

**NICKIE AIKEN MP**  
CITIES OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Chris Hayward  
Policy Chairman  
City of London Corporation  
Guildhall  
London  
EC2P 2EJ

28th November 2022

**Golden Lane Estate**

*Dear Chris,*

I visited the Golden Lane Estate last Thursday to meet local residents concerned about anti-social behaviour and drug dealing. I was joined by the City of London Police Chief Constable, Angela McLaren and the Police Authority Chairman, James Thomson.

It proved a very worthwhile meeting and there were a few issues I want to raise with you regarding improving lighting and CCTV coverage which I believe the Corporation should undertake to make people feel safer.

Local people are very concerned about the ongoing issues they experience from groups coming on to the estate to film music videos and short movies. This activity often takes place at night and into the early hours. The noise from the filming is loud and intimidating. The Corporation continues to work with residents and I believe has not granted film permits for the estate at weekends since the summer. The filming I am raising does not have permits and tends to be organised without permission. Most films seem to be made but not exclusively in the car park. When we visited it was obvious why it is attractive for filmmaking.

I would be grateful if the Corporation would look seriously at improving lighting on the estate and in the car park. I noted a "private estate" sign as we entered the car park but it is not illuminated. Could it please be illuminated for it to stand out more? There are also several lights that did not seem to be working when we were there late in the afternoon. Could the Corporation please undertake a lighting audit to check all lights are working and to see whether dark areas could benefit from extra lights?

There are CCTV cameras in the car park, could you please confirm that they are working and that the police give immediate access to recordings when requested? One local resident informed me that people from off the estate regularly reverse down to the car park and empty their car boots full of rubbish and fly tip by the bins. There is a CCTV camera directly in front of these bins. If they are working it would be simple for the Corporation or the police to confirm the owner of the car via its registration and issue a fine for the illegal dumping.

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The City of London Police agreed to take on board what they saw on the walkabout and what they were told by residents and will work with the Residents' Association, myself and the Corporation to compile a plan to ensure a stronger police presence on the estate in future. We hope to hold a public meeting on the estate on the 3rd February to get feedback on the plan. I am sure you would be very welcome if you could attend.

The Golden Lanes Estate is generally a very safe place and with a few improvements and greater police presence I am sure it could become an even more pleasant place to live.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nickie Aiken". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Nickie Aiken MP**

Cities of London and Westminster

CC - James Thomson