**Minutes of the meeting of the
Colliers Wood Residents Association Meeting**

**Held on 10th September 2019 at 7.30pm**

1. Welcome and introductions

The chair, Tom Searle, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dave Ward, on bereavement leave until 7 October, and Helen McCauley.

3. Police report

Dave Russell distributed the crime report. The Neighbourhood Team was now at full strength. One property had been closed (Harewood Road) with another pending, 4 dangerous dog warrants had been issued, a CCTV camera has deterred the drug dealing activity in Lyveden Road. 50 people had been arrested for flytipping, all local residents. A male was arrested and charged following the rape in Wandle Park. There had been a few burglaries, one suspect was caught on private cc tv. Most theft relates to shoplifting in the retail centres.

The crime figures were similar to the previous year. One resident commented on the beneficial impact on Harewood Road and the wider area following the closure order.

Fiona mentioned the ward police panel which she and Kevin sit on. The neighbourhood team were still looking for subjects for their short term “promises”. Flytipping is one but the ward can have three. Fiona would conduct a survey asking people for their views on an area that would benefit from a short term focus by the neighbourhood police. She asked people to pass the word on to neighbours.

4. Future Merton: Tara and Katherine

Tara explained that Future Merton was the council department which dealt with strategic planning. The department produced the long term plan, looking at economic development, highways and traffic, climate change, planning for population change, school places, waste disposal etc.

While the Mayor’s London Plan sets the overall strategy every council has a local 10 year plan. These were revised over a two year period. Consultation closed earlier this year but there will be an opportunity to comment again.

There was pressure to build new homes and provide the infrastructure needed to support them. Future Merton staff work with different providers and developers to ensure the plan is implemented.

Katherine was responsible for revising the population figures on the London Development Database. She wrote the annual report on what has been delivered and future plans for housing. Colliers Wood has had the most development in the last five years but there was not much more planned. Possible developments were Brown & Root phase 2 , CW Community Centre, CW tube station, Priory Road. The idea was to have apartments over community buildings to be safer and provide housing. The Community Centre was likely to be too small a site. The building had been registered as a community asset, which gave some protections. Colliers Wood was the most densely populated area in Merton, and the Community Centre was the only asset. TfL were looking at building homes above tube stations across London as requested by the Mayor. However there are easier sites to develop in North London. In Priory Road Future Merton were encouraging land owners to open the area up, make it less inward facing, less like a retail park. Eloise suggested that if the car park was moved underground the current car park could become a square.

In terms of air quality the climate emergency motion passed by the council has helped provide leverage to Future Merton. Future Merton reviews how new homes would be powered, and issues carbon targets for each development. Vehicle movement has a big impact on air quality. The biggest challenge is reducing the number of people driving through the borough. Future Merton was working with Transprt for London on this. The unpopular proposals on parking as would the development of electric vehicle charging points.

Future Merton consider Colliers Wood a Town Centre but the Mayor does not, this only matters because occasionally the government releases funding only for town centres.

Tara confirmed that the approach to planning permission for converting houses into flats was the same across the borough. Permission was only granted if reasonable size flats were possible. Core Strategy CS 14 was the appropriate section to quote.

Tara highlighted the work that Future Merton has done to improve the High Street. This was funded by TfL, the developers and the council. There was a new library and the primary school has expanded without resorting to a prefab. The sticking point is healthcare. One of the problems was that GP surgeries no longer have catchment areas.

Local Briscoe Road residents have been campaigning against a chimney issuing pollution for eight years. The Council has now installed a monitor. The chimney has not been in use since the installation. Tara suggested that CWRA could write to Future Merton to ask for change of use for the area, this was a pocket of industrial use in the middle of a residential area. Future Merton could work with the land owner to persuade them that the land could be more profitable as a residential development.

Population data was available on both the London Data Store and Merton’s Data Hub. Katherine was hoping revised figures which include the latest developments would come out with the new London Plan.

**5. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising**

5.1 Caroline had not yet found out the date for the annual review of Singlegate school.

5.2 Infrastructure Levy The councillors had not yet set a deadline and more bids would be welcome.

5.3 Flytipping. Research had shown there was no correlation between charging for bulky waste and flytipping. Fiona commented that it was being all dumped in the nature reserve.

5.4 Meeting on Veolia. A number of people had volunteered to be street champions. Kevin would be sending out a summary of the coffee morning. Caroline said that the idea of having the council employ someone solely to pick up fly tipping had been tried in the past. Community Skips had been popular but abused by builders.

One resident made a plea for the payment for bulky waste collection to be simplified.

7. Tidy Britain Report into Wandle Park

The forty five page report was on the CWRA website. DEFRA had wanted to trial the “no bins, less rubbish” hypothesis. Keep Britain Tidy offered to trial it in three different parks. The report concluded that there was not enough evidence. One week’s rubbish was weighed in order to establish the baseline. There had been no consultation with residents.

8. Planning update

Objections had been put in to the conversion of a house into several flats in Harewood Road.

The phone mast in Colliers Wood Recreation Ground had gone through the planning process two years ago. CWRA had objected at the time. Apparently council officers had had no reason to object. The mast had been allowed in return for 16k. Kevin asked if the councillors could find out why it had been allowed. Ealing Council had not allowed something similar, based on evidence from America.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Laxmi had seen the revised plans for the doctors’ surgery. They looked just the same but one storey less. Eloise reported that the sub group had met with Merton Vision and found their aims were very similar. She and Kevin will be invited to the next steering group.

9.2 Very noisy mopeds were riding fast up and down the nature reserve in the middle of the day. Fiona advised that the neighbourhood police be informed.

9.3 Briscoe Road residents had been told that investigations into the chimney would take a long time.

9.4 It was noted that the tree and flower bed outside the Community Centre were a great improvement.

9.5 Little League Football would be starting on Saturday 14 September.

9.6 A resident reported ongoing problems with food waste bins opened by foxes. She would contact the councillors.

9.7 Kimble Road would be car free on 22 September.

9.8 The Head of Libraries would attend the next meeting.

10. Date & Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 5 November 2019 at 7.30pm in St Joseph’s Church Hall, Park Road