

Minutes of the meeting of the Colliers Wood Residents Association
Held on 7th November 2017

Present:

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by the chair, Tom Searle.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Helen McAuley, neighbourhood police officer, Laxmi Attar, Fiona Sydney and Tom Walsh, Sustainable Merton.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes had been agreed at the executive meeting. All matters arising would be covered in the agenda.

4. Crime update

Tom emphasized the importance of calling the police if a crime is witnessed. It may not seem significant, but it could all help to build up a picture.

A play focusing on bogus callers was to be staged at Colliers Wood Community Centre on 29th November. The neighbourhood police officer will be in attendance.

5. Financial report

Donna Rutherford reported that after settling outstanding expenses and the donation of £500 to the Little League for girls football there was a healthy balance of £6, 526. One bill, for the insurance, was pending. There would be no need to introduce a membership subscription this year.

6. Planning applications review

59, High Street (next door to the church) has applied for a 2 storey extension

Hair & Beauty had been granted permission for a new shop front.

Costa Coffee have been given permission for tables and chairs on the pavement.

Fulham Timber Merchants will be using an area behind the Tandem Centre for storage and distribution.

Work on the Merton Priory Chapter House had begun, to be completed by April 2018.

2, Cavendish Road, a property built without planning permission, had submitted an application for additional storeys. This had been rejected.

The former Providence pub had also had some work done without consent. The legal department was considering the Council's position.

An estate agent, SW19, had begun renting out the flats in the Tower Block.

The block at the Tandem Centre had been completed.

Work has begun on the block on the High Street, just before the bridge. This was a Housing Association Development.

People had begun hanging about and drinking behind the wall at the entrance to Cavendish House. Caroline Marbiah-Cooper would take the matter up.

The new library should be completed by the builders before Christmas then refitted by library of opening late January. There would be a three week period between the closure of the temporary library and the opening of the new one.

7. MertonVision/New Health Centre

The doctor's surgeries, from Colliers Wood High Street and Lavender Fields, would definitely be moving to the MertonVision site. The current building would be demolished and replaced by a new build. The surgery would be on the first floor with MertonVision on the ground floor.

It was stressed that this was just in the planning stage. Caroline agreed to ask the Clinical Commissioning Group how they would be addressing the transport issues and whether there would be a lift. Queries were also raised about where MertonVision and the other groups that use the centre would go while the building was undertaken. A meeting with the patients of the surgery might be helpful.

8. Hyper Project Report

The aim of the project was to capture the memories of people evacuated from Colliers Wood to **Lurgashall** in the Second World War. Young people have been conducting the interviews. They have also been cooking WW2 menus and "digging for victory". A website will be created, and a book, which will be available free of charge from the library. A date has been set to celebrate the project: 20th January 2018.

9. Merton Council's Sustainability Review

Unfortunately, Tom Walsh was not able to attend the meeting. Kevin Godding talked about the need to think about what resources Colliers Wood would need in the long term. Merton Council were embracing the need for a Circular Economy so they must ensure they are taking these principles into consideration as Colliers Wood develops. An important example was public transport. Two years ago South Wimbledon declined the option for a tram station, but the positive benefits for Colliers Wood were not considered. There had also been a proposal for a station near St George's to support the 17,000 visitors and workers that travel there each day. Car charging points would need to be increased. Bike storage had previously been considered by the council and deemed not to be cost effective for cyclists or the council but could be reviewed.

The only building owned by the council in the area was the Community Centre. Nick Draper confirmed that the council had no current plans to dispose of the Community Centre, but Kevin suggested that that should be guaranteed.

There should also be guarantees that the Green Spaces in Colliers Wood should not be built on. Nick confirmed there were no plans and explained that Merton were taking the lead working with other boroughs to improve the Wandle Trail.

Kevin was concerned that there was no master plan for Colliers Wood and that planning permission was given to projects on an ad hoc basis. He noted that Colliers Wood was the most densely populated area in Merton.

On a more immediate note TfL did not appear to be taking care of the flowerboxes outside the tube station. Nick would take this up.

Rats continued to be a problem by the Wandle. It would help if people didn't put out food for the pigeons.

10. Autumn Fair and Barn Dance

Both had been a great success, and the dog show the preceding week. Staff from the Blue Cross Centre had been generous with their time, judging the competitions and answering questions. Eddison White had donated £200 to fund the events which had raised £795.49 (increased to £800 by a generous donation from Nick). Tom suggested keeping back 50% to fund future events and giving 50% to an animal charity. Blue Cross would be a worthy cause, a decision would be made at the AGM.

An events sub group would be set up in order to co-ordinate events in the future.

11. Progress report on the proposed catchment area for Singlegate School

Caroline had met with Helen McAuley. In principle the Education Department were happy consider the proposal subject to some additional workl.

12. Parks & Open Spaces

The next meeting would be held on 5th December. A clean up of the Nature Reserve was planned for November 26th.

Ideas for a space for a community garden were requested. Nick mentioned that the Priory Chapter House will have a physic garden which will certainly welcome volunteers.

13. Charitable Status

The application for charitable status was progressing. Nick could be a Trustee as he would not be standing for election in this ward as a councilor in May.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Rubbish has become a problem in the area, although people were quick to point out that this was no reflection on the work of Barry, the roadsweeper. Nick and Caroline encouraged people to email them directly with problems.

14.2 The fact that people left unwanted things outside their houses for others to help themselves was regarded as a problem by some. The general consensus was that recycling should be encouraged but it could be organised in a different way. Ideas would be welcome for the next meeting.

14.3 Flytipping was a constant problem at the end of Lyveden Road, just before the bridge over the railway. A camera was suggested.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting (Annual General Meeting)

Tuesday, 9th January 2018 at 7.30 in St Joseph's Church Hall.