

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
EAST PUTNEY WARD “LET’S TALK” MEETING
St Stephen’s Church, Manfred Road, SW15 2RS

Thursday, 6th December 2018 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Council Members

Councillor Senior (Cabinet Member, Finance and Corporate Resources)
Councillor Crivelli (East Putney Ward Member)
Councillor Hogg (Leader of the Opposition)

Council Officers

Chief Executive’s Group

Ms Sophie Bimson – Community Engagement Manager
Ms Lorinda Freint – Business and Enterprise Manager
Mr Andrew Jolly – Community Safety Officer
Mr Gareth Jones - Democratic Services
Mr Jonathon St Clair Smith – Community Engagement
Ms Rachel Williamson – Democratic Services Manager

Children’s Services Department

Mr Adam Wells - Pupil Services

Environment and Community Services Department

Mr Henry Cheung – Head of Inspection & Enforcement
Mr Nick O’Donnell – Assistant Director (Traffic and Engineering)
Ms Elen Richards – Area Team Manager West Team (Development Manager)
Mr Michael Singham – Waste Strategy Manager
Mr David Tidley – Transport Strategy Manager

Housing and Regeneration Department

Ms Sharron Lecky – Area Housing Manager

A sign language interpreter was present at the meeting.

Residents

Approximately 14 members of the public were present.

Introduction

The Chairman welcomed residents and gave apologies from the Leader of the Council who regrettably has suffered a family bereavement and is therefore unable to attend. Councillor Binder is also unable to attend as she is away on business. The Chairman then 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.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Parking and HGVs

Carlton Drive being used as a short-cut, particularly by HGVs. There is a restriction of 7.5 tonnes, but it does not appear that this is being enforced.

Councillor Crivelli replied, explaining that it was a perennial problem that HGVs rat-run. He commented that it can be difficult to catch them in the act, but if residents are able to capture the license plate details, this will enable action to be taken.

Nick O'Donnell explained that installing a permanent camera would be very expensive, but the Council had some mobile cameras which can be deployed where there are particular issues. The difficulty with this type of camera is that playback is very slow, making it difficult for officers to review footage over a long period. Residents can assist officers in locating the relevant footage by reporting the times they witness such infractions. The resident was then advised to provide Mr. O'Donnell with further details after the meeting so that he could follow up.

Councillor Crivelli spoke more generally about the difficulties of enforcement, for example, where there are 20mph zones, where increased enforcement is needed – The Community Roadwatch scheme was important and had achieved recent success operating in Chartfield Avenue, but enforcement needed to be ramped up.

http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200107/transport/2129/road_safety_education_and_training

East Putney Underground

Several issues connected to East Putney Underground Station were raised.

Lifts – A resident commented that the station urgently needs a lift or escalator to improve access for elderly and disabled people.

Councillor Crivelli agreed that a lift would be hugely beneficial, and he had raised this with TfL who advised that installation of a lift would cost approximately £15 million. He would be going back to TfL to discuss this further, particularly in view of the new housing developments in the area which has led to increasing numbers of people using the station.

David Tidley indicated that one of the challenges at East Putney is that two lifts would be required due to the platform configuration. With the current financial

position of TfL they may not see this as a priority. The Council has developer contributions to support access improvements, but these are currently insufficient to extend to a lift.

Cyclists - The footbridge over the railway on Keswick Road has signage indicating cyclists must dismount, but this rule is frequently flouted.

On cyclists dismounting, Councillor Crivelli noted this was difficult to enforce.

Pedestrians - Keswick Road is busy with pedestrians, particularly around 7.30 am, as East Putney is the last station in Zone 2 people walk to the station from some distance away to get lower priced tickets.

Councillor Crivelli advised that TfL had a plan to improve the station forecourt to make it more pedestrian and commuter friendly. A resident explained that many commuters walked to the station from the direction of Wandsworth Town not because of lower fares but because East Putney was their nearest tube station.

Littering - A number of passengers leave the station with snacks, drinks and crisps and litter local gardens. This issue was raised with the Council previously and it was advised that the litter bins had been removed to encourage people to take litter home.

On littering, Councillor Crivelli suggested fixed penalty notices were probably the best approach.

Michael Singham reported that Council policy was to provide litter bins where daily cleansing takes place, such as in town centres. This is because the same contractor that is responsible for street cleansing empties the bins, which is efficient. Keswick Road is unlikely to be on a daily cleaning schedule, which means that either the bin would overflow during the week or would require a costly arrangement to empty the bin daily. Nevertheless, Mr Singham undertook to take this issue back to his colleague.

