

BEDDINGTON AND WALLINGTON AREA COMMITTEE

2 May 2007 at 7.30 pm

MEMBERS: Councillor Jayne McCoy (Chair), Jenny Slark, Peter Wallis, Joan Hartfield, Margaret Ali, Terry Faulds, Bruce Glithero and Marion Williams

ABSENT: Councillors Richard Bailey, Colin Hall, John Keys and John Leach

435. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Colin Hall, John Keys and John Leach.

436. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 7 March 2007 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

437. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

One member of public asked questions and answers were given as set out in the appendix to these minutes.

438. WALLINGTON LIBRARY - UPDATE REPORT ONE YEAR ON FROM REFURBISHMENT

Graham Fudge, Chair of Friends of Wallington Library and Gardens, Angela Fletcher, Head of Libraries and Heritage, and Jon Ward, Library Manager attended to make presentations to the committee.

Angela Fletcher explained the changes that had occurred and highlighted the increased usage of the library. Following a member query she explained that the project had cost £250,000 from the Capital Programme and that whilst no targets were set as part of the financial plan, there was a conviction of belief that usage would increase. Graham Fudge explained that the Friends group had been fully involved in the process from the start and that they were very supportive of the changes. Jon Ward explained his role as project manager for the scheme and in response to a member query explained that the lift had undergone refurbishment and was now more compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Members expressed their congratulations to the staff and to the Friends group for their good work.

Resolved: To note the report and to pass on congratulations to all staff and members of the Friends of Wallington Library for their good work.

439. GUY ROAD YOUTH SHELTER

Mr Kellaway, local resident, attended to ask a question regarding what the council were doing to curb anti-social behaviour as residents were expecting an increase due to the improving weather. Mr Kellaway, at the invitation of the Chair, stayed at the table and took part in the discussion of the report.

Further to Minutes 13/07 and 244/07 Mark Dalzell, Head of Parks, explained the various options and recommendations as given in the report. Inspector John Pendleton, Met Police, broadly supported the recommendation to take the shelter away for a minimum of three months in order to gain some statistics and have an

informed discussion and ultimately an informed decision. Apologies were given to Mr Kellaway for the problems which residents are experiencing.

It was pointed out that residents in the ward had benefited from the installation of the shelter as statistics had shown.

Members discussed other options of moving the shelter as well as whether or not to have a shelter at all. Following a vote the recommendation to remove the shelter and wait for the statistics to have an informed discussion was carried.

Resolved: (i) To agree to dismantle the shelter and put it in temporary storage.

(ii) To allow the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) to undertake a full audit over three months of all the anti-social behaviour incidents related to youth disturbance and identify the locations of any such incidents and report back to committee on their findings.

(iii) To note that following the SNT's report area committee will be able to make an informed decision about whether there is still a need for a youth shelter in the ward and the location most likely to meet any need.

440. CONSULTING WITH RESIDENTS ON TRAFFIC PROPOSALS

Further to Minute 07/07 and 244/07 where members had requested that residents associations might be included in consultation on traffic calming proposals Alan Carroll explained the statutory process and Sutton's consultation policy and that any changes to policy would need to be referred to the Strategy Committee.

It was explained that frontage properties are consulted along with those that may be affected by displacement. Whilst including residents associations may lead to wider community engagement, diverse views and diverse approaches, the negative aspects would include; dilution of solution for those affected, increased costs and delay in implementation, possible community division and residents associations are not always being identifiable.

There was much debate about the representation of residents association as there were some that are registered with the council and others not. Some consisted of few members for many households and it was not always clear how they gain views from members or households and whether or not they provided feedback. There had been examples of members representing self-interest rather than those of the whole.

Resolved: (i) To not make a reference to Strategy Committee.

(ii) To request a report for information on the regulations for residents associations registering with the council.

441. AIR QUALITY REPORT

Martin Easton, Environmental Protection Manager, presented his report, which highlighted failed air quality objectives for the Beddington Lane area. Blame for this failure could not be attributed specifically to any of the businesses operating in the area, of which many were big dust producers. Officers were working with the Environment Agency (EA) with regard to enforcement as part of EA waste management licenses to operate. They were also working with businesses with an aim to educate and are considering enforcement action where appropriate.

