

Raynes Park Community Forum 13 March 2014 Chair's Report

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Station Embankment

Vinnie O'Connell from New-Leaf gave a presentation on the work carried out on the railway embankments. Network Rail had commissioned New-Leaf to make the improvements and they had worked in partnership with the Youth Offenders Team, local community groups and local residents. The presentation will be available on our website at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/raynesparkcommunityforum.htm>

The New-Leaf team work with a range of volunteers to engage young people in horticulture. To date more than 600 young people have participated in a variety of projects with around 50 going on to get work in the field. More information about the work is available from <http://new-leaf.org.uk/>.

New-Leaf hope to deliver more projects with Network Rail including at Motspur Park but it helps if local communities lobby to have their stations included in the programme of works.

Residents at the meeting expressed their thanks to Vinnie for the work done in Raynes Park and for the informative presentation.

Raynes Park Enhancement Plan

Tony Edwards updated the Forum on the latest activity. Improvements on West Barnes Lane have been completed and Tony had brought 'before and after' photographs. Further improvements on Lambton Road would start on 24 March and take approximately ten days. Tony and Chris would be meeting with council officers on Friday 14 March to discuss what further improvements could be made and what funding is available.

Town Centre Parking

Chris updated the forum on events following a public meeting to discuss the council's proposals for changing parking arrangements in the town centre. Merton Council had proposed introducing pay and display meters on bays in Lambton and Walpole Road whilst introducing 20minutes free parking across all bays in the town centre. At the meeting many local businesses had objected to the proposal. As a result the council has postponed any changes until the autumn and will carry out further consultation. Chris said that the RPA would be carrying out a survey of local businesses and would be

bringing together businesses and residents to try and find a solution to parking issues. Gilli reported that Councillor Chris Edge had written to the Cabinet Member, Councillor Andrew Judge, to ask for a meeting.

In response to questions Chris confirmed that the extension of the Apostle's controlled parking zone will start shortly and a consultation on Cambridge Road will also be taking place.

Health

Dr Gibby reported Raynes Park is one of four pilot areas in London examining the confederation of practices. The pilot will test ways of working together more effectively including sharing resources. Dr Gibby also said that the work on the Nelson site was still on schedule for a spring 2015 opening and that the process for commissioning services would begin shortly. A market testing day had shown a lot of interest in delivering services.

Bal Chohan-Rai reported that Kingston Hospital will be holding an open day on Saturday 14 June. They have also launched a new website and would welcome any feedback. The website address is www.kingstonhospital.nhs.uk

After the success of the 'Love your Heart' event in February they are keen to provide more health awareness and education events. Bal would welcome any suggestions for issues that could be delivered. The CAB will be delivering advice sessions at the Lambton Road surgery on Tuesdays from 1-4pm.

Safer Neighbourhood Team Update

PC Lee Abberton provided an update on local policing. Following the restructure of local policing Lee is now the only dedicated officer for Raynes Park ward, along side a PCSO, and is now based at Morden police station. Other local teams have moved to Wimbledon station. Lee said that when he was not available the police could still be contacted through 999 or 101.

Lee reported that whilst burglary was 30% down on last year and overall crime was down 20%, vehicle crime has increased. Targeting of expensive cars had increased both theft from and theft of. A number of local cash points had been targeted with 'loop' systems to acquire both cards and PIN. The police have been working to persuade banks to install devices to block use of these loops. Lee also reported that a scam involving locksmith stickers on front doors had been identified and stopped. If residents see the stickers they should be removed.

Mega Recycle Challenge

Jane Alexander, Recycling Encouragement Manager for Merton Council, introduced the Mega Recycle Challenge. Jane will work in Merton for two years, funded by central government, to help increase the level of recycling and reduce the amount going to landfill. As part of this work the Mega Recycle challenge will be offering prizes to individuals and schools for increasing recycling. The challenge will be promoted door-to-door as well as with local community groups and schools. The challenge will launch on 24 March and

the first prizes will be given out in May. To find out more and to register to take part please see: <http://www.merton.gov.uk/megarecycle>

Merton Scrutiny Team

Rebecca Redman, Scrutiny Officer, Merton Council informed the forum that the council's Overview and Scrutiny panels are looking for issues to examine in detail during 2014/15. The scrutiny panels are made up of councillors that gather evidence from experts and local communities to investigate key issues. The four panels are:

- Sustainable Communities – housing, environment, transport, culture and enterprise
- Children and Young People – education, social care, youth services
- Healthier Communities and Older People – health and social care services
- Overview and Scrutiny Commission – safer and stronger communities, cross cutting and strategic themes.

To suggest topics for any of the panels you can complete an online form at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/decision-making/scrutiny.htm> or you can email scrutiny@merton.gov.uk

Planning Updates

Chris presented an update provided by Neil Milligan, Development Control Section Manager, Merton Council.

Access Self-storage are discharging the conditions on the Manuplastics site on Kingston Road. Progress may take place soon

Site on corner of *Coombe Lane and Durham Road* (block of flats) –Scheme appears to be underway with building activity taking place on the site

2A Amity Grove – a pre-application report issued for redevelopment to provide flats and a retail/commercial on ground. The applicant has carried out their own consultation so the public locally may be aware of this.

Rainbow Estate – no new information

In addition to Neil's update the forum was informed about the following planning issues:

Barkers chemist – have applied for permission for signage at a new shop

Mini-Hollands – Merton had missed out on the main funding but would still receive some additional monies.

Blockbuster – an interior design shop and café, Absolute Abode would be opening.

Kingston Road/The Chase – planning permission has been given for nine three-bedroom houses

Flat above the Edward Rayne – a change of use has been submitted for a private medical practice.

Open Forum

Keith Davis, Manager of Waitrose, introduced himself to the meeting. Keith said the store is now seeing more than 20,000 customers a week.

A question was asked about the use of the lesser sports field off Grand Drive. Kris Witherington, Merton Council, was asked to find out.

Chris confirmed at the Ride London-Surrey event would again come through Raynes Park, on Sunday 10 August. For more information please see <http://www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk/>

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

Wednesday 18 June 2014

Tuesday 30 September 2014

Tuesday 9 December 2014

Wednesday 25 March 2015