(Post meeting note: - Keswick Rd and the footbridge are both scheduled for once weekly sweeping on Wednesdays.)

Frequency and Capacity of Underground Services – Could the frequency or capacity of tube services be improved due to the increasing number of residents in the locality.

Councillor Crivelli said he would welcome increased capacity on the tube and he was happy to raise this with TfL who are responsible.

Littering

A resident reported the bin outside Ashcroft Technology Academy has been removed and that waste in her garden had increased since the removal of the bin.

Mr Singham took a note of the issue raised and undertook to feedback the resident's concerns to see if the bin provision at this location can be reconsidered.

(Post meeting note: - The litter bins on Portinscale Road specifically to service Ashcroft Academy, were removed at the request of the school as they were attracting repeated fly tipping.)

Councillor Hogg reported that bins had been removed from across the Borough and problems with litter had got worse.

Traffic

What progress is there with closing off Sutherland Grove in the morning?

Nick O'Donnell reported a West Hill Traffic Study had been undertaken and this was reported to Committee in June. A number of options were considered to keep more traffic on the A3, but a right-turn ban at Sutherland Grove was not included as part of the recommendations. This can be looked at this again during the experimental phase of the scheme.

A resident of Colebrook Close reported that residents living near the A3 find it difficult to access Putney due to traffic management measures which include a number of right-turn restrictions. She urged officers to consider their needs when coming up with traffic management proposals.

Nick O'Donnell advised that in developing a traffic management scheme officers look at the origin and destination data and review which trips are local and which are people passing through the area. Officers are aware of concerns about the localised restriction. Representations can be made in the first six months and adjustments to the scheme can be made.

Another resident raised the issue of traffic on Keswick Road close to the junction with the Upper Richmond Road and near Sainsbury's and the lack of regard car drivers have for pedestrians trying to cross the road.

Councillor Crivelli noted the resident's concerns and advised there were requirements for where a pedestrian crossing can be located, usually away from junctions.

Rail Bridge

A resident raised concerns about the pavement under the railway bridge being slippery and dirty.

Councillor Crivelli agreed this area needed improvement and advised that a plan is being brought forward to revamp the area. The other issue is the narrowness of the pavement which it is hoped could be widened. We would also like uplighting to make it more attractive at night.

Section 106 Monies/Community Infrastructure Levy(CIL)

A resident raised the issue of Section 106/CIL monies and why they were not being spent to improve the environment for local residents in the East Putney area. Schemes have been undertaken at Earlsfield Station and residents in East Putney would welcome a similar scheme.

David Tidley advised that the Earlsfield Station scheme was more straightforward as the Council are responsible for Garratt Lane, unlike Upper Richmond Road which was a red route and came under TfL's control.

South Western Railway

David Tidley reported that the new South Western franchise includes additional services at Putney but the implementation has been placed on hold following the major problems earlier in the year when other franchises attempted to make major changes - Thameslink, etc.

Wandsworth One Way System

A resident sought an update on planned changes to the Wandsworth one-way system.

Councillor Senior reported that the Council has identified a considerable sum of money, around £27.5 million, to develop a scheme but TfL had not been very responsive. There were some complications with delivering any scheme, as some properties would need to be purchased in order for a two-way system to be implemented.

Councillor Hogg noted all sides recognised the one-way system was a problem and the issue had dragged on for too long, leading to the money set aside losing value over time. There may come a point where the money should be used to fund other schemes such as those identified at this meeting.

Heathrow Airport

A resident objected to Council money being wasted opposing the third runway at Heathrow Airport. There had been a number of reports highlighting the benefits of a third runway, and Putney was unlikely to be impacted significantly as the new runway was further north than the existing runways and modern planes are quieter. The only ones likely to benefit from the Council's legal action are the lawyers.

Councillor Crivelli said the vast majority of Putney residents are against the expansion of Heathrow in general, not least due to the environmental impact. He favoured the scheme to expand Gatwick as this would not have the same environmental impact as fewer properties would have to be bulldozed.

Councillor Hogg explained that both parties agree that the expansion of Heathrow is not desirable.

Councillor Senior advised that the costs of the legal action are being shared across a consortium of councils. He added that it was difficult for the Council as that the plans of Heathrow Airport Limited are not clear and keep changing.

The resident advised that the need to expand Heathrow in particular was because of the availability of connecting flights.

Councillor Senior advised that the number of people transferring flights at Heathrow has dropped from 12% to 8% due to increasing availability of point-to-point travel. Councillor Senior was happy to share this data with the resident.

Parking

A resident reported that parking restrictions were not being adequately enforced, with white vans being parked on yellow lines, in some cases whilst drivers rest.

