

Colliers Wood Residents' Association
meeting held on 11 February 2023

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions

Suzanne Gale welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Caroline Cooper-Marbiah.

2. Police report

Ingrid Barbossa, local neighbourhood police officer, encouraged residents to attend quarterly ward panel meetings. Meetings are in person and set priorities for the ward. Residents suggested adding speeding and drinking in green spaces. Anti social behaviour should be reported so the police have evidence of problems, drinking alone is not a reason to move people on.

There had been a number of mobile phone robberies, some from children, particularly in the Colliers Wood, Figges Marsh and Pollards Hill areas. These were mostly "snatch robberies". The advice was to keep phones out of sight.

Those present praised the actions of Dave Russell, Neighbourhood Police Support Officer, tireless in his pursuit of the thieves.

3. Actions and updates from the previous meeting

3.1 Councillors' updates

The Tower Stuart Neaverson spoke of the difficulties the council was having ensuring Criterion took action on the eight windows that needed securing. The council was considering legal action. The scaffolding would not come down until the windows have been secured.

The planning application for a second and third tower was still going back-and-forth between Criterion and the planning department. There would be a further consultation before an application is considered by the Planning Committee.

Stuart confirmed that the council would not be lenient towards Criterion when it came to money owed.

Waste contract Each borough in the South London Waste Partnership was looking at how to replace the current waste contract.

Recreation Ground The tennis courts had been refurbished in time for half term. Caroline Cooper-Marbiah was looking at arrangements for access to the shed where the tennis and gardening equipment is kept.

The Parks and Green Spaces sub group had been aware of the tennis court refurbishment. Zoe and Tom B had agreed to be contactable key holders for the

shed. The email collierswoodtennis@gmail.com was answered by Tom and set up for people who want to use the tennis nets.

Flytipping Laxmi Attawar explained that the cameras used to catch fly-tippers were all mobile. Fleming Mead was a target for fly tippers at the moment. She would obtain the figures on securing fines or convictions for fly tipping for the next meeting. The meeting discussed the different approaches to preventing fly tipping. There would be legal issues with residents erecting their own cameras. The “Fix my street App” should be used to report fly tipping. A flexible local solution which focused on reusing and recycling would be ideal.

Environment Laxmi mentioned the borough’s drive to plant 10 000 trees and asked for suggestions.

She agreed that the planters outside businesses by the tube station could be removed, the Parks and Green Spaces group had tried to maintain them but it was losing battle.

Charging points for electric vehicles are being installed at the roadside, some are via lampposts and some via rapid charging points. Useful information was on the council website

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/ev-charging/overview>

3.2 Walk and Talk Movement

Two representatives from the Walk & Talk movement visited the meeting to remind residents that every Saturday at 10:30, different walks each week started from the tube station.

3.3 Merton Vision

Helen reported that the issues between the developer and the Integrated Care Board had not been resolved. The developer had suggested that they be given an extended lease rather than increased funding. Councillors were working with the NHS to ensure the development went ahead.

4. Treasurer’s report

The accounts would be published on the website. The Association was still in a healthy financial position and there was no need to charge membership fees. Tom would remind Phil that the £306 raised for the greenhouse through Crowdfunder had not been received.

5. Positions on the Committee for AGM in April

It was Suzanne’s last meeting as chair. She was thanked for her hard work over the last four years. She asked people to think about whether they could offer some time to the Residents’ Association which needs a Chair, a Vice Chair, a secretary, someone to update the website and someone to respond to the email address. Tom was willing to continue as Treasurer, Fiona as Police Liaison and Suzanne would continue to issue the monthly newsletter.

6. Parks and Green Spaces

Margaret reported that the basketball area in the Recreation Ground was also due to be refurbished, and a rainwater garden added to prevent the flooding on the path.

The greenhouse would be put up soon. The group was very grateful to all who had donated to the Crowdfunder.

IdVerde had once again cut back the hedges ferociously. Stuart mentioned that once the council had sorted out the Veolia contract the IdVerde contract would also be up for review.

Laxmi agreed to find out what information the people counter at the entrance to the park collected.

7. Date & time of Annual General Meeting

Saturday 22 April 2023 at 11am in CW Community Centre

later meetings

Saturday 16 September 2023 at 11am in CW Community Centre

Saturday 4 November 2023 at 11am in CW Community Centre

Action	Owner	Deadline
Obtain figures on flytipping prosecutions	Laxmi Attawar	
Remove planters nearest tube station	Laxmi Attawar	
Find out if "people counters" at park entrances are recording	Laxmi Attawar	