



Minutes of Colliers Wood Residents Association

virtual meeting

held on Tuesday 8 December 2020

1. Welcome

Suzanne Gale welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Una O'Brien from Merton Council.

2. Covid 19 Champions

Una O'Brien talked about the community champions who are sharing information from the council. Weekly drop in sessions and a Whatsapp group are used to disseminate information to champions. A Webinar on covid safety would be held during the Christmas period. Anyone can register to be a champion by registering on the council's website. Myth busting information on the vaccine would be available soon. Volunteers were being recruited to help with the vaccination programme in Merton.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

3.1 Dave Ward reported that the barrier at Byegrove Road might be replaced.

3.2 The Neighbourhood police number was on the website.

3.3 Councillor Natasha Irons had another commitment and was unable to attend the meeting. As she was due to go on maternity leave, Dave would invite her replacement. He reported that Veolia was now being held to account about not returning bins to properties.

3.4 There was a further discussion about College Road and the failure to respond to the request for smaller bins. Dave had been informed that Veolia had no smaller bins. They had been asked to look into it further but there may be a cost involved. Residents noted that smaller bins were offered at the very outset of the change to wheelie bins. Luis and Sharmain would meet with Suzanne outside the meeting

3.5 The Friends of CW Parks and Green Spaces have held their first meeting and elected Margaret Rogers to the chair.

3.6 Laxmi Attawar had reported two benches for the playground in the Recreation Ground have been agreed from the ward allocation fund.

3.7 The Treasurer role was being handed over to Tom Searle.

3.8 Kevin had contacted Laxmi and Transport for London (TfL) about the traffic lights on the high street to no avail. Pedestrians crowded on the pavement while waiting for the lights to change. Dave offered to find out who should be dealing with it. He would also talk to Leonie Cooper, London Assembly member for Merton and Wandsworth.



4. Merton Vision/Health Centre update

The planning consultation was live. Laxmi had asked the doctors to inform their patients but they had declined. Anyone with concerns should comment on the consultation.

As chair of the planning committee Dave was limited in the comments he could make. The decision was likely to go to the February meeting. Dave explained that neighbours were informed within the standard radius for that size of development. Residents at the meeting felt more could have been done. Their main concern was traffic to the surgery, with the ensuing impact on both the environment and parking for residents.

5. Watercress Island/Local Plan

The Local Plan was being updated, and was out to consultation until 1 February. The previous plan stated that no buildings higher than the Brown and Root tower were to be built. The latest draft plan uses different wording, allowing for taller buildings. Dave would be asking that the original wording be retained. Over the next couple of years the developers would be likely to keep returning to the planners with reductions to their original proposals. The development proposed in the glossy leaflet had already been sent back.

Kevin mentioned that the latest draft specifies another 5000 homes in Colliers Wood and South Wimbledon. He did not believe that there was adequate infrastructure to support a population increase of this size.

A resident suggested that Criterion would still be happy to have a discussion about siting the health centre on the ground floor of Britannia Point. Kevin confirmed that this had been discussed with them at the time of the development.

Kevin was awaiting a response from Tara Butler of Future Merton on progress on town centre status for Colliers Wood.

Dave reassured the meeting that with such a large development there would be a longer consultation period. The Mayor of London had given boroughs housing targets, however they did not all have to be located in high rise buildings, nor in Colliers Wood. A resident noted that Britannia Point was still not fully let.

6. High Street TfL changes

Kevin was waiting for feedback from TfL. The red route parking on the side roads has been removed so that drivers are unable to stop and shop.

7. Friends of CW Parks & Green Spaces

Margaret reported that the Friends were currently planting bulbs. Good links had been developed with idVerde, the contractor looking after Merton's parks. The river cleaning training had had to be cancelled due to the lockdown. idVerde do not have to clean the river in Wandle Park as part of their contract but may be asked to do so by the council. The Friends would ask that they managed it in a way that preserved as much of the natural habitat as possible.



8. Any Other Business

8.1 The Residents Association would be distributing leaflets in Colliers Wood letting people know of the local plan, and the two proposed developments. People would be encouraged to sign up for the newsletter to keep abreast of changes and ways to feedback.

8.2 Tom Walsh Informed the meeting that Merton's Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan had been agreed. The first engagement with the community would be about food and food waste in January.

8.3 Fiona had not received the monthly crime report. She reminded residents to complete the Neighbourhood police questionnaire.

9. Date & time of next meeting

Tuesday, 2nd February 2021 at 7.30 pm

The date of the Annual General Meeting will be publicised in January.

Progress on actions and new actions

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 acitons. No-one from Bygrove Road in attendance to comment.
Post the new number for the neighbourhood police on CWRA website	Fiona S	Completed
Invite Councillor Natasha Irons to the next Residents Association meeting	Dave W	8:12:20 Dave reported that Cllr Irons unable to attend meeting due to another commitment. Suzanne will write to her to raise the concerns directly. Closed.
Friends of Parks and Green Spaces to hold a formal meeting	Helen McA/ Margaret R	Completed
Bid for benches for the Recreation Ground	Laxmi Attawar	Completed
Revise the bid for the Recreation Ground Playground	Zoe B/Justin S	July/August 2021



Bid to idverde community investment fund	Bryony P	Funding agreed.
Formally handover financial management to the new Treasurer	Kevin G/Tom S	8:12:20 Not yet completed.
Draft a letter to the planners about the plans submitted for 10 CW High Street	Tom S	Not necessary
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.
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
Write to Cllr Irons to raise general concerns about Veolia.	Suzanne	By 25 th December 2020