

## **Minutes of Colliers Wood Residents Association**

### **virtual meeting**

**held on Tuesday 13 October 2020**

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

Suzanne Gale, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced Phil Geraghty, who has been working hard to update the CWRA website, and thanked him for his work.

#### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Items for discussion were on the agenda.

#### 3. Councillors' update

Dave Ward attended the meeting on behalf of all the Colliers Wood councillors. Merton has a new council leader, Mark Allison.

Changes to the High Street had been put in at the request of the government to encourage cycling and walking. Different schemes had been put in along different parts of the route as Transport for London trialled the various options. Improvements on those changes are being made all the time.

Emergency vehicles had found it difficult to get through, although recent alterations should have improved on that. Local MP, Siobhan McDonagh, had been putting forward her views and the views of residents.

The council has no plans for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods as there are already two in place which cover most of Colliers Wood. A scheme might be helpful in Park Road to prevent the cars trying to bypass high street traffic. The council is considering that.

Suzanne explained that views of residents were divided and the Association itself would remain neutral on the changes to the High Street. The committee had asked for measurements of pollution levels and for copies of the Equality Impact Assessments conducted on moving the bus stops to islands in the traffic.

Dave confirmed that the 20 mile an hour speed limit in residential streets would not be enforced by cameras. There would be occasional spot checks with speed guns.

#### 4. MertonVision update

The developer had not yet applied for planning permission. Kevin had not been able to join the most recent virtual meeting.

#### 5. Byegrove Road cut through

The increase in delivery bikes cutting through had become a nuisance. The council had informed residents that they did not have funding for barriers and would not use a camera to enforce compliance. Siobhan McDonagh had given the same response.

Dave Ward would suggest that a barrier that allowed cyclists through could be a solution. Others suggested that a camera would raise money for the council and that a speed hump might be a deterrent.

#### 6. Chimneys on Briscoe Road

At the moment the chimneys were not a nuisance. There had been discussions with the landowner about a change of use.

#### 7. Covid 19 Champions

Suzanne explained that she was one of the local covid 19 champions. The main focus of the weekly meetings was getting in touch with all those in need, in particular where there was a language barrier. Suzanne would pass information on via the Residents Association. The groups helping out people who had difficulty with shopping and collecting prescriptions were still active.

#### 8. Police report

A brothel in Devonshire Road had been closed down. The police had also uncovered a case of modern slavery.

Fiona had attended a helpful meeting with the Borough Inspector. She would post the new number for the neighbourhood police on the CWRA website.

#### 9. Veolia

Suzanne reported that residents were still very unhappy with the rubbish in the streets. The Residents Association had not yet been provided with a timetable for street sweeping.

Dave reported that complaints had peaked when the system changed but had subsequently reduced. Bags of rubbish remained a problem. Natasha Irons had been appointed to cabinet role for environment which includes waste. The view was expressed that people had given up complaining as it did not achieve anything. Two residents of College Road reported the problems there with wheelie bins blocking pavements.

There had been no formal feedback from the meeting held in July 2019. Dave acknowledged that he was also frustrated by the situation. He would invite Natasha Irons to the next meeting.

#### 10. Friends of CW Parks & Green Spaces

Helen McAuley reported on relaunch of the sub group at the end of September. Justin Swarbrick had produced excellent leaflets and designs for publicity materials, helped by Zoe Benouali. Many residents had been involved in litter picking, gardening and regular watering.

The group had helped publicise the Myrna Close workday and most recently had replanted the raised bed in the Memorial Garden.

The group was developing good links with idverde, the contractor responsible for the parks. The address to report any issues in the parks (Wandle Park or the Recreation Ground) was [slwpenquiries.merton@idverde.co.uk](mailto:slwpenquiries.merton@idverde.co.uk)

River cleaning training for Wandle Park had been organised for November.

The group would hold a formal meeting to agree and elect a chair prior to the Residents Association Annual General Meeting.

Zoe and Justin had submitted a partially successful bid to the Neighbourhood Fund. As a result an additional table tennis table was being installed in the Recreation Ground. Laxmi Attawar would be bidding for benches. Zoe and Justin would work with idverde to resubmit the remainder of the bid next year.

The Friends group had successfully made bids to the ward allocation fund and the Wandle Forum. They were also bidding to an idverde fund for tools and high jackets. This had highlighted the need for a Treasurer who had more time than Kevin has. Tom Searle confirmed that an accountant on the High Street was willing to be treasurer and could attend zoom meetings. Kevin and Tom would meet to facilitate this.

#### 11. Planning

Tom reported that plans had been submitted for 10 High Street, currently a 4 storey building, to increase to 6 storeys. The plans indicated a number of individual flats with no kitchens, resembling hostel type accommodation. Tom would draft a letter to the planners for the Residents Association.

#### 12. Date & time of next meeting

Tuesday, 8 December 2020 at 7.30pm The Annual General Meeting would be held in January.

Actions agreed	By whom	Timescale
Request a barrier that allows cyclists through at the end of Byegrove Road	Dave W	
Post the new number for the neighbourhood police on CWRA website	Fiona S	
Invite Councillor Natasha Irons to the next Residents Association meeting	Dave W	December meeting
Friends of Parks and Green Spaces to hold a formal meeting	Helen McA/ Margaret R	Nov/Dec
Bid for benches for the Recreation Ground	Laxmi Attawar	
Revise the bid for the Recreation Ground Playground	Zoe B/Justin S	July/ August 2021

Bid to idverde community investment fund on behalf of Friends of Parks and Green Spaces	Bryony P	October 2020
Formally handover financial management to the new Treasurer	Kevin G/Tom S	ASAP
Draft a letter to the planners about the plans submitted for 10 CW High Street	Tom S	