

Wimbledon Community Forum 10 June 2015 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in the Mansel Road Centre, and chaired by Councillor James Holmes with assistance from John Hill, Head of Public Protection, Merton Council. More than 20 residents attended, as well as eight other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the cancellation of the meeting in March due to a problem with the venue.

Police Updates

PC Matt Rigby from the Wimbledon Village Safer Neighbourhood team provided an update and responded to questions. PC Rigby explained the new neighbourhood policing arrangements in Wimbledon. Each ward has one designated PC and PSCO with remaining officers used flexibly across the sector. There is also a new Town Centre team for Wimbledon made up of one sergeant, two PCs and 2 PCSOs.

In response to questions about dangerous cycling PC Rigby said that police would stop cyclists and either speak to them or in some cases issue fixed penalty notices but would be more flexible with small children. Work is being done to improve cycle safety as part of the Mayor of London Quietways programme. In response to a question about use of CCTV in bars PC Rigby said that for serious incidents police would review footage from either the bars or the Council but CCTV footage within a business premises was not allowed to be viewed by the public. It was agreed that a tour of the CCTV suite at Merton Council could be arranged for concerned residents.

Future Wimbledon

Tara Butler, Programme Manager, from the Future Merton Team in Merton Council, presented an update on the Future Wimbledon Competition and responded to questions. The presentation can be found at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/wimbledoncommunityforum.htm>

The Future Wimbledon competition had a wide range of different ideas submitted but some key themes had emerged, in particular a need to 'green' the town centre and create more quiet open spaces. These ideas are being brought together and will be developed into a Master Plan for the Town Centre. The Master Plan will involve residents, businesses and other stakeholders and is being supported by Love Wimbledon. All the submissions to Future Wimbledon can be found at <http://www.futurewimbledon.co.uk/Ideas-Competition>

Crossrail 2 was likely to have a significant impact on any plans and developments, in particular any new bridges over the railway line. More information about Crossrail 2, including the land being safeguarded, can be found at <http://crossrail2.co.uk/>. Several concerns were raised about the quality of communications from Crossrail 2 and this will be taken up with the organisers.

Tara also discussed the development of Neighbourhood Plans. To develop a plan a panel of 21 people who represent a focused geographical area. The group would then set the priorities for the area, and then develop a plan that is put to a vote. The group would need

to fund the work needed to create the plan but the Council would organise the vote. Several organisations offer support to communities developing a plan, such as:

<http://locality.org.uk/projects/building-community/>

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning>

<http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/>

In response to questions about new homes and school places Tara said that now the Community Infrastructure Levy was in place developments faced a set fee based on the size and floor space so this was no longer a negotiated process. The target for new homes in London has recently been increased by the Mayor of London by a third so it seems unlikely this demand will be met.

Planning applications:

- Greyhound stadium: the applicant is providing amended plans to take into account the comments received, including addressing concerns about transport, parking and flood risk. As a result there is likely to be further public consultation before the application can be considered by the Planning Applications Committee. This is could be in the autumn. Merton has been working with Wandsworth to look at the potential impact on demand for school places.
- Gap Road: an application for storage and new homes has been submitted but the land has been safeguarded by Crossrail 2. A tree preservation order is being contested by the landowners.

Love Wimbledon

Helen Clark Bell from Love Wimbledon provided a presentation on the work of the Wimbledon Business Improvement District. The presentation can be found at

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/wimbledoncommunityforum.htm>

The BID was voted in for five years in 2012 and local businesses contribute 1% of rateable value. They have three main priorities: promote the town centre; clean and green; provide business support services. Major events coming up in the town centre include:

- Big screen for the tennis on The Piazza
- Ride London on 2 August
- Winter Wonderland on 28 November
- Autumn Arts in September and October to support Merton Arts Trail and Bookfest
- Monthly markets on The Piazza

In response to questions Helen said that they supported businesses to get involved in the local community but Raymond Kinsella, Business Engagement Manager at Merton Chamber of Commerce, would be the best person to contact. Helen also said that whilst Love Wimbledon worked with other areas, including the Village, the BID had a defined area it was accountable for.

Motions to council

James Holmes introduced this item as a new approach for community forums. Due to the shortage of time James invited residents to suggest items that could be developed for discussion at the next meeting. Items suggested included:

- The proposed Energy from Waste facility in Beddington – residents were concerned about potential health implications
- Lights being left on in offices when not in use
- Traffic congestion and pollution
- Provision of cycle lanes

Soap box

A resident raised a concern about the compulsory installation of smart meters by Thames Waters. Scientific evidence has shown that these add to pulse magnetic fields which can cause health problems. It was agreed to invite Thames Water to respond to these concerns at a future meeting and consider this as an issue for a motion to council.

Dates of future meetings:

Tuesday 22 September 2015 at The Mansel Road Centre, Trinity United Reformed Church, Mansel Road, London SW19 4AA

Wednesday 2 December 2015; at Wimbledon Methodist Church, Griffiths Road, Wimbledon, SW19 1SP

Monday 14 March 2016 at The Mansel Road Centre, Trinity United Reformed Church, Mansel Road, London SW19 4AA

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