

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
FURZEDOWN WARD “LET’S TALK” MEETING

St Alban’s Church SW16

Tuesday, 16th October 2018 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Council Members

Councillor L. Cooper (Furzedown Ward Member)
Councillor Gasser (Furzedown Ward Member)
Councillor Govindia, Leader of the Council (Chairman)
Councillor Hogg, Leader of the Opposition
Councillor Jones (Furzedown Ward Member)

Council Officers

Environment and Community Services Department

Mr Henry Cheung - Inspection & Enforcement
Mr Nick O'Donnell - Traffic and Engineering
Mr Nigel Granger - Planning, Area Team Manager
Mr Camillus Donnelly - Network Management

Housing and Regeneration Department

Ms Maria Gillies – Head of Operations

Chief Executive's Group

Ms Lorinda Freint – Business and Enterprise Manager
Ms Antoinette Duhaney - Democratic Services
Mr Gareth Jones - Democratic Services
Ms Anna Sadler – Community Engagement
Mr Jonathon St Clair Smith – Community Engagement

Education and Children's Services Department

Mr Adam Wells - Pupil Services

Residents

Approximately 90 members of the public were present.

Introduction

The Chairman, welcomed residents and explained the format of the meeting. Councillors and officers in attendance then introduced themselves. A summary of the questions and comments from residents and responses are detailed below.

1. Housing issues

Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) – concerns were raised in respect of HMOs which were not fit for purpose, evidence of which had been provided to the Council by ward members and had featured in the national news.

Response-The Chairman gave an undertaking that the Council would explore legal powers that could be used to address the concerns raised.

Gypsies and Travellers – concerns were raised about proposals to seek a blanket injunction to prevent unauthorised incursions and that the Council should provide more caravan pitches.

Response-The Chairman reported that the Council had agreed to seek a Borough-wide injunction to protect parks and open spaces from unauthorised incursions. Neighbouring Boroughs (Croydon, Sutton) had gone down this route and if the Council did not act, there was a risk of displacement from neighbouring Boroughs in to Wandsworth.

Ward members expressed concern that this action was discriminatory and felt that negotiated stopping was the preferred option.

2. Waste Management issues

Flytipping/littering

Mitcham Lane (by Sainsburys) – persistent flytipping allegedly from residents residing above the shops on Mitcham Lane. Inadequate provision by landlords for waste storage/disposal.

Residents raised concerns and reported that flytipping was a daily occurrence and flytippers were not deterred by cameras. In cases where bins had been removed from the highway, waste was left at these locations.

It was noted that concerns had been raised at a recent Community Services and Open Spaces Scrutiny Committee that although efforts would be made to educate residents and increase enforcement, no additional resources had been made available.

Flytipping was a concern in and away from town centres and it was felt that landlords should be obliged to provide adequate waste storage facilities for their tenants.

Other points raised:-

- CCTV domed camera casings which mask the direction that cameras are pointing was required to deter/identify flytippers.

- The Council should reinstate bins which had been removed from the public highway.
- The Council should provide extra resources to fund initiatives such as providing removal of bulky waste annually and use roving skips for residents to dispose of bulky waste.

Response- The Council had leverage in respect of waste storage provision for new developments and conversions. However, the Council had less powers in the case of historical HMOs and the Council had to rely on enforcement. The Council was driving behavioural change, but CCTV was used mainly to identify vehicles used to transport flytipped waste. Where no vehicles were involved, the Council relied on evidence in flytipped waste to identify where it had come from. Wherever possible, the Council did take enforcement action and would install temporary CCTV at known flytipping hotspots. Video evidence or witness statements were also welcomed.

The Chairman gave an undertaking that the Council would explore legal powers that could be used to address the concerns raised.

(Post meeting note:- the Council are looking at options for procuring new deployable cameras which will be more discreet, in the meantime a second deployable camera will be installed in Thrale Road.)

Alleyway adjacent to 4 Thrale Road – flytips reported six weeks ago had yet to be removed. Residents expressed concerns that this was hazardous, and that the Council could resolve the issues by taking ownership of this land through a compulsory purchase order. More robust signage was suggested to warn against flytipping.

Ward members sought clarification on the response times for removal of flytips and suggested that the Council should undertake robust contract monitoring and penalise contractors/withhold payment if the contractual obligations for removing flytips were not being met.

Response- There was a 24-hour turnaround for clearing flytipped waste from the public highway. Officers were happy to investigate incidents of flytipping if evidence was provided and regular monitoring was undertaken by Street Cleansing Operatives. Unfortunately, the Council was not responsible for any waste left on private land.

(Post meeting note:- The Council will seek to install lockable gates preventing access to the alleyway and provide keys for those with a right of access.)

Kettering Street – additional bins were more cost effective than sending out vehicles daily to clear flytips.

North Drive/Tooting Bec Road – the area of common land between North Drive and Tooting Bec Road was overgrown, used for flytipping and anti-social behaviour, it was also infested with rats.

Response- This will be reported to the Council's contractor (Enable) to investigate and take appropriate action.

(Post meeting note:- Inspected on 7th November, the area close to West Drive was found to have a fair amount of litter coverage along the rear section (North Drive side) this is being removed by the sub-contractor (Idverde) with a completion of midday 8th November. The remaining area is clear of litter. No fly tips were found, however, whilst the officer was walking back along North Drive towards Tooting Track a couple of rats were seen so this will be discussed with Pest Control in the coming days.

