6. Healthy Air: zero air emissions. Indoor air quality
7. Renewable energy: onsite and offsite. Building energy efficiency
8. Trees
9. Community Engagement Protocol
10. Developer contributions

Challenges and opportunities

1. Pitching the 'ambition' level of our policies
 - Positive wording
 - Brevity of policies. Moving things to annexes
 - Avoiding duplication
 - Evidence and justification
2. Must we do an SEA and an SA 'just in case'?
3. What boxes must WCC tick before Regulation 16?
4. Does neighbourhood planning include roads?
5. Impact of 'neighbourhood management' actions
6. Having our say on CLIL spending
7. Plan is likely to cost the Forum over £100,000
8. Changes in Neighbourhood Planning Bill



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