

Colliers Wood Residents Association

Tuesday 1 March 2016

Minutes

1. Welcome

Donna Rutherford chaired the meeting in place of Kevin Godding.

2. Apologies

Kevin Godding, Laxmi Attawar, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah

3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

None.

4. Police report

No report received.

5. Autumn fair

5.1 Madeline gave an update on the organisation of the planned autumn fair, which will be held at the community centre. She explained that it will be a development of the 'What's on in Colliers Wood' showcase event, which is not running this year. There will be various events and activities during the day (cookery, displays of fruit and vegetables, baking, horticulture, art, children's activities etc) and will be followed by a barn dance in the evening. A small group has been put together to work on the organisation. Any other volunteers are welcome and should contact Madeline. The CWRA Committee has agreed to support the event financially, and any surplus made from the sale of refreshments will be returned to the CWRA. Thanks were given to Madeline for her work on this venture.

5.2 Tom Searle reported that the annual showcase event will be held again in January.

6. Financial report

Donna Rutherford reported that the CWRA account balance was announced at the last meeting was £5,363.20. Two transactions since then have gone through the account, which gives a new balance of £5,218.20. Donna tabled a report giving a summary of account activity to the year ended 31 December 2015.

7. Local area planning

Planning applications update:

7.1 14 High Street – the plan is to demolish the existing building and put up new apartment building (nine flats over five stories). Nick Draper said that he has submitted an objection. The plan is to keep the warehouse behind the building and the office at the

front. Nick said that the flats are badly designed, and the garden area is inadequate for the size of the development.

7.2 Holiday Inn has applied to build a three-floor extension to give twenty additional bedrooms. Nick Draper said that he does not intend to object and believes that it is a positive development for the area.

7.3 2 Cavendish Road – the plan has been rejected and the existing wooden framework has to be removed.

7.4 Valley Gardens is conducting a consultation on parking.

7.5 Nick Draper reported that there is an application on Tower phase 1 to remove one of the staircases. Tower phase 2 has a pre-application underway. At the moment the plan is for a 14-storey building. There is no affordable housing provision in the first tower. Both towers are to be for private rent and are therefore not liable for affordable provision. Nick has asked council officers to investigate this.

8. Parks and Open Spaces

8.1 Donna Rutherford reported that the last meeting was well attended. The parents group had raised issues about the playground, which Donna reported to the Councillors. The playground is in poor condition in some areas. The council has said that there are funds for benches but no funds for installing them. Donna raised the idea of setting up a playground fund in order to raise money to improve the playground and sought views from those present at the meeting. A resident said that the layout of the equipment in the playground needs to be reviewed, as it is difficult to monitor children of different ages using play equipment sited in different areas. It was suggested that some of the money from the new phone mast could be allocated to the playground. Tom Searle said that there are some funds available for improving playgrounds, and Donna will investigate this. Donna will put together some more ideas in time for the next Parks & Open Spaces meeting.

8.2 Little League and football matches are held in Colliers Wood rec., and Singlegate School is also using that area for sports. Grants are available and can be applied for. A surveyor is looking into how long the area can usefully be used. A local architect will help to draw up the plans, which will then be taken to the council.

8.3 Donna reported that she had applied to Tesco for a grant to set up a herb garden in the area next to Tesco, but had not been successful. She will submit again in April. Circle Housing and Sustainable Merton are keen to take this forward and will look into whether their funding can be used for it.

8.4 Donna reported that there is a Myrna Close clean up on Sunday 20 March. She said that this area is badly maintained and often has people in the area drinking alcohol. Nick said that the police have powers to clear out people who are causing a nuisance. Nick suggested that council officers should work with volunteers in order to achieve the best results and to help make the best use of volunteer time and effort.

8.5 The next meeting is Tuesday 5 April. Saturday 9 April 2pm Colliers Wood rec playground will be a parks and open spaces walk around. Saturday 5 March is 'Clean for the Queen', starting at 10am and finishing at 2pm.

9. Overview and Scrutiny – Merton Council

Nick Draper reported that Overview and Scrutiny Committees are seeking input from the public on which issues should be discussed. Forms were circulated to those at the meeting; they need to be submitted to the Council by 20 March. Copies will be put in Coffee in the Wood. Issues to be explored by the Committee will be chosen and then taken forward.

10. Ideas for spending of CWRA funds

If anyone has ideas or thoughts on priorities for spending CWRA funds should contact them. It was suggested that money could be spent on the playground, or on installing the benches supplied by the council. Nick will find out how this might be arranged.

11. Heritage fund application

An application was submitted last week, and results will be out in April.

12. Any other business

12.1 A resident asked when the website might be up. Donna said that the Committee might give a deadline for finishing the work.

12.2 The controlled drinking zone ends soon, and we should try to extend it.

12.3 It was reported that a man has been approaching and following women at night, near Briscoe Road.

12.4 Tom Searle asked for notes of the committee meeting to be put on the agenda. He also suggested having a joint calendar with local groups. This Saturday there is a dance at the community centre at 7.30pm.

