

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

WANDSWORTH COMMON WARD “LET’S TALK” MEETING

Held at Beatrix Potter School, Magdalen Road, SW18
on Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Council Members

Wandsworth Common Ward Members: Councillor Mrs Clay, Councillor Heaster and Councillor Mrs Tracey

Councillor Ravi Govindia, Leader of the Council (in the chair)

Councillor Simon Hogg, Leader of the Opposition

Council Officers

Environment and Community Services Department

Ms Julia Kelly – Senior Planner, West Area Planning Team.

Mr Mike Singham – Waste Strategy Manager

Mr Henry Cheung – Head of Inspection and Enforcement

Mr. Nick O’Donnell – Assistant Director (Traffic and Engineering)

Housing and Regeneration Department

Mr Martin Byrne – Area Housing Manager

Chief Executive’s Group

Mr Gareth Jones - Democratic Services

Mr Andrew Jolly – Community Safety Officer

Children’s Services Department (Wandsworth)

Mr John Johnson – Deputy Director Children’s Services

Residents

Approximately over 16 members of the public in attendance.

INTRODUCTION

The Chairman, Councillor Govindia, welcomed residents to the meeting and explained the format of the meeting. The Chairman, Ward Members, Leader of the Opposition and officers then introduced themselves.

The Chairman then invited questions and comments from the residents.

ISSUES, RESPONSES AND ACTIONS

1. Traffic, Utility Works and Parking

A resident complained about the lack of notification and information on recent road closures, Ellerton Road for gas works, Magdalen Road for water works, and this had increased the traffic on Tilehurst Road. She added that there were also parking problems exacerbated by the number of works contractors and commercial vehicles parked in the surrounding roads. She added that parking restrictions would be beneficial but did not wish to pay to park.

Councillor Mrs Tracey responded that there was a website that identified where free parking was available and this encouraged people to park in this area. A petition asking for the introduction of parking restrictions had been presented at the last Council meeting but did not have enough signatures (51% of residents required) to start the process.

A resident added that they thought each household should be entitled to one free parking permit if a parking zone was implemented. Councillor Mrs Clay added that the last consultation on introducing parking restrictions in 2015 had 60% against. The resident felt that the Spencer Club should provide more parking on site as two 15 seat minibuses attributed to the club had been parked outside her house.

Councillor Heaster explained that the problem with introducing a parking zone covering the whole area resulted in those nearest to Earlsfield Station being in favour and those furthest away, where they were less affected by the problem, being against, he suggested that the area could be split into two halves with two separate consultations which he would discuss further with members and officers.

A resident complained that parking enforcement officers did not check whether vehicles had valid road tax, Mr O'Donnell responded that this was incorrect and that they did check road tax.

He went on to explain that this was the worst time of year for emergency utility works and that the Council had no alternative but to accept the disruption caused due to emergency works.

A resident said they thought there were byelaws preventing commercial vehicles parking, Mr O'Donnell explained that this was not the case, the resident then went on to say they had seen parking enforcement officers ticketing commercial vehicles. Councillor Govindia asked that they discuss this with Mr O'Donnell after the meeting.

2. Skips

A resident of Wandle Road wondered why households undergoing building works often needed two spaces in the road, one for a skip and one for a cabin, he thought that only one space should be allowed as building materials could be stored on the

property. Mr Cheung responded that they did look at the location and, if suitable, were entitled to two spaces and were charged accordingly for licenses.

Councillor Clay added that the cost of licenses had been increased and this did prevent residents and contractors taking up road space for long periods. The resident added that they were pleased that the cost of licenses had been increased as he was about to suggest this as a solution but that they should be increased further as some skips were just left for long periods unnecessarily taking away residents parking space. Mr Cheung asked that he provide him with the details of the skip locations and he would investigate.

3. Traffic problems on Garratt Lane

A resident complained that works being carried out outside Earlsfield station had caused major traffic problems on Sunday, with traffic tailbacks on Garratt Lane in both directions to Mitcham and Wandsworth High Street, there was also a replacement bus service operating and buses had been driving on the pavements. Mr O'Donnell explained that traffic management plans had been put in place but on this occasion, they had not been sufficient, he urged residents to contact the Council immediately and an engineer would be sent out that same day, and they could look at measures to improve the situation such as the phasing of traffic lights. Councillors were aware of these issues and hoped the problems had been addressed.

A resident asked if the two lanes could be reinstated on Magdalen Road so that it was easier for vehicles to turn left on to Trinity Road, Mr O'Donnell responded that they were reviewing this along with other junctions and a report would be available in the Summer on the proposals, including reinstating the two lanes.

A resident asked whether the same traffic measures introduced on Ellerton Road could be replicated on Tilehurst Road. Councillor Mrs Tracey responded that if it made it easier for left turning vehicles it could lead to more "rat running".

4. 20mph Speed Restrictions/Community RoadWatch.

A resident asked what was being done to enforce the 20mph speed restrictions. Councillor Mrs Clay outlined the Community RoadWatch scheme and Mr O'Donnell added that further information is available on the Council's website.

(To take part in Community RoadWatch, or to suggest a residential area where there are community concerns around speeding, please contact CommunityRoadwatch-Wandsworth@met.pnn.police.uk.)

Councillor Mrs Tracey asked that the resident speak to her after the meeting regarding this matter.

