

## Wimbledon Community Forum 10 June 2015 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in the Mansel Road Centre, and chaired by Councillor James Holmes. More than 20 residents attended, as well as eight other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Crossrail 2**

Jennifer Bryden, Transport for London (TfL), and Stuart Bugg, Network Rail (NR), provided an update on the plans for Crossrail 2 and the impact it will have in Wimbledon. The presentation can be found at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/wimbledoncommunityforum.htm>

Crossrail 2 will see 30 trains an hour travel from Wimbledon to London. A consultation in the autumn will ask for views on the proposed locations of stations, vents and worksites based on the regional route that was preferred in a previous consultation. There will drop-in sessions and an online survey for residents to get involved. There will be leafleting in the safeguarding and construction zones, advertising, and online promotion.

In response to questions Jennifer and Stuart said that proposals are not fixed and will take into account major developments like the one proposed at Plough Lane. More detailed designs, including station designs, will be subject to further consultation in 2016. Factsheets will be available in the consultation will address some of the concerns about noise but engineers will also be available to answer questions at the drop-in sessions. TfL/NR will not have any control over any intensification of housing not on their lands and it would be up to councils to exploit other development opportunities.

In response to question about Safeguarding land Jennifer and Stuart explained that the current arrangement allowed them to comment on any proposed development but powers to purchase land would need to be approved by Parliament. Land that is subject to compulsory purchase will not be the same as safeguarded land as more work is needed to understand land needs. TfL has a hierarchy of land usage and residential land is the lowest priority for them to use.

There will be no changes to Thameslink services over the next 3 years as the work at London Bridge continues. Trams will increase in frequency at Wimbledon once the current work at the station is completed.

### **Ask the Leader**

The Leader of Merton Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis explained that whilst it is a privilege to lead the council these are challenging times. The council is looking to work with like-minded neighbouring boroughs to share services and to seek greater powers from government. These powers are around skills, buses and business rates.

Whilst councillors take decisions they are reliant on staff, often working with volunteers and local communities to implement changes. For example the excellent volunteers in our libraries and those who have adopted the space around the war memorial.

Merton is keen to explore growth opportunities and is working with the Mayor of London's Crossrail 2 Growth Commission, chaired by Sir Merrick Cockel, to identify how we can make the most of this development. We are also working closely with the AELTC on developing new training facilities and a roof on Court 1 and we welcome the arrival of Close Brothers to Wimbledon.

In response to questions about congestion Councillor Alambritis said that TfL has responsibility for the sequencing of traffic lights and pelican crossings but we can apply pressure where there are problems. There is a significant problem with car use for school drop off. In response the Council has increased enforcement and is working with schools on their travel plans.

When asked about the AFC Wimbledon/Galliard Homes planning application Councillor Alambritis said that in current planning laws there is a presumption in favour of development and developers can put in an application at any point they wish. There has only been one application for the Plough Lane site which has to be considered by the Council's Planning Applications Committee in light of the sporting intensification designation made for that site. Developers also have a right of appeal and decisions by Merton can be overturned by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol.

Councillor Alambritis said he would need to check on whether the details of licenses issued by Highways could be put online and how the impact of increased tram frequency on Kingston Road would be managed. Councillor Alambritis has met with TfL about the tramline extension to Sutton but there is no funding available at the moment.

## **Healthwatch Merton**

Jade Fairfax from Healthwatch Merton provided an update on their work. Jade joined Healthwatch in the summer and replaced Adele who attended the forum in 2014. Healthwatch is an independent champion for consumers of health and social care services and aims to make sure providers and commissioners listen and understand the voice of users. Merton is part of a network of 152 local Healthwatch organisations that are linked to a national body, Healthwatch England.

Some of the current projects being supported by Healthwatch Merton include:

- GP access – spoke with residents across the borough and put recommendations to the Clinical Commissioning Group including training for frontline staff. The report is available on the Healthwatch Merton website
- Patient Participation Groups – every surgery should have one of these but quality varies hugely. Working with two surgeries (Morden Hall and James O'Riordan medical centres) to develop best practice that can be shared across the 24 practices in Merton
- High Street Health – spoke to 192 people in Mitcham about the town centre for Public Health. Identified public toilets as a key issue.
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) – spoke to users and parents about the services to feed into a review.
- Outreach work – met with homeless drop-in group; Chinese Cultural Group; YMCA residents; and Celebrating Age Festival attendees.
- Enter and View – a programme of visits to residential homes will begin in November
- Urgent care – meeting on 30 September to look at services as part of a review

## **Motions to council**

From the issues identified at the last meeting further information is available on two of them – energy efficiency for local businesses and cycling provision. Residents were asked to look at the information available and this would be discussed further at the next meeting. The briefings are available from <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/wimbledoncommunityforum.htm>

In addition Thames Water have agreed to attend the meeting in December to discuss smart metres.

## **Soap box**

Cycling:

- No money has been made available to Merton from the mini-Hollands programme
- Cycle Maps are provided by TfL but their distribution needs to be checked
- Cycle training for both adults and children is available from Merton Council. Please see <http://www.merton.gov.uk/transport-streets/roads-highways-pavements/roadsafety.htm> for details

P4 site: no information on the sale of the site is currently available.

Lights on Wimbledon station forecourt not working, this will be taken up with NR.

Traffic lights:

- Why is there no noise for pedestrian crossing?
- Why are signals covered by blinds that restrict the view?

More litter/recycling bins are needed on Kingston Road/Haydons Road near the shops.

## **Dates of future meetings:**

**Wednesday 2 December 2015**; at Wimbledon Methodist Church, Griffiths Road, Wimbledon, SW19 1SP

**Monday 14 March 2016** at The Mansel Road Centre, Trinity United Reformed Church, Mansel Road, London SW19 4AA

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