

Raynes Park Community Forum 12 September 2013 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor David Dean assisted by Chris Larkman, Chair of the Raynes Park Association. More than 50 residents attended, as well as 7 other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Ride London

Chris Parsloe, Merton Council and James Taylor, Ride London updated the forum on feedback received from the Ride London event on 4 August 2013 and plans for the next event, scheduled for 10 August 2014.

There had been good feedback from local businesses and residents but some had raised specific concerns about access. Feedback from participants had shown that Raynes Park had been one of the highlights on the route and local residents and businesses should be congratulated for this.

In response to a question from the floor about access for carers Christine said that 7 enquiries had been raised with MASCOT which were all dealt with on the day. In advance all care agencies had been contacted and none had raised any issues. The key was to make contact through the Ride London helpline in advance so that plans could be put in place. For more information please see <http://www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk/>

In response to a question about West Wimbledon James said that although the 2014 route was currently envisaged to remain the same they would be looking at alternative options and working with local residents groups. James also said that one of the lessons from this year was the need to highlight local participants for communities to get behind and they would be exploring cheering points for spectators and charities similar to the London Marathon. In response to a question about public transport Christine said that South West trains had promised increased capacity but it would appear this had not always been the case.

Chris Larkman said that Ride London had been a brilliant event for Raynes Park and would be delighted to see it return, there was substantial agreement from attendees.

Health

Medical Centre & Local Health Planning - Dr Sion Gibby, Raynes Park
Locality Lead

Dr Gibby reported that new services had been introduced at the Raynes Park Health Centre including blood testing, and ultrasound scanning and that ECG

testing would hopefully be commencing shortly. With the new facilities at the Nelson Hospital site due to open in 2015 planning is under way to ensure these do not duplicate existing services. Merton CCG is currently reviewing eye condition pathways with the aim of delivering more services in the community, for example through local opticians. Publicity would be made available to help patients understand when they could use local services rather than going to A&E.

Asked about automatic blood pressure machines at GP surgeries, Dr Gibby said this would be a decision for each individual practice whether to purchase this equipment or not. Dr Gibby also said that long waits for GP appointments should be raised with the surgeries involved.

Raynes Park Health Centre - Bal Chohan-Rai, Kingston Hospital

Bal reported that a key part of Kingston Hospital's new Foundation Trust status was making sure services are delivered in local communities, such as the Raynes Park Health Centre. Since the last meeting, in addition to the clinics already running, new services have been introduced at the centre including a ultrasound service which will run four days a week from 1st October and can be access through your GP. Antenatal appointments can be accessed through the GP at the new centre. Furthermore, with a GP referral patients can now use the newly extended blood testing facility on a walk-in basis Monday – Thursday 8am to 4.30pm and 8am to 3.30pm on a Friday.

After Christmas there are plans to pilot an ECG service in the health centre. Residents were asked to promote and use the new facilities at Raynes Park where possible.

Introducing the new service 'Healthwatch Merton' - Adele Williams

Adele introduced Healthwatch Merton as the new independent consumer champion for health and social care services. Healthwatch is made up of a national body – Healthwatch England, and local bodies for each council area. Healthwatch Merton's role is to listen to the voices of health and social care users, gather evidence and use these to influence commissioners and decision makers.

Healthwatch will be undertaking a series of outreach activities to raise awareness and get residents involved in setting priorities. There would also be a number of roles for volunteers to get involved with.

Healthwatch will not be providing health services or dealing with complaints. There is a new complaints advocacy service, run by VoiceAbility, which can help those making a complaint about an NHS service. Please see <http://nhscomplaintsadvocacy.org/> or call 0300330 5454.

More information about Healthwatch Merton, or to sign up for their newsletter, please see <http://www.healthwatchmerton.co.uk/> or call 020 8685 2282.