5. Godley Gardens

A resident raised concerns that the refurbishment of the gardens area would not be totally enclosed, Councillor Mrs Clay explained that this was to prevent anti-social behaviour, particularly by some dog owners who had in the past been able to secure

the gates and let their dogs run around, and the intention was to create a better atmosphere for family use. The resident added that for many years they had lived opposite the gardens and had reported anti-social behaviour including alcohol and drug use, muggings, youths riding scooters all associated with the gardens, children were prevented from using the gardens because of the amount of dog mess. Even if the gates are locked at night they thought that anti-social behaviour would continue as youths would still be able to climb over.

A resident had concerns that children playing in the gardens could get onto the road, they had also noticed professional dog walkers arriving by car with two or three dogs and asked if this was allowed. Councillor Govindia asked that they speak to officers who would be able to provide the details of the scheme. Councillor Mrs Tracey understood that there would be display boards showing the plans for the gardens around the site.

6.Wandsworth Common and Cycling

A resident asked why the new bridge over the railway on Wandsworth Common did not have a segregated cycle path. Councillor Heaster said that Network Rail had claimed that there was not enough funding and that the sightlines had been improved but everyone thought this was not a good idea. The resident added that he had been knocked off his bike by a dog and had dislocated his shoulder, he asked for more signs requesting that cyclists slow down and that dogs be kept on leads. Councillor Mrs Tracey responded that it was not easy changing the byelaws which were primarily for the benefit of walkers. It had taken a long time to get one cycle lane on the Common and more people tended to be against this than in favour.

Anna Saddler informed residents that there is a current consultation on Wandsworth Common and details are available on the Council's website, she requested that they give their feedback.

https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/wandsworthecs/wandsworth-common-18/consult_view/

A resident added that where cycling was prohibited this should be applied to all ages and enforced. Councillor Mrs Tracey responded that young children needed a safe environment to cycle.

7.Trinity Road Central Reservation Landscaping

A resident complimented the Council on the new landscaping on the central reservation on Trinity Road (near Wandsworth Bridge), he also added that in respect of the earlier question regarding skips that his business co-ordinated the arrival, loading and removal of the skip to within a 30-minute timeframe.

8.Construction Management Plan

A resident raised concerns regarding HGV's and vehicle safety around the construction of the new Wandsworth School on Garratt Lane.

Mr O'Donnell explained that this was his particular hobbyhorse and he had been involved in the development of collision avoidance technology and new high-tech safety systems for vehicles using 360 degree cameras that can give drivers three seconds warning of a hazard. This was being rolled out to the Council's vehicle fleet and will be included in the specification required for the Council's contractors, this was above and beyond anything currently required by other organisations.

9. Leaflets

A resident complained that leaflets advertising Fulham Palace had been thrown into front gardens on Winfrith Road. Councillor Govindia suggested that the company whose business was being promoted would be interested to know how their leaflets were being distributed.

10. Overhanging branches on footway in Earlsfield Road

A resident reported that there are low overhanging branches across the pavement on Earlsfield Road near to the station and he had seen a blind person walk into them. Mr Cheung undertook to inspect the road after the meeting.

(Post Meeting Note- Mr. Cheung has issued letters to residents of 5 properties along Earlsfield Road requesting that they remove overhanging vegetation).

11. Local Government Finance

A resident asked if the Council's finance was sound or whether it was in danger of bankruptcy as recently reported at Surrey County Council. Councillor Govindia responded that the Council was still able to offer a low council tax and collect refuse every week. Councillor Heaster added that local government finance was an interesting subject, and that central Government had cut more from Local Government than the NHS and Local Government was feeling the strain but it also depended on how it was managed. Councillor Mrs Clay added that most of the Council's spend was on adult social services providing for care for the elderly and disabled and she was proud that this Council will look after you.

Housing Issues

12. Overhanging shrub

A resident who lived next door to a Council property complained that there was foliage overhanging their property from the neighbouring Council property. However, they had been told that as it is a shrub and not a tree that the Council couldn't do anything to remove it or cut it back and it was the responsibility of the tenant. Mr Byrne undertook to discuss further with the resident after the meeting. Councillor Heaster pointed out that Age Concern could provide volunteers to undertake gardening tasks for the elderly.

(Post Meeting Note- Order has been raised for the shrub to be removed by Council contractors on 7/3/18.)

Waste Services

13.Praise

Earlier during the meeting, a resident had praised the Council's waste services team, she added that reported fly tips were removed by the following day, two further residents complimented the service, one said that the service she received in Wandsworth was the envy of her friends across the Country and another said that the recycling service was amazing apart from one small criticism in that they didn't collect food waste.

14.Basement Flooding

A resident reported that her basement had been flooded with sewage and although Thames Water had kept her updated regarding the situation she asked if Planning Officers considered the depths of existing sewers when giving permission for basement flats. Councillor Govindia confirmed that this was a consideration when granting planning permission and Thames Water were consulted as part of the process. However, this particular incident had been caused by a collapsed sewer.

End of Meeting

Each of the Councillors thanked the residents for attending the meeting, Councillor Mrs Tracey added that they had made some good points and these will be given consideration by Councillors and officers. Councillor Govindia thanked Councillor Mrs Clay, Councillor Heaster and Councillor Mrs Tracey, who would not be seeking re-election to Wandsworth Common Ward. Councillor Heaster and Councillor Mrs Tracey were both standing down after a combined service of 100 years which was an incredible record. The audience expressed their gratitude with a round of applause.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm

Gareth Jones – Democratic Services

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