

Colliers Wood Residents Association

Email: folk@cwra.org.uk

Tuesday 6 September 2016

Minutes of the meeting

1. Welcome

Kevin Godding (Chair) and other committee members were introduced.

2. Apologies

Joyce and Brian Hawkins, Donna Rutherford, Laxmi Attawar.

3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

3.1 Lollipop person issue: Kevin will raise this with Singlegate School.

3.2 Baltic Close development: work has been completed.

3.3 Impact of housing development: Caroline Cooper-Marbiah is investigating the school catchment area, and this needs to be followed up. Caroline will feed back at the next meeting.

3.4 New station near Robinson Road: a group is to be formed to look into this. Kevin reported that discussions are taking place, and advice is being given by Tony Redpath. More meetings and discussions will take place, and this will be an on-going issue. Tony reported that he has worked on similar issues in Kensington & Chelsea, and suggested that Mitcham Eastfields station could be used as an example of this kind of development.

3.5 Community groups: Nick Draper said he doesn't believe there will be an over-arching group set up. Nick will investigate further, as it has been reported to Kevin that the existing group will have control of Section 106 money in this area. The Residents Association needs to make a decision on how far it wants to be involved in this group, but more information on it is needed before the decision can be made. Kevin and Nick will take this forward and will report back.

4. Police report

4.1 PC Dave Russell reported that an additional PC will be in place by Christmas.

4.2 Crime figures: there had been a 66% reduction in burglaries over the last few months, but there has been a slight rise on this in August.

4.3 The garage on Briscoe Road, which had been causing anti-social behaviour, has now closed. The meeting acknowledged and thanked the work of the police in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion.

5. TfL update

Kevin reported the following updates on issues which were brought up at the last CWRA meeting:

Pedestrian crossing problems at Christchurch Road – TfL are considering looking at 20mph zone and other suggestions made at last meeting.

Paving outside the Community Centre – this has been passed to the TfL maintenance department for investigation.

Illegal right turns being made onto the High Street from Bygrove Road – TfL have asked their enforcement team to check on this using street cameras.

Pedestrian lights problems – a fault has been identified with the lights, and they have been replaced.

Virgin media – high speed broadband – paving has covered the points that virgin need access to. Businesses now need to pay virgin to dig up the road. This is being looked into. Richard Edison to take the matter up with TFL.

6. Parks and Open Spaces report

Kevin reported that work will be done on bushes on the borders of Wandle Park: they will be pruned down to fence level. The council wants to engage with people who are keen to be involved in working in community parks. Nick Draper reported that the council has contracted out its green spaces services, which has led to less engagement with friends of parks groups. This period of contracting is coming to an end and there will be more engagement with people interested in local parks.

7. Autumn Fair update

Madeline reported that everything is on track with the organisation of the events, which are on 8 October.

8. Thames Water site development

Richard Eddison is part of a focus group on the new Goldcrest development, and he gave an update. There was a public meeting on 9 June, and Goldcrest has scaled back plans to some extent after listening to views of local people. The planning application is due to be submitted next week. The development will be gated and will include a small park. Residents should get in touch with Richard to talk about any issues that they would like him to raise with Goldcrest.

Nick reported that Goldcrest are suggesting 15% affordable housing provision in the development, which is below the 50% recommended by the Mayor of London. He will object to the application on that basis. Kevin Godding questioned why they would suggest such a low percentage at the point of submitting a planning application as he assumed they would have been in discussion with Merton Council. Nick Draper actioned to feedback what percentage of affordable housing Merton Council were expecting developers to provide.

9. Charitable status for Residents Association

Kevin said that there are benefits to being organised as a charity, such as making it easier to make some funding applications. This was agreed by the meeting.

10. Planning updates

Donna was absent and no report was made.

11. Community engagement

11.1 Kate from Christchurch reported that there is a large number of older people in the area who are struggling. Work had been done on the High Path estate but with little success, so a different approach to community engagement is needed.

Kate proposed three questions – is there a need, can we work in partnership, is there anything new needed that the church can help with? They can offer a space for hosting events and also have access to a body of volunteers.

Caroline said that council services are being cut and older people are becoming more vulnerable. She suggested that the provision of food is important and could be explored. A resident gave an example of a scheme in which local residents are matched with an older person and are responsible for taking them to regular lunches and teas. The issue of the difficulty of reaching the most vulnerable people was raised, and suggested that groups such as Age UK. Another suggestion was a reading group. Nick said that three local groups are working on this issue locally: Sustainable Merton, Groundwork, Circle Housing. Another suggestion was to use empty shops as pop up venues for lunches etc, which would encourage a greater mix of attendees.

It was agreed that we will discuss it again at the next meeting.

11.2 The Holden pub is holding a fundraising wine-tasting dinner on 19 September. Profits will go to the Colliers Wood Chorus.

12. Any other business

12.1 Caroline reported that there is a public meeting with NHS senior staff to talk about the Colliers Wood GP surgery. The meeting is on Thursday 15 September at 7.30pm at Merton Vision.

12.2 Website: any information or content for the CWRA website should be sent to folk@cwra.org.uk

Kevin suggested that the website could be called the Colliers Wood community website in order to make it more inclusive. This was agreed.

12.3 Jackie Ward said that builders on the Tower development are working past 7pm and at weekends, and she has made a complaint to the MP about it. Nick said that he and the other local councillors will take up this issue.

12.4 There is a nature reserve work day this Sunday.

12.5 Richard Eddison reported that some residents of Fortescue Road want to extend the CPZ and would like to know how to proceed with this. Nick said the process is to petition the Highways department at the council. Nick will talk to the nearby church about this.