

ST. HELIER, THE WRYTHE AND WANDLE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE

4 March 2021 at 7.00 pm

MEMBERS: Councillor Annie Moral (Chair), Councillor Martin Gonzalez (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Jean Crossby, Vincent Galligan, Nali Patel, Colin Stears, Sam Weatherlake and Hanna Zuchowska

ABSENT Councillor(s) Ben Andrew

46. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Annie Moral, welcomed those present.

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ben Andrew.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

49. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2021 be agreed as an accurate record.

50. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

In a slight change to the order of agenda items, the Chair announced that Sergeant Greg Rainey would deliver a verbal update on the issues in the local area before moving into public questions (see next item).

Residents at the meeting who had submitted, and received a response to, a question outside of the meeting (published as an addendum to the agenda) were invited by the Chair to ask a supplementary question.

4 March 2021

David Tchilingirian, BedZed Resident Association, asked a supplementary question regarding the monitoring and removal of waste outside Saxon House by council officers and resident groups.

Andrew Chandler, Head of Waste & Street Cleansing, responded that the council had contacted the management agent of Saxon House to suggest improvements that could be made to the bin stores and how they are presented. Mr Chandler confirmed that the agent was looking to make some changes to the lighting and storage of the bins. It was also explained that officers are regularly in the Hackbridge area and that whenever they identify areas that need clearing they work closely with contractors to get issues resolved as soon as possible.

Susan Peters, Chair of the St Helier Music and Community Festival, asked a supplementary question regarding plans to hold the festival in 2021 and the response of the council should existing restrictions on public events be lifted by the government.

Tom Bremner, Interim Assistant Director, Housing and Regeneration, responded that the council encouraged Ms Peters to apply for a Neighbourhood Grant for this event but were not able to process any application for holding events due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Vincentia Pratt, asked a supplementary question regarding the use of cannabis at Rosehill Court and how the situation could be improved.

Representing the Sutton Housing Partnership (SHP), Mick Lerpiniere, People & Places Lead, confirmed that SHP wanted to be notified of offences and would work in close partnership with the Police to take action against offenders and improve the situation for residents.

Mr Tchilingirian asked a supplementary question regarding dog mess around Culver's House School and how the council could improve its reporting function to allow residents to more easily report issues, e.g. through an app.

Mr Chandler, responded that the council's digital platform is currently undergoing a review and that Mr Tchilingirian's suggestions around functionality and the engagement in testing would be passed on to colleagues from IT.

51. UPDATE FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

Sergeant Greg Rainey presented to the committee on local issues. His presentation covered:

- the use of cannabis and how to report offences
- domestic violence and how to report offences

The Sergeant also shared key contact details for contacting the Police and Safer Neighbourhood Team on all local issues.

The committee discussed the recent rise of domestic abuse cases reported in the borough. Sergeant Rainey confirmed that there has been an 8-10% increase in reported cases in the borough.

Members asked about the personal use and possession of cannabis. The Sergeant clarified that cannabis was a Class B drug and that it was an offence to have cannabis in your possession.

The committee also discussed the potential for holding ward panel meetings. Sergeant Rainey welcomed the offer of assistance from ward councillors to help set panels up.

52. COVID-19 UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

Dr Imran Choudhury, Director of Public Health, presented to the committee. His presentation included an overview of the local rates of COVID-19 infections, testing and vaccinations. Dr Choudhury, also provided details on the local response to new variants of the COVID-19 virus. He emphasised the importance of continuing to follow government guidance such as “hands, face and space”. Dr Choudhury encouraged anyone aged 70+, or anyone who is a frontline health or social care worker, to book a vaccination even if they have not received an invite.

The committee discussed the school’s programme. Dr Choudhury clarified that the programme applies to staff and secondary school children who will be offered twice-weekly testing when they return to school. Dr Choudhury indicated that this measure was aimed at reducing mass outbreaks in classrooms.

The committee discussed the communities that have recorded lower rates of vaccinations. Dr Choudhury suggested that progress was being made but welcomed people to get in touch with ideas and suggestions about how to reach different parts of the community.

53. ST HELIER OPEN SPACE ENGAGEMENT AND ROSEHILL AREA RENEWAL PROGRAMME

Mandar Puranik, Programme Manager for Area Renewal and Regeneration, presented to the committee the interim findings of the St Helier Open Space engagement including a summary of the workshop that took place during the previous meeting of the St Helier, the Wrythe and Wandle Valley Local Committee.

Mr Puranik confirmed that 40 residents had so far registered their interest in joining the Friends of the St Helier Open Space group and the Friends of Rosehill Park group have volunteered to assist the new group in getting started. It was suggested that the new group would be supported to take responsibility for other green spaces that make up the wider area.

4 March 2021

Mark Dalzell, Head of Parks and Local Space, provided an update on creation of the COVID-19 Reflection Garden. Mr Dalzell confirmed some of the plans for the garden including the planting of large trees, flowers and the implementation of sculptures and wood carvings. It was also announced that the council would run a poetry competition to capture the main themes of the garden.

The committee discussed the action that the council was taking to prevent the garden being used for purposes other than what it is intended for. Mr Dalzell confirmed that the space would remain open to allow views into and out of the garden and that instalments such as seating areas would be made from robust and natural materials.

54. WRYTHE GREEN CONSERVATION AREA

Dean James, Strategic Planning Manager, presented to the committee a presentation on the Wrythe Green Conservation Area. Mr James provided a historical background of the area and explained what the council considers during a character appraisal and the creation of a management plan. Mr James then encouraged residents to take part in the consultation by visiting the online pages or by sending the team an email ahead of the deadline on 25 March 2021.

Members discussed shop fronts in the Wrythe Green area and the potential for funding and guidance to be made available to local shop owners for making improvements. Mr James confirmed that the council had reached out to shop owners to engage them in the consultation and would look into possible sources of funding.

55. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Phil Crockford, Principle Transport Strategy & Policy Officer, presented to the committee on the consultation process for the new Sustainable Transport Strategy. Mr Crockford outlined the need for an updated strategy to reflect recent local initiatives and borough-wide plans and explained the new features of the strategy that is being consulted on. Mr Crockford then encouraged residents to have their say on the draft strategy by completing the online consultation form, or by sending an email or letter to the council ahead of the deadline on 25 March 2021.

Members discussed the availability of funding for the transport strategy. Mr Crockford agreed that funding was a key issue given that the COVID-19 pandemic and downturn of public transport has led to a significant income shortfall for TfL, with a knock-on impact on funding allocations to boroughs. It was explained that whilst some transport projects had been paused, the strategy ties into a long term policy framework including the Mayor's Transport Strategy, the Local Plan and the London Plan which go forward until 2041. Mr Crockford confirmed that as funding becomes available, the council would look to secure as much of it as possible for new schemes.

56. NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND

Gavin Calthorpe, Business Development Manager, presented to the committee on the Neighbourhood Fund, the neighbourhood portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Mr Calthorpe outlined where the funding comes from, what it is for, who can apply, and how it is allocated. Mr Calthorpe then encouraged residents to apply for funding, provided a timeline for doing so and shared contact details for further information.

Responding to a question about funding community events, Mr Calthorpe clarified that the Neighbourhood Fund provided funding for physical infrastructure improvements.

The committee discussed previous projects completed in the St Helier area including a well-used skate park.

57. ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 8.57 pm

Chair:

Date: