Group 5 - Abbey Mills Places Panel Notes

Speakers (ROUND 1)

- **Ellie Kuper-Thomas**, Newham Council – Local plan
- **Louise Wilcox**, Newham Council – Parks strategy

Break out conversation

Planning policy sounds great, but is it being implemented? So many high rise buildings, not enough green space. Old high rises - lack green space and what there is is not being maintained or looked after.

Accountability - who makes sure developers deliver the green space they commit to?

Fear that green space will be squeezed out by development. One person in the group talked about a park that her son used to play in which has been built over.

Sense that lived experience is at odds with Ellie's planning principles.

Safety is a priority.

Speakers (ROUND 2)

- **Cllr Shaban Mohamed ,** Newham Council – Housing
- **Andy Gold** [VIDEO], Newham Council – Food security

Break out conversation

Any initial stand out points for noting

OVERALL PLACES PANEL NOTES

Where is our council tax going in terms of green spaces and parks? Not seeing the impact of our money on the ground. Parks that are flourishing benefit from other funding eg. National Lottery

Some members of the group were quite sceptical about the council. Sense that the need for housing will always take precedence. Feeling that the council may not listen to recommendations of CA, that it's just a consultation exercise and then they'll pursue their agenda anyway.

Feeling that focus on tree planting is a bit of a distraction away from the real issues of overpopulation and overcrowding.

What are the challenges that need to be overcome?

Overall lack of green space: kids don't have space to run around (at school, at home or in the parks which are overcrowded.) contributes to ASB, obesity etc.

Sense of a North/South divide - North of the borough seems more overcrowded. More opportunity for green spaces in the south of borough.

Kids have nowhere safe to learn to ride a bike.

People don't know about the green spaces that are around them. New residents don't get info about parks and open spaces so don't access them.

Short-termism: ideas get taken up but the Council but then seem to be forgotten when the next idea comes along. Need to think long-term.

Are there any potential opportunities or solutions that stood out to you?

Noel talked about Neighbourhood Funds of £100,000 per neighbourhood for

community projects.

Leaflets through peoples doors highlighting green spaces they can access locally.

Louise talked about Love Newham app as a way for people to report problems with play equipment.

Affordable after school clubs for kids.

Zoning within parks so people can access space that is appropriate to them and their needs - Louise told us this is part of her team's management plans and can work.

What information or insights did you find particularly interesting or important?

LLDC land will revert to Newham in 2024. Opportunity for Newham to influence development?

What outstanding questions do you have?