Nick O'Donnell reported that there is an enforcement number which can be telephoned (020 8871 8871). We can then identify hotspots. A van driver is allowed to park on a yellow line for a delivery for a limited period.

Another resident said she had raised this and there was an enforcement blitz, but the road had not been enforced since.

Nick O'Donnell advised the resident to report this again so that further enforcement action could be taken.

Open Spaces and Office Spaces Within Developments

A resident reported that the area had not improved with the new developments along Upper Richmond Road, as the premises occupied on the ground floor had no street presence, lighting or greenery and the open spaces were empty. The street scene was not being animated by the development as promised.

Councillor Crivelli understood the concerns but explained this was partly related to the nature of the business who were occupying the buildings as they are not retail focussed.

The resident questioned if there was a different policy in Thamesfield as the Ward appeared to benefit from more sympathetic developments.

Ms Richards explained that the developments along Upper Richmond Road were required to be mixed usage. However, the eventual usage relies to some extent on market forces, with the market being less buoyant in recent years.

Idling Cars

A resident reported that many parents leave their cars idling outside Ashcroft Technology Academy whilst they are waiting to pick their children up.

Councillor Crivelli reported that there had been a similar problem at Putney High School at pick up time. The Council spoke to the school about re-educating parents, but also about encouraging more pupils to use public transport or to walk or cycle to school. The school also have a 'name and shame' policy to discourage idling. Councillor Crivelli then suggested as an initial step the Council should start a conversation with Ashcroft Technology Academy, as they are likely to be sympathetic to these concerns.

Nick O'Donnell advised that under the 2002 Regulations the Council can issue a fixed penalty for idling of £20. Parking enforcement officers must warn the driver first and if they comply by switching their engine off a fine is not issued.

Granville Road/St. Michael's CE Primary School

A resident raised the issue of traffic volumes on Granville Road which were increasing which was concerning because at the same time the school crossing patrol had been removed.

Councillor Crivelli was aware of the issue and had discussed this with Anne-Marie Grant, the Headteacher of St. Michael's CE Primary School, and there had been some suggestion that a zebra crossing in the area may be a solution. This is something he would like to look at further.

Nick O'Donnell confirmed that the need for a zebra crossing at this location was being reviewed.

Putney High Street

A resident reported that there are too many licensed gambling shops and hairdressing salons on Putney High Street.

Another resident complained about the large number of people causing obstruction by the bus stop outside WH Smith and the lack of queuing etiquette while waiting for buses.

Councillor Crivelli noted that the High Street nationally is in crisis as people increasingly shop out of town and online. Therefore, the Council was looking at a number of initiatives to improve the attractiveness of the High Street, such as establishing Business Improvement Districts, etc. The problem with large number of passengers queuing at this location was due to the number of routes served by this stop.

Deaf Awareness

A resident questioned the deaf awareness in the community, such as in railway stations and tube stations where tannoy announcements are made about train cancellations, but this information is not made available to deaf passengers. In GPs and hospitals there is a lack of visual signage to assist deaf people. It is similarly difficult because of the noise levels on crowded trains for deaf people to travel to

Gatwick and Heathrow. The resident thought it would be good to have separate trains for the airport.

Councillor Crivelli asked the resident to let him know if there is anything Wandsworth Council can do in terms of its facilities for deaf residents.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman thanked residents for attending the meeting and Councillor Crivelli urged residents to contact him by email or attend one of the local surgeries.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

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

Questions/issues pre-submitted and not otherwise raised at the meeting

Objection to brightness of new LED street lamps and installation without consultation.

Response - *There is no consultation requirement with regard to maintenance programmes, which this is. The LED lights are increasingly being used for street lighting as they are more energy efficient and provide better lighting quality. The borough wide roll out will cut £400,000 a year off the council's electricity bill, plus savings in bulb replacement costs. Over 25 years, Wandsworth is expected to save £11m. The lights use around 50 per cent less energy, have lower running costs and last an average of 25 years, compared to about six years for traditional bulbs. They are designed to produce the same lighting levels as the existing bulbs but are dimmed for a pre-set period on residential roads while still remaining bright enough for roads to remain safe. We have fitted a light guard outside the resident's home who raised the question and an officer will conduct a further inspection to see if there is anything further than be done."*

What is being done to improve the appearance of Putney High Street, which in turn may attract more business?