3. Traffic Management issues

Traffic Management and Petitions – A resident raised concerns that until recently, the Council did not track the progress of petitions, there had been no response to a petition submitted in 2013 for road safety improvements to Mitcham Lane, other issues raised were:-

- Aldrington Road – speeding vehicles on narrow road with no obvious speed limit signage.
- Fernthorpe Road/Fallsbrook Road – 1-hour CPZ controls required to prevent commuter parking.
- Southcroft Road – no current restrictions - CPZ required.
- North Drive/South Drive – parking controls required to prevent rat running.

Response- Before a CPZ can be introduced, residents were required to petition the Council to demonstrate that the majority of residents, likely to be affected, supported a CPZ. The necessary parking investigations would then be carried out. Regular Community Speedwatch monitoring took place and the Council was exploring direct measures for speed enforcement.

Information on how to petition for a CPZ is available on the Council's website.

Submitting a petition

<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/petitions>

(Post meeting note:-The petitioner has received an apology and an update on the proposals. Phase 1 improvements have been implemented and we are now moving forward in undertaking further feasibility work on future potential phased improvements along Mitcham Lane.)

The Chairman reported that Merton Council had extended its CPZs and parking had therefore been displaced into Wandsworth. The new petition tracker would make it easier to monitor the Council's response to petitions.

Parking consultation CPZ information

http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200459/parking_zones/458/parking_consultations

4. Other Highways Issues

Request to upgrade the zebra crossing to a pelican by Southcroft Road/Mitcham Lane.

Response- This junction is included in an upcoming road safety study and upgrading the crossing facilities will be included as part of this.

Thrale Road Highway works – residents were pleased but a number of issues are outstanding.

Response- The Council will be carrying out carriageway resurfacing to the junction area. However, Thrale Road is also included in the resurfacing planned maintenance programme and works are expected to commence on 25th October 2018, along with the remainder of Thrale Road. Mitcham Lane required a 3-month notice/permit and Section 58 Notice, this is programmed for commencement in January/February 2019 after which all works will be complete.

Left turn off Mitcham Lane into Thrale Road and the narrowness of the inside lane and implications for road safety.

Response- Officers advised that they had visited the site before this meeting and appreciated the concerns raised. It was suggested that this site be audited and in the interim to alter road markings pending the outcome of a General Road Safety Stage 3 Audit.

Where are Levenson Street and North Drive ranked on the pavement renewal programme.

Response- Levenson Street is ranked 215 and North Drive ranked 658 on the Condition Index rating list. Neither are on the 2018/19 programme but can be considered for future years.

Request to narrow the exit from Westcote Road onto Mitcham Lane.

Response- Officers will investigate this further.

5. Social Care/Health Issues

Care Assessments Backlog – Lengthy delays for undertaking care assessments which was escalated when the Council was threatened with legal action. The Council is not fulfilling its obligations.

Poor Mental Health Support – There is a lack of support for vulnerable people with mental health issues.

Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) – Lengthy delays in agreeing EHCP for child with dyslexia, dyspraxia and sensory disability which was not issued until this matter was escalated by a ward member and legal action was threatened.

Children's Services – The opposition leader stated that the poor Ofsted rating was a low moment for the Council. The Children's Services budget had overspent by £6.5m in 2017/18 and was projecting an overspend of £4.5m for 2018/19. The former director had been paid a generous severance package and two thirds of staff were on agency/casual contracts. SEN funding had been reduced leading to lengthy delays in issuing EHCPs and 60% of EHCP appeals were upheld.

Response- The Chairman stated that the significant number of agency Social Care Staff was not unique to Wandsworth with many Social Workers opting for agency employment. There was a London wide agreement to standardise pay grades to avoid staff being poached by higher paying employers but not all Councils had signed up to this agreement.

Drug and Alcohol Misuse Support – how was the Council supporting vulnerable people and preventing young people from getting caught up in this lifestyle.

Response- An officer covering these services was not present but further information can be found on the Council's website-

http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200354/drug_and_alcohol_action_team/410/drug_and_alcohol_action_team

Furzedown Project – More support for elders is needed. The project was seeking to purchase a building lease for 93 Moyser Road and more support should be given to the voluntary sector.

Response- The Chairman advised that he had raised the matter with the Borough Valuer and in principle did not oppose the purchase of the lease.

6. Licensing Issues

Café at 114 Mitcham Lane – Concerns were raised in respect of the behaviour of patrons. Complaints had been made to the licensing team, but the premises were unlicensed.

Response- The Chairman advised that in the case of licensed premises, there was a clear process for making a complaint or requesting a review of licensed premises.

http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200293/alcohol_entertainment_and_late_night_refreshment_licences/1616/representations_reviews_complaints_and_appeals/4

However, as this was not the case in this instance, anti-social behaviour would be a matter for police intervention.

(Post meeting note: there are currently no licensing issues regarding these premises. If the premises are causing a nuisance then residents can call the out of hours noise service and officers can witness what is happening and then pass the information to the relevant bodies. Noise team can be contacted on: 0208 871 6127.)

CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman thanked residents for attending the meeting and invited them to stay and speak further with Councillors and officers about matters they had raised or to ask any questions that they had not been able to during the open part of the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

Gareth Jones 020 8871 7520
gareth.jones@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk