

**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**of the Colliers Wood Residents Association**  
**held on 5 March 2019**

1. Welcome, Apologies and introductions

Tom Searle, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Slawek, Tom Biggs and Mr and Mrs Hawkins.

2. Minutes from the last meeting and pervious AGM matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting had been published. Most action points would be covered in the agenda.

2.1 Laxmi Attawar reported that she had asked for a meeting with Veolia. Council officers had wanted to know the purpose of the meeting.

2.2 Councillors were reminded that they had agreed to ask for the GLA population forecasts to be revised in the light of the recent and planned developments in Colliers Wood.

3. Aims of the residents association

Kevin Godding gave a brief presentation on the aims of the CWRA which had been drawn up following a workshop in 2014. The workshop had developed aims and then listed what was need to strengthen the association in order to meet the aims.

In brief, the aims were to improve the area and build the community. The CWRA aspired to give the community a voice and in return keep the community informed.

Kevin acknowledged that the website was out of date but he had found someone to help update it.

4. Update on Priority Admission Area – Singlegate School

The local authority had not agreed to consulting on a priority admission area as all children whose parents had requested a place had received one last year. However it had come to light that this was not the case. The Residents Association would monitor what happened to children who had not been offered a place.

Caroline Marbiah-Cooper explained how important it was for parents to understand the way the system worked. If a place was not offered at the first choice school parents should keep the child on the waiting list as it was likely that places would come up during the year.

286 applications for Singlegate have been received, 117 as their first choice. There are 90 places. One prospective parent told the councillors that the school was informing parents that places would be offered on the basis of the distance of a “well lit path to the school”. Caroline suggested that people email her with their queries.

#### 5. 20 mph speed limit

Dave Ward had reported that consultation on a 20 miles per hour speed limit in most of the residential streets has occurred. The roads on the Wandle Park side of the High Street (Byegrove Road/Boundary Road) had not been included but the intention was to introduce it there by the end of the year, and the whole of the borough over the next three years.

The council will also be trialling school safety zones. Singlegate will be one of the trial areas. Cars will be prevented from driving into the area during school drop off and pick up times.

#### 4. Update on Health Centre/Merton Vision

Eloise reported that the sub group had been working hard since the last meeting. Bulletins had gone out to all those who had given their email address. A template for registering concerns had been circulated. Siobhan McDonagh, local MP, had met with local residents and then with a representative of Merton Clinical Commissioning Group. She had been surprised by the scale of the project. She had ascertained from the CCG that they and the developers had extended the brief for the building. They were revising that in response to the concerns. Laxmi had met with the GPs and the developers. She confirmed that 200 square metres had been removed. A consultation meeting would be held with stakeholders before plans were submitted to pre-planning. Eloise was given a round of applause.

#### 5. Police update

Fiona had not been able to speak to the police and their data had been corrupted. She could only report that in February there had been 4 residential robberies, 4 thefts from vehicles, 2 catalytic converters had been removed from cars and 2 cars had been stolen. She agreed to enquire about knife crime.

#### 6. Infrastructure Levy

The funding originated from a levy on developers, the majority was spent on capital projects in the borough. A small amount was available to each ward in the borough, 5k per year for 3 years, to be spent on “improving the public realm”. It had to be to kickstart a project or for a complete project. The funding would be open to bids from April. Ward councillors sign off the final expenditure so emails with suggestions should be sent to Laxmi, Caroline and Dave.

CWRA had been approached by the Chapel at Merton Priory. They could make use of the 5k earmarked for Colliers Wood and Abbey Wards. It was agreed that a speaker would be invited to the next meeting.

Other suggestions received so far were for an intergenerational high tea and improvements to the Memorial Peace Garden in CW Recreation Ground

There was some discussion on how residents could be canvassed and involved. Kevin suggested that it might be possible to use survey monkey to ask for people’s ideas and encourage them to join CWRA at the same time.

## 7. Parks & Open Spaces

Sabina Ludlow had attended the Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum. She reported that the removal of bins in Wandle Park had resulted in less litter but that as the litter was now more widespread it was more difficult to litterpick the area. There appeared to be no information on the final outcome of the trail or future plans.

Local residents at the meeting commented on the dog mess piling up at the Byegrove Road entrance to the park.

Sabina reported that IDVerde had confirmed that this year the childrens' paddling pool would be filled and emptied, and the toilets opened, even if the worker is off sick.

## 9. Any Other Business

Progress was being made on improving the Community Centre side of the high street. Future Merton were building a wooden structure around the tree.

A (free) chess club would be starting up on Saturday 9 March at 11am in Colliers Wood Library.

The Association agreed to support Future High Street's application for funds.

## 10. Date & time of next meeting

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7.30pm at St Joseph's Church Hall.

| <b>Action</b>   | <b>To be taken by</b>    |
|---|--------------------------|
| Arrange a meeting with the council about how the Veolia contract would be managed | Caroline, Laxmi and Dave |
| Future Merton to be asked to update the GLA on growth figures.                    | Caroline                 |
| Update the CWRA website   | Kevin                    |
| Monitor progress of children not offered Singlegate places                        | Helen                    |
| Check on knife crime figures  | Fiona                    |
| Invite a speaker from the Chapel, Merton Priory to May meeting                    |                          |
|   |                          |