

## **Colliers Wood Residents Association Tuesday 5 July 2016**

### **Minutes of the meeting**

#### Welcome

Kevin Godding welcomed Paul McGarry (Future Merton), Catherine Abraham.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Tony Redpath, Helen McAuley, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Donna Rutherford

#### 3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Catherine Abraham updated on actions relating to local traffic issues:

– new technology has been implemented around the traffic signals around the High Street. It is now possible to monitor queues and to optimise timings at junctions to improve traffic flow. In general traffic is starting to move better, although work needs to be done on the right turn junction in Priory Road.

- Drainage outside the tube station has been repaired and should be much improved.

- Work is starting tonight at the junction, with a solid line cycle lane being installed. Work will be done to shorten the merge point so that there is less of a conflict with traffic. Catherine is looking into whether anything else can be done to help in this area.

- Tactile paving will be installed at North Gardens.

- Cranked signal poles will be installed at the junction opposite Wandle Park.

- The new mayor has committed to introduce an ultra-low emission zone (ULEZ) in 2019 within central London and to expand to the north and south circulars by 2020 for motorcycles cars and vans, and to the whole of London for coaches and lorries by 2020. There are plans to make all double-deckers ULEZ-compliant by 2019.

- The hoarding around the library has been moved to give more room around the bus stop for pedestrians to pass by.

- Catherine reported the following outstanding actions, which will be dealt with:

Issues with the areas outside the community centre

Puddles outside south Gardens and Priory Centre

Nick Draper said that the puddle outside the Esso garage is a big problem and should be looked into.

Tom Walsh said that he will measure air quality in the High Street again now that traffic flow is being improved. He also reported that the Mayor has held an air quality seminar, and that the London Sustainability Exchange is petitioning the government to bring in a new Clean Air Act.

Matthew Marks reported that a lot of drivers are turning right out of Bygrove Road onto the High Street despite the fact that no right turns are allowed there.

A resident raised the issue of the vulnerability of pedestrians crossing at Christchurch Road, especially those coming to and from Singlegate school with children and buggies. Catherine Abraham said that TfL will do a road safety audit and will pick up any issues.

Residents asked if a lollipop person could be used. Paul McGarry said that they are usually requested and funded by schools. Kevin will raise this with the Chair of Governors of Singlegate School.

A resident said that the new layout is dangerous for blind or partially sighted people. Catherine said she has been in touch with Merton Vision about the tactiles around Colwood Gardens, which warns blind people that they are coming to a raised area or crossing.

Jonathan Holloway said that there should be a 20mph speed restriction. It was suggested that this could be set up during this transition period before the end of building work. Nick Draper said that he can look into it.

A resident said that the new paving outside the tube station paved over access to virgin media broadband. TfL are to resolve this issue.

A resident asked if the trees be replaced. Paul McGarry said that the majority of trees will go in on the tower side of the road.

A resident asked if the chairs facing the chicken shop will be reorientated. Paul McGarry said they will continue to face in that direction because too dangerous to face onto the road.

The meeting highlighted the on-going issue at the junction with Merton High Street when turning right onto the A24. TfL will monitor.

Kevin said that the Baltic Close development, part of the Connecting Colliers Wood project, seems to have come to a standstill. Paul McGarry said that the Council is behind schedule with this because the manager has been off work and the weather has caused flooding and has diverted labour to deal with it. It is hoped that it will be completed by the end of July, including trees, planting, and cycle stands. Street signs and road signs are to go in at the end of this month. In the area around the footpath at Sainsburys, the council is waiting for benches to be manufactured and they will be brought on site in late July. New paving is in and work is developing along the riverside, and street lights will go in along the riverside to match those in Baltic Close.

Nick Draper asked when will work start on the piazza. Paul reported that the space will be available from about November. Merton have not yet signed off the design, although plans are being developed. The work on the Christchurch Road and Priory Road junction will be done after the building work around the tower is finished. The wall at Wandle Park will be finished by the end of the summer, and agreement is needed from the Istanbul restaurant.

#### **4. Police report**

PC Dave Russell was absent, so Fiona Sydney gave a report. Burglary and dwellings, violence against the person, harassment, and thefts from motor vehicles have all increased. Operation Fortress has had a big impact on burglaries.

The area's controlled drinking zone is coming to an end soon and it is unlikely to be renewed. Laxmi Attwar will press the council for more information about this.

## **5. Parks and Open Spaces report**

Donna Rutherford was absent and no report was made.

## **6. Impact of housing development on the area**

Kevin said that the tower will be completed this year and the library next year, and other housing is also being built at the moment. As a community we should be thinking about issues arising from these new developments, such as traffic, school catchment areas, and health. We need to be ready for these high numbers of new residents and ensure that the infrastructure is able to support them. Paul McGarry said that trends are very much away from car ownership for people living in Colliers Wood, and that there will probably be about 1,000 new homes over the next few years. Caroline is investigating school catchment areas with a view to dealing with increased numbers of residents in the area.

Kevin reported that the Merton Vision building is proposed by NHS as a new GP surgery by the council, and said that we need to protect our community spaces, such as parks and community centre.

The idea of a new station idea near Robinson Road was discussed. It was reported that Siobhain McDonagh and councillors have started to look into it. There is a need to work with Wandsworth council on this because the area spans the two boroughs. St Georges should also be contacted. Paul McGarry said that the council can't fund the development but can help to campaign for it. The station proposal used to be in Merton's plan but isn't any longer because it was not demonstrated to be deliverable. The Thameslink franchise is up for renewal and this is a good opportunity to lobby for those franchises to have a contract for the new station. A campaign is needed in order to lobby the mayor on this issue. A group will meet in order to set something up for the Residents Association to move this forward.

It was reported that the Plough Lane development will include another 1,000 homes and will also have an impact on infrastructure.

## **7. Update on High Street traffic petition**

Kevin Godding reported that the High Street management group has been set up and it wants to become an overarching group for all community groups in the area. It wants to be the group that decides on the spending of community infrastructure levy money within the area. CWRA will be able to feed into it with priorities for spending the money to improve this area. Nick Draper said that councillors will talk to Paul McGarry about this and find out more details and will feed back at the next meeting. We will then be able to decide if we want to be a part of this group.

## **8. Update on grant funding applications**

No report was made.

## **9. Update from TfL**

All issues covered in item 3, above.

## **10. Update on the Autumn Fair**

No update was given.

### **11. Any other business**

The new CWRA website has gone live and content is needed. Get an email address to add to the minutes. Cwra.org.uk. Thanks were given to Matthew Marks for managing the previous site, and to Maria and Suzy for managing new site, and to Stef for developing it.

The London Sustainability Exchange is offering free training on cycling.

Thames Water site – there is a meeting on Thursday at Merton Vision at 7pm to discuss early residential building development plans. This will be a good opportunity to get involved at an early stage.

Consultation meetings – the interior of new library building and an update on building progress will be given on 14 and 27 July at Merton Vision.

Keith Allen reported that the council has installed 41 traffic cameras in the area.