

**Minutes of the
Colliers Wood Residents Association Meeting
held on 2 February 2021**

1. Welcome by Chair

Suzanne Gale welcomed over 40 residents to the meeting.

2. PlanWimbledon

Suzanne Grocott and Lynne Gordon from the Wimbledon Neighbourhood Group gave a presentation their aim to have a neighbourhood plan for Wimbledon. This would be a 5 year plan sitting below the local plan, which had more detail and planners would have to refer to when considering planning applications. There is a formal process involving residents, businesses and institutions in the area.

Lynne and Suzanne requested that a tiny section of the Wandle riverside (the Thames Water pumping station and the pocket of green space running up to North Road, the part of Wandle Meadow Nature Reserve in Colliers Wood ward) could be included in the Wimbledon Neighbourhood Plan. This would make things easier for those who look after the length of the Wandle, reducing the number of groups they have to liaise with. The Parks and Green Spaces Sub Group would consider this, circulate suggestions by email and respond to the Group within two weeks.

3. Development Updates

3.1 Merton Vision/GP Surgery

The planning application would be discussed at the Planning Committee on 19 February 2021.

3.2 Watercress Island

Residents, and the Committee, had been surprised that a planning application for two towers, 26 and 16 storeys, had been submitted. Tom Searle suggested that the Chair should write asking for a longer consultation period as it was for a month only (24/02/21), not a reasonable time frame for such a large development. Phil Geraghty had agreed to chair the sub group who would begin work on key reasons to oppose the height of the towers. Advice on how to object to the development would be circulated.

A number of suggestions were made:

- Look at Merton's air quality action plan
- Use leaflet delivery, CW News and Views and FB Tower Group, cwra email to increase awareness
- Attend the planning committee to make a statement
- As a last resort appeal to the Mayor

3.3 Local Plan Consultation

Laxmi Attawar confirmed that all three local councillors had opposed the Local Plan's suggestion that Britannia Point no longer be the highest building in Colliers Wood. She would establish the publication date for the Local Plan.

The Residents' Association response had been published on the website.

4. Annual Report and Finance Update

A link to the Annual report was on the website. The positive news in a dismal year had been the resurrection of the Parks and Open Spaces Sub Group as the Friends of Colliers Wood Parks and Green Spaces.

Tom Searle, Treasurer, reported that he was looking at the budget for next year. There was no need to reintroduce membership fees this year.

There had been no nominations for a change of chair or vice chair. Suzanne and Zoe agreed to continue in the roles.

Suzanne highlighted the work completed by Phil and Maria, on the website and social media respectively.

5. Spring Planting Scheme

Richard Eddison, local Estate Agent, spoke of his idea to replant plants at the foot of trees in Cavendish Road, something everyone could get involved with. He had been in touch with a number of people about this and heard from everyone except Merton Council. He was prepared to help fund the project. A resident offered to give advice on the best plants to choose. The Friends of CW Parks and Green Spaces have formed links with the council. Richard would get in touch with the Chair, Margaret.

6. Veolia

Councillor Irons was now on maternity leave. Nick Draper had forwarded Suzanne's letter to Mike Brunt who was leading in her absence.

7. Outstanding actions from previous meetings

Laxmi had had to leave the meeting and so no update was available.

8. Fundraising - ideas for 2021

Phil is the founder of Crowdfunder, a company which helps people with community based fundraising. He is keen to do more locally and wanted to hear people's ideas. He asked people to think about what they wanted to see in the area and let him know.

Ideas so far:

- Green Spaces plants, trees, equipment
- Community facilities book swaps

- Community Support helping people connect
- Campaigning representing the community on issues
- Community activities or events

Phil encouraged residents to send ideas to collierswoodra@gmail.com

9. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 6 April 2021 at 7:30 pm **This is the day after Easter Monday**

Actions agreed 13 10 20	By whom	Progress
Request a new barrier at Byegrove Road	Dave W	8/12/20 Dave reported barrier may be replaced but no detail regarding actions. No-one from Byegrove Road in attendance to comment. 2/02/21 No update
Formally handover financial management to the new Treasurer	Kevin G/ Tom S	8/12/20 Not yet completed. 2/02/21 Completed
Discuss traffic lights in High Street with Leonie Cooper	Dave W	8/12/20 Laxmi emailed prior to the meeting to say no update from TfL. 02/02/21 No update
Actions agreed 08 12 20	By whom	
Wheelie bins in College Road – on-going concerns about inconsistency of planning. Suzanne will address this with Cllr Irons directly.	Suzanne, Luis and Sharmain to speak outside of the meeting	By 18 th December 2020 02/02/21 Letter to Cllr Irons passed to Cllr Brunt.
Write to Cllr Irons to raise general concerns about Veolia.	Suzanne	By 25 th December 2020 02/02/21 Letter to Cllr Irons passed to Cllr Brunt.
Actions agreed on 02 02 21	By whom	
Response to PlanWimbledon	Parks & Green Spaces	By 16/02/21
Letter to chair of Planning Committee requesting extension of Watercross Island consultation period	Chair	ASAP

List and circulate key objections to WI development	Development Sub Group	19/02/21 unless consultation extended
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