Response: *"Following consultation, a range of projects have been approved to improve the public realm and air quality in the High Street. The work will start in 2019 and include:*

- *Reduction of speed on the High Street from 30mph to 20mph*
- *Widening of pavements on the eastern side of the High Street by around 2m and the carriageway narrowed to give pedestrians greater comfort and priority*

- *A crossing at the junction of the High Street with Lacy Road with raised levels and promotion of diagonal crossing to give pedestrians greater priority*
- *Improved crossing at the junction where Putney Bridge Road meets the High Street including the removal of the cramped pedestrian refuge to create one single crossing across Putney Bridge Road*
- *Guardrail removal to be replaced by planters and new trees on the eastern side of the High Street*
- *Improved cycle parking on the High Street*
- *Relocation of the taxi rank outside the station to Upper Richmond Road and to a curb side space on the High Street south of Disraeli Road. Freeing up the rank in the middle of the High Street will help to reduce congestion and pollution by easing traffic flows*
- *Architectural lighting and green walls where possible with cooperation of building owners*

We believe that improving the air quality and public realm will make the High Street more attractive to new businesses. The Putney Business Improvement District is also working on initiatives to improve the High Street e.g. covering empty shops with attractive vinyls, extra cleaning and working with landlords to attract new commercial tenants.”

Problems ordering/receiving recycling bags

Response; *Households receiving this service should receive clear recycling sack deliveries twice a year. A single request for more sacks should result in a delivery to your doorstep within 1-10 days.*

Households that use large communal wheeled bins for their refuse are not eligible to receive clear recycling sacks. The service we supply to these premises is based on using large wheeled recycling banks with orange lids.

Where clear recycling sacks are delivered to a communal front door and or a front door which opens directly onto the pavement, there is a much higher than normal risk that they are taken by someone other than the person/household that requested them. We are looking at whether we can reduce or resolve this issue using flat-pack sacks which would fit through most letter boxes.

In future, if a single request for recycling sacks does not result in a delivery within 1-10 days and neither of the above points applies to your property, I would encourage you to log a related complaint (choosing “Refuse and Recycling Collection (report a problem)” on the web form). If that doesn’t result in a delivery the next day, you may wish to instigate the Council’s complaints procedure (see:

http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200310/about_the_council/34/making_a_complaint).

Would stencilling “20” in white circles on the road help educate drivers & slow them down?

Response: *There has been an overall reduction in average speeds in the Borough and this will be reported to February’s Strategic Planning and Transportation Overview and Scrutiny Committee. If further traffic calming measures are required, this will be considered on an individual basis where there is sufficient evidence of continued speeding issues.*

Too much littering in the ward, overflowing bins. Does the Council think it might be time to increase how often the bins are emptied and how often the streets are swept? Request to power wash the streets.

Response: *The existing policy of only providing litter bins in streets scheduled for daily sweeping and only scheduling these bins to be emptied at the same time the streets are swept ensures that the litter bin service is provided as cost-effectively as possible. The additional cost of scheduling them to be emptied at other times would be comparatively high and the Council has no plans to change this. Should you wish to lobby it to do so, please raise this directly with your ward Councillors in the first instance. It may be more cost-effective and practicable to install a second litter bin in locations where a single bin tends to overflow regularly within 7 days of being emptied. Should you wish to pursue this, please confirm the litter bin locations to Sharon Wright, Waste Contracts Manager (Sharon.wright@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk).*

Sweeping streets, paths and footbridges more frequently: Existing street cleansing frequencies are intended to ensure that public highways are kept acceptably clean and monitoring data indicates that this is the case over 97% of the time. Cleansing frequencies can only be increased at significant cost unless there is a corresponding decrease elsewhere and the Council currently has no plans to significantly alter current arrangements. Current priorities for the Council in this area include commitments that “Every residential street will be swept at least once a week” and to “Clean busiest streets and town centres up to six times a day, seven days a week”. Should you wish to lobby the Council to make significant changes to street cleansing frequencies, please raise this directly with your ward Councillors in the first instance. Having said this, it is also possible that litter issues at quieter locations such as footbridges could result from scheduled sweeping being missed or not being completed to an acceptable standard. If and where you believe that is the case, please report this (using this form: <https://wasteservices.wandsworth.gov.uk/live/public-access/>) to prompt remedial action by the end of the next day. You can also use this form to request one-off additional cleansing of streets where, through no fault of the contractor, a street has become unacceptably littered days before the next scheduled sweep is due.”

The Council’s street cleansing services provide a thorough sweep for all streets adopted as public highway at least once weekly and six times daily in busy town centres. These services remove all litter, rubbish, fouling, small fly tips (up to 2 cubic metres) plus leaves, grit, stones, and any weeds over 10cm high. Additionally, the services include pavement washing under bridges to remove pigeon fouling which can otherwise become a slippery hazard. The additional expense of providing scheduled pavement washing services is not considered to represent good value for money for local Council Tax payers.