Leader of the Council's update

Councillor Stephen Alambritis congratulated the Raynes Park Association and local groups for engaging so many residents and businesses. Stephen said he used his background in business to make sure the council took a business like approach but he also thought it was crucial to engage with local communities. As a result he had attended a number of events in Raynes Park, including the meeting about the Post Office and had held a surgery at Waitrose. Councillor Alambritis said he wanted to freeze council tax again for 2014/15 and there would be no library closures whilst he was leader, nor would Wimbledon library be moving.

In response to questions Councillor Alambritis said that although a survey had shown Raynes Park High Street was the best performing it was important to keep an eye on this and keep a balance between the needs of residents and businesses. The Council has been reviewing parking in shopping parades in order to help local businesses and address capacity issues but he would be happy to look at the cost of business permits. Waitrose has been a big draw for Raynes Park but more needed to be done to improve south side of the railway. Plans were in place and would be delivered as soon as possible. Dog fouling in public places, including playing fields, was a problem but the council is working to encourage responsible dog ownership. Councillor Alambritis was aware that Wimbledon YMCA was looking to expand but understood the concern that 24 stories would be too high.

Planning Updates

Tara Butler, Future Merton team at Merton Council provided an update on local planning issues and responded to questions from residents.

Nelson Hospital – the designs for the front of the care home still need to be submitted to the Planning Applications Committee

Manuplastics – as it stands the existing planning permission will expire in January but if certain works are undertaken then this will be extended. Some works are underway but the Council is yet to receive any details.

Travelodge on Durham Road – Travelodge claim to still be keen to set up a hotel in Raynes Park but this would be up to the landowner. Some minor works are currently being undertaken.

Rainbow Estate – the planning brief has been adopted so the council is waiting to receive a planning application. Tara clarified that the entrance has been considered by emergency services and would not present any problems. Options for a second pedestrian access point are still being considered.

Atkinson Morely – proposals for the front façade have just been submitted

26 Bushey Road (petrol station) – the landowner wished to redevelop this site but has not yet submitted any plans.

Raynes Park Enhancement Plan

Tony Edwards updated the Forum on the latest activity. Proposals for improvements on West Barnes Lane and between Lambton Road and the Bellmouth have been developed. There would be consultation on these over the autumn with a view to commencing works early in 2014 after local shops

indicated they did not want to see disruption over Christmas. A plan for a market area is still being developed.

Raynes Park Station

Chris Larkman said he would be meeting with Network Rail on 13 September. Network Rail have been extremely frustrating although some painting had taken place today. The priorities for improvements are painting the bridge and a lift for platform 3/4.

200 bus

Transport for London had considered the request to move the bus stand but have refused it. They argued that moving the stop would disadvantage users of the medical centre. As a result the RPA would be meeting with the Council and the police to consider road safety in the area and see what else might be done.

Open Forum

A question was raised about the use of CCTV cameras in Raynes Park. Councillor Alambritis made an open invitation for a residents group to visit the Council's CCTV control centre and be briefed on their operation.

Controlled Parking Consultations

Paul Atie and Leonardo Morris from Merton Council answered questions about two consultations on controlled parking.

Dupont, Sydney, Chestnut, Bronson Road, Abbott Avenue area

This consultation had taken place in response to a petition. Residents in Dupont and Sydney Roads clearly supported the introduction of controlled parking whilst the other roads were against. The results would be considered at the Street Management Advisory Group on 18 September.

Cambridge Road area

Residents on Cambridge Road had petitioned for controlled parking but because of the potential impact on other roads a much wider area, of 21 roads, had been included in the consultation. An exhibition will be taking place on Saturday 14 September in the library and the consultation ends on 27 September.

Concerns were raised about the information provided in the consultation, the deadline for responses, the potential reduction in parking capacity and the impact on crossovers. Councillor Dean stressed the importance of responding to the consultation and those residents and businesses that felt strongly about the issue should encourage their neighbours to respond. Further paper copies of the consultation are available on request by calling 020 8545 3840 or the form can be completed online at www.merton.gov.uk/consultations.

Dates of future meetings

Thursday 4 December 2013 at 7.15pm, in the Library Hall.

Thursday 13 March 2014 at 7.15pm, in the Library Hall