

Minutes of the Colliers Wood Residents' Association virtual meeting held on 6 April 2021

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Zoe Benouali, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that Suzanne had had to give her apologies.

It was decided not to record the meeting. The first meetings over zoom had been recorded but the recordings had not been used. The February meeting had not been recorded.

2. Update from local Councillors

Dave Ward gave the update from councillors.

2.1 Ward allocation fund

A swing for disabled children had been installed in the Recreation Ground and Wandle Park. Funding had also been provided for the improvements to parks and green spaces.

Dave mentioned that while the issue of cladding was a national one the Council were looking at how they could help the residents in Mizen Heights.

The planning application for the towers may go to the May planning committee. It was likely that the officers would recommend refusal the application. Developers would then submit a revised application.

Dave noted that the committee would be looking at the application for the Eddie Katz site soon.

Laxmi had asked Dave to mention the installation of cycle stores in a number of streets. Details were on the council's website.

Tom Searle asked about developments at 101 Christchurch Road. Dave explained that the government had recently changed planning rules to make it easier for changes to be made without going through the planning process.

Local residents expressed their frustration with the delivery drivers continuing to drive through the bollards at Byegrove Road. The notice was not stopping the traffic. Dave explained that it would be very expensive to install cameras. Other residents had noticed the police making spot checks there, and some moped drivers getting off their bikes. Another resident informed the meeting that videos taken on a mobile phone and sent in to the Metropolitan police would be acted on.

3. Local Development

3.1 Merton Vision/Health Centre

One outstanding issue of “overlooking” had still to be resolved before the planning application went to the committee. MertonVision hoped that it would go to the April committee. Their plans for a temporary move to the Wilson Hospital were unlikely to go ahead before September.

3.2 Local Plan consultation

Council officers were collating the responses to the draft plan. The plan itself was likely to be signed off by the council in December. Dave was relatively confident that the wording about Britannia Point being the tallest tower in Colliers Wood in the existing plan would be reinstated in the new plan but he warned that nothing is guaranteed. When it comes to looking at planning applications the current local plan, the draft local plan and the comments received have to all be taken into account. An application could possibly be agreed between now and December, but it was unlikely.

4. Parks and Green Spaces report

Maria reported on the list of projects completed to date:

- Daffodils had been planted in great quantities.
- Richard Eddison had supplied plants for street trees in Cavendish Road and would be rolling the scheme out to Clarendon and Courtney Roads.
- Zoe, Norberto and Stella had transformed the cut through to Myrna Close from Devonshire Road.
- Baltic Close had been tidied and planted
- Felled tree trunks had been used to edge the borders at the Baltic Close Wandle Park entrance
- The Memorial Garden in the Recreation Ground had been replanted
- Litter picking had restarted

Maria mentioned that the group is looking for residents to adopt a planter. The group would also be grateful for any spare water butts.

Kevin suggested that the toilet block in Wandle Park could be used for storage, although it was noted that this may disturb the willow tree and the plants and wild life it currently shelters.

5. High Street Co op

Maria reported that the manager of the Co-op was able to donate funds to the local community and was looking for ideas.

Tom suggested funding to enhance the celebration at Christmas when the Christmas tree goes up outside the tube station.

6. Your Shout

6.1 Recycling bins at the Savacentre

A delay between one contractor finishing and the next starting had meant that there were no recycling bins for a period. Tom suggested a letter was sent from Residents Association stressing the importance of the service to residents.

6.2 Towers

There was no further update on the plans for the towers. The Residents' Association had made a detailed submission.

6.3 Community Centre

Tom reported that the vaccine day had been successful.

The community centre itself had developed a road map for recovery, starting with children's activities. On May 17 exercise and dance, yoga and table tennis would restart. There would be no adult social groups until June.

The Food Bank would continue at the centre until December.

7. Financial report

Tom reported that the Association had a balance of £7 247.22 .

£1 571.27 was funding obtained for the Friends of CW Parks and Green Spaces.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Briscoe Road

Local residents continue to suffer from the impact of the industrial unit in Briscoe Road. More recently it had been noise rather than pollution from the chimneys. Residents have been advised to keep a diary of the noise from the factory.

9. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 June 2021 at 7:30pm

Actions agreed	By whom	Deadline
Letter to Savacentre	Vice chair	End of April