

Raynes Park Community Forum 4th December 2013 Chairman's Report

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Chris Edge assisted by Pat Erricker, Deputy Chairman of the Raynes Park Association. More than 50 residents attended, as well as several other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Health

Judith Brodie attended from the Lambton Road Patient Participation Group (PPG). She described the role of the PPG working in partnership with the Practice to support improved care and service, and highlighted the forthcoming PPG Open Week, Practice survey, and regular PPG newsletter. There will be a PPG AGM in March. More information can be found at <http://www.lambtonroadmedical.nhs.uk/home,55571.htm>

Dr Penny Smith, senior partner at Lampton Road Practice, attended with colleagues following concerns expressed by patients about the long waiting times and reception staff rudeness. Dr Smith stressed that the move to the new premises had created several challenges and matters were improving and would continue to do so. Several residents commented and asked questions which Dr Smith and her colleagues responded.

Dr Sion Gibby area rep for Commissioning Group explained about the approach to commissioning and responded to questions from the floor.

Local Flood Risk Management

Mario Lecordier LBM Head of Traffic and Highways Services at the LBM and Sarah Kelly from URS Consultants gave an interesting presentation on the latest strategy and requested residents responded to the online survey by 31st January 2014. Several general questions come from the floor including one relating to the capability of the main drains to which Mario Lecordier said a further vehicle was being purchased to clean the drains to ensure they were clear for heavy rain.

Planning Updates

Neil Milligan – senior planning officer at LBM outlined the latest key planning matters

- Land at the corner of Kingston Road and Lower Downs Road and questions were asked about the traffic flow, in particular the possibility of a mini-roundabout but nothing had been agreed at this stage.
- Rainbow Estate
- Enhancement Plan, together with Tony Edwards, RP Association.
- Shop Shutters in RP Town Centre

Parking

Controlled Parking Consultations

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

- Dupont, Sydney, Chestnut, Bronson Road, Abbott Avenue & Part of Kingston and Lower Downs Roads – Some residents from Bronson in attendance were upset about the latest change as they assumed after the last consultation they would not be having a CPZ. Mr Atie explained that Bronson Road had been added following a petition from a large majority of residents in the Road.
- Cambridge Road area – Dr Garth Ezekikel vice-chairman of the CPAGA raised concerns about parking for allotment holders. Mr Atie explained that the latest proposal would now only require 1 hour restrictions so allotment holders should not have an issue if they avoided that one hour. The Cambridge Road CPZ Consultation goes to the SMAC Committee on 29th January.
- Town Centre parking – Julie Donaby, Raynes Park Association of Independent Businesses drew attention to the need to consider the parking requirements of local businesses (staff, customers and clients) and ensure they are consulted. Paul Atie confirmed that a Town Centre Parking consultation would be undertaken and that Businesses would be included.
- Waitrose Car Park Charges – Martin Payne, Assistant Manager, Waitrose, explained that there were proposals to increase cost of parking for 2-3 hours, but not under 2 hours for their section of the car park. The aim was to deter medium term parking so that the car park was freer for users.

Open Forum

Various matters were raised from the floor including:

- Christmas Lights Switch on – feedback from the attendees indicated that this was welcome and should be undertaken the next year
- Mini Holland draft proposals – George McGillivray suggested keeping an eye on the outcome of the bid to see if Merton is successful and, if so, what the implications might be for the Raynes Park area.
- Uneven Pavements – Officers will consider this if notified of the locations.
- Concern still about cycling on pavements and a suggestion from the floor was that the Police be invited to attend the next meeting to allow discussion on appropriate enforcement.
- Councillor Iain Dysart had spoken with Simon Burman, Stakeholder Manager, Post Office Group, concerning the future of the main post office services in Raynes Park. Mr Burman said that no potential franchise partner had been identified in its first tendering exercise, and that a further tendering exercise was being undertaken. Mr Burman had also advised that the existing main post office would continue providing its current service in the meantime.

Dates of future meetings

Thursday 13 March 2014 at 7.15pm, in the Library Hall to be chaired by Cllr Gilli Lewis-Lavender.