



CAMDEN COUNCIL ELECTIONS, 5 MAY 2022

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

PLEASE FILL IN QUESTIONNAIRE (space expands as necessary)

and EMAIL RESPONSE to: info@brag.org.uk

by 17:00 on Monday 18 April 2022

What is your name?

JULIAN FULBROOK

Which Camden ward do you wish to represent?

Holborn and Covent Garden

GENERAL

1	Do you live in the ward you wish to represent? If not where? Yes.
2	Do you support involving many more Councillors in all Council decision-making than under the Cabinet / Executive arrangement? Yes. I have always supported a return to the Committee system.
3	How would you improve telephone access to Camden's departments and officers? I am not entirely sure this is a problem, but email to a Camden councillor's Camden address is an effective means of communication!

HERITAGE

4	How would you promote enforcement of Planning and Conservation policies? I would support more officers doing this very demanding job.
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PLANNING / DEVELOPMENT

5	<p>How would you improve scrutiny of Councillors' potential conflicts of interest, especially with regard to planning decisions?</p> <p>Theoretically all such conflicts of interest are already published.</p>
6	<p>Should Planning Obligation funds (s106) for developments be allocated only after agreement with the local adjacent community?</p> <p>This certainly happens in Holborn and Covent Garden ward.</p>

TRAFFIC / TRANSPORT

7	<p>Do you think there should be an independent review of the outcomes of Low traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) in Camden?</p> <p>I think this would just add another layer of bureaucracy and, on the whole, there is already plenty of consultation and then wholehearted support for LTNs in Holborn and Covent Garden ward. It is an insanity that 35,000 vehicles commute every day into Camden. Apart from disabled drivers, emergency vehicles, taxis and certain essential delivery and pickup vehicles this volume of traffic should be reduced dramatically – and LTNs prevent the “GPS rat running” which pollutes our neighbourhood and threatens personal safety. Additionally, the LTNs are necessarily all unique to their local neighbourhood, so some sort of global “independent review” would not be useful. Much more important, and particularly for road safety, is serious investment in tackling death traps like the Holborn Gyratory, which councillors in Holborn and Covent Garden have been campaigning about for many years – and very sadly had the TfL money to make changes suddenly withdrawn because of a financial crisis caused by the pandemic.</p>
8	<p>Do you support increased pollution monitoring and regular publishing of results for areas of congestion?</p> <p>Yes. I have always done so. A rather odd new issue has now arisen from the pollution monitoring – wood-burning stoves causing a substantial amount of pollution. I know only one person in my ward who seems to use a wood-burning stove! Perhaps this is an issue in the more affluent parts of the Borough northwards from us?</p>

9	<p>How will you reduce the negative impact of road closures and reduced numbers of bus stops on people with mobility issues?</p> <p>There are very many positive impacts of road closures! Each area needs to be looked at holistically. Inevitably there often needs to be adjustment. Sadly, and particularly with GPS systems for drivers, when the Council blocks off one rat run inevitably an adjacent residential street is then subjected to increased traffic. So it is always important to take into account the views of local residents and to consider, in advance, where problems might be shifted by the ingenuity of drivers and their GPS. I have every sympathy with severely disabled people but on the whole TfL approach this issue of bus stops in an appropriate way with full consultation.</p>

CRIME

10	<p>Do you support monitored CCTV and increased police presence in your ward?</p> <p>I have, together with other councillors, been campaigning for more CCTV and more police in my ward for very many years... When I was first a councillor walking to the Town Hall through the King's Cross area was a "lively" experience. With the impact of CCTV pioneered there a huge change was made. CCTV is a vital tool for preventing crime in "hot spots" and for gathering evidence for police action and potential prosecutions.</p>
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ENVIRONMENT

11	<p>What enforcement measures will you take to reduce littering and fly-tipping in your ward?</p> <p>Our Clean Camden app has assisted greatly in this. But it depends on individuals alerting the Camden officers. (Personally I use this app nearly every day!)</p>
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HOUSING

12	<p>How do you propose to tackle bad housing conditions in Council and private rented accommodation?</p> <p>Having been the “Housing Chief” in Camden on three stints I have spent most of my time as a councillor on these issues. A central problem is a lack of central government funding. Tory governments do not believe in social housing, as they have clearly demonstrated over many years. Locally Tories and their Lib Dem partners sold off council housing and continually vote against social housing schemes. There are some very effective Camden officers dealing with the scams and perils of people having to endure some appalling private landlordism, but we need more effective powers to intervene – some of the conditions in private rented accommodation I have inspected in Camden, fortunately rarely in my own ward, are a total disgrace.</p>
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COUNCIL SPENDING

13	<p>Would you support quarterly publishing of disbursements by the Council to third party service providers?</p> <p>I have no problem with this process and indeed as a school governor often fill up such a form with a nil return.</p>
14	<p>Do you support allocation of Council expenditure being decided by a vote of all elected Councillors?</p> <p>This happens in the annual budget round. There is also a good argument for additional scrutiny by councillors in Committees who build up expertise on areas of the Council’s work.</p>
15	<p>Would you support giving the opinions of local residents and businesses a greater weighting in changes affecting their local area?</p> <p>I am all in favour of involving local residents, and in Holborn and Covent Garden we have for many years had a very active Area Action Group and a Holborn District Management Committee to do this. I certainly do NOT want the return of the undemocratic Business Vote in Holborn (!) but I am always willing, and do, talk to local businesses.</p>
16	<p>How should the Council better support shops and small businesses in South Camden?</p> <p>By eternal vigilance. Councillors in Holborn and Covent Garden have often stepped in to tackle problems, notably in Clerkenwell.</p>

**Thank you for answering our questionnaire
Please return by 17:00 on Monday, 18 April 2022**

to

info@brag.org.uk

Bloomsbury Residents' Action Group

www.brag.org.uk