Councillor Jenny Slark requested to meet with Martin Easton outside of the meeting to discuss concerns of residents of Oakmead Road, and others, and how to increase the involvement of the Environment Agency.

There was much discussion about enforcement and the inclusion of planning officers. It was explained that all are working to capacity and there was a need for additional resources.

Resolved: (i) To note the report and thanks to Martin Easton.

(ii) To note the need for additional resources.

(iii) That an annual report come to committee.

442. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Inspector John Pendleton gave a verbal update, and tabled a paper, from the four Safer Neighbourhood Teams. The priorities for each of the four wards were:

Beddington North: anti social behaviour involving vehicles, speeding, and increased police visibility.

Beddington South: anti social behaviour, increased police visibility and youth diversion.

Wallington North: high police visibility, speeding vehicles in Parkgate and Springfield Roads and graffiti. It was explained that speed checks had taken place and, from the results, it would appear that there is a perception issue as most of the cars were not speeding.

Wallington South: increased police visibility, anti social behaviour of youths and anti social behaviour involving vehicles. It was explained that speed checks had taken place in Woodcote and Stafford Roads as well as some minor roads. From the results it would appear that there is a perception issue as most of the cars were not going above 30mph.

There was some discussion about setting up of youth panels as a means of engagement with young people and members were very interested in getting involved. Panels have been set up in the Northern Wards area and Cheam so far.

Resolved: (i) To thank Inspector Pendleton for the written information and for looking after The Grange, especially with no parks police.

(ii) To request that Inspector Pendleton enquire about councillors assisting with youth panels as they are set up.

443. TAKE PART TAKE PRIDE - FOR INFORMATION

The Chair requested that members' ideas and initiatives be passed on to Katherine Hudson as given on the agenda.

Resolved: To note.

444. MINUTES OF THE WALLINGTON FORUM

Resolved: To note the minutes of the meeting of 11 April 2007.

445. STEP ZONE 36 HACKBRIDGE AREA - PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

This report was allowed as an urgent item to allow for a timely decision to be made. Alan Carroll, Interim Head of Transport, Planning and Works, explained that whilst a small part of Step Zone 36 came over to the Beddington and Wallington Area, the works to be carried out were in the Carshalton and Clockhouse Area.

Resolved: (i) To note the results of public consultation, as shown on Appendices 2 and 3 of the report.

(ii) To approve the proposed packages of traffic calming measures for the purpose of public consultation.

(iii) To agree that the content and arrangements for public consultation be delegated to the Executive Head of Planning, Transport & Highways in consultation with the ward councillors.

(iv) To agree that the Executive Head of Planning, Transport & Highways in consultation with the ward councillors be given delegated authority to:

- Proceed with those elements of the packages that receive a favourable outcome from the consultation and prioritize the measures for implementation in the year 2007/08 that can be contained within the agreed budget of £56,000,
- to vary the packages to take account of any further issues arising from the ongoing consultation with residents and be mindful of the need to remain within the stated budget, and
- to make the relevant Traffic Management Orders under Section 6 of the Road Traffic Act 1984 and agree the associated Statement of Reasons to implement measures which result from varying the packages for the reasons mentioned above.

(v) To authorise the Executive Head of Planning, Transport & Highways in consultation with the ward councillors to agree the making of the relevant Orders under Section 6 of the Road Traffic Act 1984 to introduce the proposed 20mph speed limit zones and the following Statement of reasons be agreed "the 20mph speed limit will reduce traffic speeds and improve road safety in the area and provide a safe environment for all road users"

(vi) To agree the implementation of the proposed anti-skid surface materials in both Goat Road and Hackbridge Road as stated in 2.2 (a) and (b) of the report.

Councillor Bruce Glithero declared a personal interest in that he lives within the Step Zone boundary.

446. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 11 July 2007 at Civic Offices, Sutton. The Chair explained that an informal session would take place at the next meeting entitled 'Down Your Street' to which local community groups would be invited to take part. There was some concern about whether the Civic Offices would be a good venue for this item as it may hinder attendance.

Resolved: That following a meeting with officers the Chair would decide whether or not to defer 'Down Your Street' to the October meeting.

Subsequent to the meeting the venue has been changed. The next meeting on 11 July will now take place at the Phoenix Centre, Mollison Drive, Wallington.

appendix to minutes

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Mr Kris Kumar, Apeldoorn Residents' Association

Recent years have seen an increased number of anti social behaviour in the Roundshaw Downs, Roundshaw Park and the nearby woodland around Apeldoorn Drive and Foresters Drive. Tree houses are being built and set alight, there is noise from bikes and cars have been set alight. Why has the parks police been disbanded and left the residents without adequate police cover to prevent anti social behaviour?

Reply by Inspector Pendleton, Metropolitan Police

We are fully aware of the problems and have received emails of complaints through councillors and members of the public directly to the Safer Neighbourhood Team. There is not going to be an immediate replacement for the parks police although it is Sutton Police intention to have two dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Teams over and above our original strength to specifically identify issues of anti social behaviour and problems in parks to try to tackle them with residents association and local people.

We have timescales of three to six months from the 1st April for those two teams to be in place. It is a part-contractual arrangement with the local authority so there will be a replacement. We will replace the seven to eight parks constabulary officers with a total strength of 12 Safer Neighbourhood Teams. In the meantime over the next two weekends I have funded some operations utilising the Beddington South Safer Neighbourhood Team and also contacted the Borough Commander of Croydon as I think you are aware that the borough boundary goes through the Downs.

The Borough Commander of Croydon has agreed to allow us to use his motor cycle team that work out of Kenley police station to allow us to effectively patrol that area for the next few weekends so I hope that the short-term fix, and the long-term solution of the safer parks team, should help resolve some of the issues on Roundshaw Downs for you.

Supplementary question from Mr Kumar

Thank you to Inspector Pendleton for that response, I will keep an eye on it and monitor it and advise councillor colleagues here to see if they make any progress. Many weekends are spoiled by noisy scooter riders, racing up and down near gardens.

My other concern is now the school holidays are approaching and we have already seen signs of the summer weather, my fear is more misery during the school holiday periods, in the woods. We can't take our children down to the park as we hear youths in the play area shouting abusive language. Is there any reassurance that the police can provide for a peaceful summer for residents?

Reply by Inspector Pendleton

Thank you for your question Mr Kumar. As I stated earlier we think it is going to be three months before we are able to get the effective teams up and running. We've allocated a significant amount of additional funding to bridge that gap to allow some of the Safer Neighbourhood Team in the local area to come in on their rest days and to work some overtime. I hope that should allow us the additional resources over the summer period. I am acutely aware that we have increasing problems in our green spaces and parks during that time.

Thank you for your interest, I would ask that any information you may have, certainly I know a lot of them don't have registration numbers but we are aware that vehicles, especially the quad bikes, are brought in other vehicle to the venue. We would certainly wish any intelligence that people have in that area, to pass it on to us via Sergeant Doltry from the Safer Neighbourhood Team. He has already gathered a significant amount of evidence to issue what we call section 59 notices to two vehicles. That basically means that if they're seen causing anti social behaviour we

can serve them with a notice if they are seen causing anti social behaviour again within a 12-month period. We can seize the vehicle, so we have got some strong powers under the Crime and Disorder Act. If we have the intelligence we can certainly act.

Question from Councillor Terry Faulds

I was just going to ask Inspector Pendleton, if I could, just to elaborate on something as part of his answer to Mr Kumar. Is that allowed?

Reply from Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair

Yes

Question from Councillor Terry Faulds

It's a serious issue locally and I think it deserves to be given some airtime and I am grateful to Mr Kumar for putting the matter forward tonight. If you have had only five, complaints I can match that, and more, in terms of the ones I've had directly. I know that Sergeant Mark and his team are working hard as best they can, but they are only a small team. There are only seven of them; they cover 112 hours a week, if my maths is correct, so that is probably two full-time cover at any one time. They are just about to start a four-day rest period so there will be no cover from our Safer Neighbourhood Team from tomorrow morning until Monday morning. That leaves a huge gap at a time when we are expecting good weather out there.

