

Colliers Wood Residents Association

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Minutes of Meeting

1st November 2016

Welcome

Donna Rutherford chaired the meeting. We apologised for the lack of minutes of the last meeting and the agenda for this meeting. **Noted: these papers are not being accessed online and paper copies should be available at the meeting.**

Apologies

Kevin Godding, Adam Towner, Cllr Nick Draper, PC Dave Russell.

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Lollipop person issue outstanding.

Action: Kevin will raise with Singlegate School.

Impact of housing development on school places at Singlegate. Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah has taken detailed information to the Director of Education and had a meeting planned for Wednesday 2nd with the officer responsible for school admissions, to discuss the reasons why we would like an Admissions Priority Area for admission to Singlegate. Some detailed discussion followed about the needs for this and the processes which would involve application by Merton council to central government.

Action: Caroline to feedback on developments at the next meeting.

Report via email from Cllr Nick Draper Nick re High Street Project money (formerly sect. 106) and the question of whether the High Street group will have control of this funding. Nick explained that the High Street project uses funding from various sources including a specific and limited amount of the '106' money. He is yet to find out how much '106' money could be available to us in total. He reports that further to his work around the scope and modus operandi of the 'High Street Group' he is hopeful its work will be more cooperative and less maverick.

Nick also reported via email on the percentage of affordable housing Merton Council expects developers to provide: it is complicated, as although there has been a drive to get percentages up, most of Merton's are at 15%, which he anticipates will be the case with Fortescue Road development, though some developments, such as Pollards Hill (100 units) are expected to run at 60% affordable.

Nick further reported via email on the question raised by Kate from Christchurch with regard to approaches to support vulnerable people who are hard to reach. Cllr Mary Curtin from Friends of St Helier would be willing to talk with us about her experience in this respect.

Finally on matters arising, Nick has checked Jackie Ward's complaint about building work out of hours on the Tower and could find no record. **Noted: the work is nearly complete now.**

Action: Nick is yet to talk with the nearby church re parking in Fortescue Road prior to a petition being raised by residents to extend the CPZ.

Police Report

This was not available at the meeting.

Planning

The Tower

Although we had no official feedback from Rhatigans re the Tower, it is believed that the flats will begin to be occupied later this month and December. Renting will probably be dealt with privately rather than through a local estate agent. We have no knowledge yet of which shops will occupy the retail units but Fiona reported rents are quite high. Donna raised Kevin's concern to welcome incoming residents. **Noted: suggestions were; creating a flyer for distribution, renting a shop unit for an evening a little before Christmas/New Year to meet new residents, meeting new residents in the pub or the Community Centre, securing the interest of a car club, such as Zip Car or City Car.**

The use of cars and parking at night and weekends was discussed, and if this becomes a problem a new parking consultation would be needed. There will be no bicycle parking space at the Tower. The space next to C. James has been debated between the council, who wanted just cycle parking, and TfL, who wanted car and bicycle space. This remains unresolved. The possibility of bicycle spaces in Phase 2 of the Tower development was mooted. The appearance and landscaping around the Tower was raised and Cllr Laxmi Attawar confirmed the developer should be working with TfL to ensure it would be in keeping with the area. The façade of Colliers Wood station was discussed. The issues re cleaning have been explored and documented, but Laxmi will raise the question again.

Action: Laxmi to report back.

Obstructions caused by mini cabs parking in Valley Gardens was raised. Also dangerous driving by some mini cab drivers.

Action: Laxmi will establish how best to tackle this concern and advice at next meeting.

Fortescue Road

Quite a few objections to the planning had been noted, eg lack of parking, closeness of blocks causing residents to be overlooked, lack of affordable housing. However, the developer has responded with some changes eg a children's play space, comparable examples of close buildings, and a whole block will be affordable housing (16 out of 74 units) and there will be 29 car parking spaces and 126 spaces for bikes. The planning meeting is likely to be on 26th Nov.

The Library

Laxmi reported that the building is going according to plan and should be completed in June 2017.

60-62 High Street

It appears from a variety of planning notices that Sainsbury's are very much continuing to develop on this site.

Parks and Open Spaces

Donna reported on the lively Parks and Open Spaces meeting on 4th October. See minutes of the meeting for details.

Tesco has changed the system for grant applications and now operates a rolling programme without deadline dates. The previous hope for a Community Herb Garden was thwarted by the unexpected withdrawal of support from Circle Housing and so Donna is inviting thoughts for alternative possibilities and suggested mobile planters for herbs as an example.

Anyone who would like to join a volunteer group to work in the park should talk to Donna. There will be proper training and the group will work under the direction and guidance of the Council. This is really important as parks are being outsourced by the Council and so this is an unstable time for our parks.

The play area shared between the park and Singlegate school has been looking a bit shabby and the question of responsibility for its maintenance is being checked by Nick.

Action: Nick will confirm.

The tennis courts currently operate in an ad hoc manner with very considerable goodwill by some local residents.

Action: the Committee will work out a system and Donna will put this on the CWRA website.

Solar bins are being repaired which will hopefully reduce the litter problem.

The hedges in Wandle Park have been cut, and the mess left seems to have been resolved and it looks ok now.

Donna is stepping down from Parks and Open Spaces committee.

Action: a new chair of Parks and Open Spaces is needed from January.

Autumn Fair Update

There was a vote of thanks to Madeleine and all involved in the hard work. The fair was a great success. It was felt it would be good to plan a similar event next year and was acknowledged that a high standard had been set. Although it hadn't been planned as a fund raising event, approximately £674 was raised.

Accordingly a proposal has been made that the money is used to sponsor a coach for girls football for a season and pay for kit. Little League are paying the coach already and would be very grateful if the sum could be paid by CWRA.

Action: Subject to Donna's confirmation of the sum raised by the Autumn fair, there was a unanimous vote in favour of the sponsorship of the female football coach. It is hoped this can be harnessed to publicity which will promote CWRA to the local community.

AOB

- Donna apologised that the website contained incorrect dates.
- A request was made for a further update from TfL as many remain very concerned about danger presented by the ambiguity at the junction of the High Street with Priory Road.
- The state of the interior and exterior of Costcutter was raised and the meeting agreed it was very poor. **Action: Agreed the Residents Association could write a letter to Costcutter.**
- The High Street Group does have money to replace shop signs but this doesn't include Venus and Costcutter. A stretch on the other side of the road has been done, and the drycleaners and chicken shop are included in the next phase. This phase will also include new designs by art students along the High Street, a community clean up day and new pavers and planters on the Chip Shop corner (High St/Marlborough Rd).
- There is an Interfaith event on 17th Nov 4-7pm at Colliers Wood library which includes food, talks and activities.
- Tom Searle will be hosting a 'What's going on in Colliers Wood?' event on Saturday 28th January at the Community Centre.
- **The meeting agreed that the AGM will be held on Tuesday 10th January . All officers are elected at the AGM.** Kevin would like someone to put themselves forward as Chair. Fiona will not be standing again for election as Vice Chair, Adam will not be standing for election as Secretary, Donna will not be standing for election as Chair of Parks and Open Spaces. **Action: please will anyone interested in standing for election for any post give an indication prior to the AGM.**