

## Raynes Park Community Forum Thursday 3 March 2016 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Adam Bush. More than 70 residents attended, as well as seven other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Crossrail 2**

Stephen Hammond MP updated the meeting on Crossrail 2. Prior to the consultation Crossrail 2 had been considering a number of different options for Wimbledon and Raynes Park but the consultation only offered one choice, with huge implications for both town centres. The proposals for Raynes Park were still vague and not clear on the impact for areas like the Rainbow Estate. The consultation generated more than 2000 responses from Wimbledon, more than any other part of the route. This included a response from Stephen <http://www.stephenhammond.net/news/my-response-crossrail-2-consultation> and a cross party response from Merton Council <http://www.merton.gov.uk/transport-streets/public-transport/crossrail2.htm>. Both these responses supported the principle of Crossrail 2 but not at the expense of viable local town centres and communities.

Analysis of the consultation is currently taking place and results should be published in the spring. Crossrail 2 will then return with further proposals in the summer and more consultation later in 2016. They are being encouraged to consider further tunnelling to reduce the local impact. Another option could be to tunnel South West Trains fast line to Motspur Park which would free up space for Crossrail 2 as described at <http://ukrail.blogspot.co.uk/>. They could also look at phasing the construction work in Wimbledon to make sure sufficient retail space was retained throughout the work.

In response to questions Stephen said there had been opportunities to object to the principle of Crossrail 2 in two previous consultations but his view was that the project was essential for improving capacity for south west London and presented an opportunity to improve Raynes Park station. The new services would result in changes to South West Trains to Waterloo with possible reduction but it is too early to know to what extent. Crossrail 2 is also waiting to hear if funding will be made available in the upcoming budget announcement to continue the planning and development of the project.

It is likely that Crossrail 2 will have an impact on other local projects, in particular the Rainbow Estate, but no safeguarding has taken place in Raynes Park as yet. There are a number of other large scale public transport projects being considered but none would benefit south west London or have the impact of Crossrail 2. Stephen is meeting with Council officers to discuss the development of a Master Plan for Wimbledon and will raise the suggestion that officers speak with LB Newham to benefit from their experience of managing larger scale development.

## **Raynes Park Christmas and Summer Festivals**

David Hurst said that more than 800 people attended the Festival that took place on Friday 4 December. A summer arts festival will be taking place from 18 – 24 June 2016 and details of events can be found at <http://www.myraynespark.co.uk/>. As the event coincides with National Refugee week the theme will be the positive contribution made by refugees. Most events will be free thanks the support of Merton Council and local businesses.

The 2016 Christmas festival will be on 2 December and organisers are looking for more businesses to get involved. They will also be looking for more volunteers to help, especially with being stewards for the large crowd.

## **Local Health Matters**

Bal Chohan, Primary Care Liaison Manager, Kingston Hospital introduced the new glaucoma and medical retinal clinics being delivered at Raynes Park Health Centre. Dr Shervin Lari from the Ophthalmology team said that clinics were held on Wednesdays Thursdays and referrals can be made by any GP practice. Diagnostic and treatments can be delivered on site but surgery still takes place at Kingston Hospital.

Bal was asked about the possibility of having x-ray facilities at the Health Centre. Bal explained that the space needed for X-ray machines make it too difficult to install.

## **Current and anticipated planning applications**

Neil Milligan, Development Control Manager, Merton Council updated the meeting on local planning issues.

- Travelodge works are ongoing and the hotel is likely to be opening in summer 2016.
- 1 Durham Road – officers have concerns about enforcement issues on this site and will look into the fencing as raised by residents.
- The proposed new cycle route between New Malden, Raynes Park and Wimbledon – consultation has take place with streets that adjoin the route. There are still concerns about the impact of Thames Water pipes on the scheme.
- The bins south of the Skew Arch will be removed in April to reduce the incidence of fly tipping. Further tidying up of the area will follow.
- Albany Close – consultation currently take place
- Lower Downs Road / rear of Bronson Road – existing office building is being converted to flats
- Former Barclays Bank site – no interest in this site as yet
- Burlington Road, New Maldon – application for McDonalds drive through has received lots of objections and these will need to be reviewed.
- Former Emerald Service Station – applicant received approval for minor variation to move plant room and create an additional flat.

Neil also explained that the Government is currently consulting on introducing private market into planning, allowing private contractors to compete to process planning

applications. Merton Council is currently working with Sutton and Kingston to develop a shared planning team across the three boroughs.

### **Raynes Park Station tidy up**

Tony Edwards from the Raynes Park Association (RPA) said they are looking for simple, cost effective ideas to help improve the area. Some examples were shown to the meeting and can be found on the Council's website at

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/raynesparkcommunityforum.htm>

Volunteers will be getting training from Network Rail that will enable them to enter the embankments with permission in order to help tidy them. The RPA will look to set up a point of contact for so residents can submit ideas and volunteer but in the meantime local Residents Associations are able to feed these into the RPA.

### **Capital Clean Up Bid**

There is a 16 March deadline for bids to this fund. The RPA will be asking for £1500 and toolkits.

### **Open Forum**

Residents asked about the Council's budget meeting on Wednesday 2 March. The Cabinet had recommended a budget with a freeze in Council Tax; opposition Councillors had proposed an amendment with a 1.7% increase, in the form of a precept to spend specifically on Adult Social Care. The amendment was unsuccessful and the budget was passed as proposed. Further detail is available from the Council's website:

<https://mertonintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=142&MIId=2271&Ver=4>

Merton Bowling Club has reached an agreement with the Council to take on the maintenance of their bowling green.

**Dates of future meetings** all at 7.15pm, in the Library Hall:

22 June 2016 – Chaired by Councillor Stephen Crowe

29 September 2016

30 November 2016

8 March 2017

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