

## Mitcham Community Forum 15 March 2016 Chair's Report

The meeting was held at Vestry Hall, and chaired by Councillor Ian Munn. 15 residents attended, as well as four other Councillors, and officers of the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Police update**

Sgt Steve Dorrington from the Mitcham Sector team updated the meeting on local crime and community safety issues. There had been a spike in burglaries before Christmas but this has now reduced. Long Thornton was an area of particular concern and has been targeted by officers with prevention work including handing out 500 smart water packs to residents. Officers have also conducted Victim Visits to give prevention advice to burglary victims and their neighbours.

A seventh individual has been charged with the murder of Neel Croos in Mitcham town centre last November. The investigation is continuing. In response to this and other issues Sgt Dorrington is setting up a Tamil Forum to help build relations with the Tamil community. This has proved difficult to date and Sgt Dorrington will be working with Siobhain McDonagh MP and targeting local Tamil businesses to encourage the community to get involved.

In Pollards Hill the local team has been working to reduce burglaries targeting gold in the Asian community. Officers have been providing advice to residents and raising awareness of the issue.

Car meets on the Willow Lane Industrial Estate are continuing to cause problems for businesses and residents including damage to property and noise. Officers have targeted Friday and Saturday nights, and have issued more than 40 warning letters as well as banning one driver.

The Mitcham Town Centre team has been working on the street drinking issue by targeting the ten most regular offenders. They have used a range of powers including immigration, community protection notice and confiscating alcohol under the Controlled Drinking Zone powers. They have also offered outreach services and will be relaunching the responsible retail scheme. Those in breach of the community protection orders can be issued with Acceptable behaviour agreement (ABA).

In Longthornton there has been a recurring issue of anti-social driving of mopeds and quad bikes on Rowan Road. Chasing can be risky and whilst police take action if they can see a license plate it is difficult to deal with once these have been removed. Colleagues from Traffic are targeting this issue.

## **Rediscover Mitcham update**

James Geeson from the Future Merton team, Merton Council, updated the meeting on the works in Mitcham Town Centre. Plans for the works shown at the meeting are available from our website at

### *Fair Green*

Most of the works on the Fair Green have now been completed with the following items still outstanding:

- Faults with some of the LED lights need to be repaired
- Four new lanterns for the clock tower are being manufactured based on photos of the surviving lanterns. These are due for completion and installation in May
- Lighting on the curved wall will be installed over the next couple of weeks
- Uplighters in the market will be installed and new power supply for stall holders
- Lights on some of the existing mature trees are being considered
- During the spring grass areas will be re-seeded to repair damage done during construction work. Other landscaping will also be completed

The planned water feature will not be going ahead due to cost implications. Art installations will be considered instead. Other works will be held back until later phases of development.

### *Majestic Way*

Repaving has started from the Upper Green East end of the road. This will include informal guidance to cyclists to use the central part of the path but this will not be designated cycle space or enforceable. New street furniture including five street lights and six benches will be installed. The junctions at either end of the road will be raised.

### *Three Kings Pond*

Work has started on clearing the pond and improving the area. The water will be pumped out of the pond so that the polluted silt can be removed. The silt will need to be drained before it can be transported off site. At the in-flow new filtering will be installed to reduce pollution going into the pond. At the out-flow the drains have been cleared and a new trash screen will be installed to improve the flow and make it easier to remove litter and detritus. This will also make it possible to raise or lower the level of the pond

New planting and reed beds will also help keep the water cleaner and encourage biodiversity. To protect the current wildlife an aquadam has been created to store fish during the works whilst the terrapins have been removed.

The works in the pond will take around six weeks and then ground works and landscaping around the pond will be completed. The timing has been chosen to avoid the mating season for ducks and geese as well as avoid too much heat getting on to the silt whilst it drains. The duck feet benches have been placed in storage and will return to Three Kings Pond once the works have

been completed but the exact location to be agreed with community representatives.

### *Bus Street*

Planning for the bus street has taken much longer than expected due to the requirements of Transport for London (TfL). Signalling and traffic modelling has been present to TfL as part of a comprehensive business plan. The new street should improve journey times for all services apart from the 152 as there will be an additional stop for that service.

The project was considered by the TfL Surface Transport Board today and we are awaiting notification of the outcome. Feedback to date has been positive so there is confidence that the main parts of the project will be approved.

Once approval has been given the scheduling of works will be agreed. Work is likely to start in July 2016 with the bus street and the works on Upper Green East starting first and taking around four months. The whole project will take until winter 2017 to complete.

In response to questions James said that the bus street will be at least 6.5m wide with room for buses to pass each other along the entire route. At some points in both direction the road will be widened with laybys to allow buses to pass should there be any issues with buses remaining stationary at the stops. The road will be at least 0.5m deep of new construction but it might be possible to make use of the existing concrete base from the previous road, as has happened elsewhere. Drainage from the road will make use of new gullies and existing storm drains. During the works access to local businesses will be maintained with works conducted outside of business hours if needed. Green space will be removed from the Fair Green for the bus line but there will be new green space created elsewhere in the project.

### **Soapbox**

The Burn Bullock: Work is ongoing to comply with Listed Building repairs notice, which was due to be completed by 5 March. The Enforcement Team are not considering taking action against a failure to fully comply with notice at this moment as work is progressing. The Conservation officer is satisfied that the owner is taking action that will make the building weatherproof and will prevent further deterioration.

It was asked if there are any plans for introducing a cycle route through Cramner Road and the Cricket Green. This will be checked with officers.

A resident raised the issue of traffic offence enforcement at Broadway Gardens, and Bond Road. This will be checked with officers and brought back to the next meeting.

Road gully clearing was also raised. If areas of specific concern can be sent to councillors and officers then these will be investigated.

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 5 October 2016 at 7.15pm, at Age UK.

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