Now, a couple of operational things, I'm sure you would not be in favour of scrapping the parks police before we had replacements so I won't ask you to defend that decision as it wasn't yours. Can you tell me if Sergeant Mark and his team, and the helpers, have got access to suitable vehicles because from my understanding the Safer Neighbourhood Team are on foot and on bike more than they are in 4-wheel drive cars?

Reply by Inspector Pendleton

Two things, poor old Mark and his team have not got four days off. Saturday has been cancelled and they are doing a joint operation with the London Fire Brigade particularly around some fire issues on the estate. I have also cancelled their Monday as well so they can be present at a festival and a fete. Vehicles are an issue for us. The parks police did have access to 4-wheel drive vehicles, which allowed them off road. We are currently doing a fleet review and are looking at making some efficiency savings, through our fleet, to give the Safer Neighbourhood Team and the new parks teams' access to Shogun vehicles to allow the patrol effectively off-road.

2. Question from Mr Kumar, resident

This is about the continuous speeding offences along Foresters Drive. I am on foot twice a day to and from work and use the stretch between Apeldoorn Drive and Roundshaw Park; there are numerous cases of drivers disobeying the speed restriction of 30mph. I have come to the point where I don't believe that just by displaying a speed limit sign will help that much. Sergeant Dultry advised me that he had done spot checks a couple of times in the last six months, I think the inspector can correct me if he has done it more than that. Although, in terms of accidents along that stretch, it is quite a wide straight road so there is not much room for accidents which is what the council go by where they can put a camera or some sort of traffic calming measure. Until we get to a stage where we can hit drivers in their pocket more often I don't think we are going to see a tangible benefit just by displaying a flashing 30mph sign. I was wondering if the council could do something i.e. more spot checks to hit drivers in their pocket so we can probably see more positive results?

Reply from Alan Carroll, Interim Head of Transport, Traffic and Works

Thank you to Mr Kumar for his question. I'm not sure if he aware but there was a meeting probably about nine months ago where the residents of Foresters Drive attended a public meeting to discuss the issue of Foresters Drive and as a result of that meeting we did actually introduce the vehicle actuated signs. He is probably not aware that the traffic police also run spot checks, or roving spot checks. They have periods of enforcement along here where they issue fixed penalty notices so drivers are hit in the pocket.

As he correctly says, the problem we do have, although not a problem but a Godsend is that we don't have many accidents along Foresters Drive. In order to be able to fund a scheme in Foresters Drive we would have to make a bid to Transport for London for funds. That bid has to show an accident saving and when you have virtually no accidents it is very difficult to justify a scheme on accident savings. We have done what we can. We have the central islands and they were meant to go in as a speed controlling measure because central reservations are meant to be a speed controlling measure but in turn those have actually created some problems for some residents, as I understand.

We are monitoring the situation and will continue to monitor it and I have to say that there is evidence that the vehicle actuated signage is effective and does actually reduce speed but when you have habitual speeders who don't respect any speed limits it is very difficult unless you have a policeman located there full time to be able to do something about it. I'm afraid speed cameras have had a very bad press and, because they have, what happens now is that they cannot be installed. All speed cameras are controlled by the London Safety Camera Partnership and all speed cameras cannot be installed unless there are 4 killed or seriously injured accidents in the last 3 years. That is the criteria for the introduction of speed cameras and quite clearly Foresters Drive doesn't come anywhere near that.

Response from Mr Kumar

I agree with your statement that the situation has improved by installing the speed sign but I think more needs to be done to see a more tangible result. All im asking is for more frequent checks. I think we will see a tangible result there because it will send a strong message to drivers.

Response from Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair

Thank you Mr Kumar, I think that has been noted and as Mr Carroll says it is being constantly monitored. Thank you for bringing those concerns to us.

