

Wimbledon Community Forum 21 June 2017 Chair's Report

The meeting was held at the Wimbledon Arts Space, and chaired by Councillor Michael Bull as Councillor James Holmes was unwell. 12 residents attended, as well as three other Merton Councillors. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introducing the councillors present at the meeting.

Soapbox

At a previous meeting a resident asked about the signage in the 20mph zone in central Wimbledon. Kris Witherington, Community Engagement Manager for Merton Council, said that colleagues had explained that some 20mph signs that appear to have been removed for reasons unknown. The Council will look to reinstate 20mph signs where appropriate as part of a town centre signage review we are currently undertaking. New signs are programmed this financial year. Some residents felt that 20mph limits should be the standard and are supporting the 20s Plenty Campaign.

Residents asked for an update on the Wimbledon Masterplan and for the website to be updated. Kris provided an update on behalf of Paul McGarry, Head of Future Merton:

“Thank you to everyone who took part in the workshops. There was an incredible amount of data and feedback to sift through and organise; particularly the photos and maps. The team are still collating the information for the full feedback report. The mapping is taking longer than we anticipated due to the detail and number of comments. We hope to provide feedback by the end of July. Apologies that this is slightly longer than we anticipated.

The team are also starting to prepare the masterplan in the background, with the info we have collated already. We anticipate the first draft being available in the autumn.

The team are also involved in a public enquiry for the Estates Regeneration project in the first week of July which has placed additional pressure on our urban design capacity.

There is no further update re. Crossrail 2 and we'll be happy to provide an update in person at the September forum”.

A resident asked if a new date for the Public Transport Liaison Committee had been confirmed. Kris replied that the meeting will hopefully take place in the autumn but no date has been agreed as yet.

Reporting street scene issues on the new website has proved difficult to some. A resident asked if a demonstration could be provided at a future meeting.

A resident asked if the Durnsford Road Bridge would have the same curb height added to the south west side as has been implemented on the other side. This will be taken up with colleagues.

UPDATE following the meeting - The intention was to introduce a safer footway on both sides of the bridge; however, due to the structure of the bridge and the extremely shallow

utilities' apparatus / equipment's and a few other constraints, the scheme became unviable. As a result only one side was improved.

An update on Morden Park Pool was asked for. This can be found at <http://www2.merton.gov.uk/leisure/sport/facilities/leisurecentres/leisureformorden.htm>

A resident asked about gully clearance to improve drainage.

Love Wimbledon update

Helen Clark Bell gave an update on Love Wimbledon's plans and upcoming events. There is a new Love Wimbledon website <http://lovewimbledon.org/> that has details of all listings as well as a monthly newsletter.

Events coming up include:

- Monthly market – next one will be on 1 July
- Wimbledon tennis – 3 to 16 July. There will be a big screen and deckchairs on the piazza, ambassadors in the town centre to guide visitors, and St Marks Place will have live music and street food. A head of the event pavements will be jet washed and lamppost banners put up. If there is no tennis on the middle Sunday the big screen will show the athletics from the Anniversary Games.
- 17-28 July – picnic benches will be available in the piazza to encourage meeting up
- Ride London – 30 July with a street party and live music. There will be road closures and changes to bus routes.
- Arts Trail – September. There will be an arts themed market on 23 September.
- Bookfest – will be launched on 3 October
- Winter wonderland – 3 December

In response to questions Helen said that Love Wimbledon will target shops and businesses to request they clear up problems they create, for example oil from fast food outlets. Residents are encouraged to raise any issues they experience with Love Wimbledon or directly with the businesses. Helen explained the BID had only recently renewed its agreement for another five years so there could not be any changes to the BID boundaries until the end of their second five year term. A new BID covering the South Wimbledon Business Association on the industrial estate will begin on 1 July, the third BID area in Merton.

Centre Court is responsible for the planting outside their Centre, Love Wimbledon have adopted some areas like those outside Lloyds and TK Maxx. Love Wimbledon is working with Metro Bank to identify improvements to the side of their premises. Whilst planters can improve the image of the area they can also constitute clutter so a balance must be struck. They also look to improve seating where they can but similarly clutter can be an issue.

The chair thanked Helen and residents for attending and closed the meeting.

Date of future meetings:

Thursday 28 September 2017 at Wimbledon Arts Space
Tuesday 5 December 2017 at Wimbledon Methodist Church
Thursday 1 March 2018 at Wimbledon Arts Space