

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**TOOTING WARD “LET’S TALK” MEETING**

**Held at Fairlight Christian Centre, 52 Fairlight Road, SW17, on Tuesday, 5 December 2017 at 7.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

**Council Members**

Tooting Ward Members: Councillors Critchard, Daley and White.

Councillor Govindia leader of the Council (in the chair)

Councillor Hogg leader of the Opposition

**Council Officers**

**Environment and Community Services Department**

Mr. Henry Cheung - Head of Inspection & Enforcement  
Mr. Nick O'Donnell – Assistant Director Traffic and Engineering  
Mr. Nigel Granger – Planning Area Team Manager  
Mr. Mike Singham – Waste Strategy Manager  
Mr. Camillus Donnelly – Head of Network Management

**Housing and Regeneration Department**

Mr. Martin Byrne – Area Housing Manager

**Chief Executive's Group**

Ms. Thayyiba Shaah – Democratic Services  
Mr. Gareth Jones - Democratic Services  
Mr. Matt Maher – Head of Community and Partnerships  
Ms. Lorinda Freint – Business and Enterprise Manager  
Mr. Andrew Jolly - Community Safety Officer

**Residents**

Approximately 40 members of the public.

**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.

Councillor Critchard informed the residents that the meeting was being streamed live on Facebook by “Tooting Daily Prss” so to be mindful of this when asking questions. A resident queried the positioning of the camera and asserted that she did not wish to be filmed, the Chairman confirmed that the camera was fixed and pointing in the direction of the Councillors and officers and not at the audience.

The Chairman then invited questions and comments from the residents’.

## **ISSUES, RESPONSES AND ACTION**

### **Traffic Issues**

**1. An increasing problem with speeding vehicles on Broadwater and Fishponds Road, including skip lorries speeding over road humps causing noise nuisance. Banning traffic on Fishponds Road (between Gatton and Broadwater Road). Mandrake Road being used as a “rat run” causing congestion and often resulting in driver altercations.**

Councillor Critchard indicated that Transport for London (TfL) funding was available for a major scheme to improve safety and traffic movements around Tooting Broadway and that should also benefit some of the side roads including Fishponds and Broadwater Road. More publicity on the proposals would be released after the election in May 2018.

Councillor Daley explained that a previous petition from Mandrake Road residents resulted in proposals that were not particularly desirable and consequently didn’t achieve the necessary support from residents.

Mr. O’Donnell explained that the Council had a “Local Implementation Plan” that was drawn up every 3 years and funded by TfL and covered traffic corridors such as Garratt Lane and neighbourhoods (made up of a number of local streets). Within these identified corridors and neighbourhoods, the Council looks at various issues such as traffic volume, speeds, congestion and accident statistics to determine what action needs to be taken. Individual road requests are covered by the Council’s Traffic Management policy. However, because of the increasing number of requests received and many of these not revealing major issues (therefore committing a lot of officer time and resources), the cases had to be prioritised and the necessary support level for a petition from residents in the roads had been increased from 25% to 51%.

He added that Mandrake Road had not met the necessary traffic management intervention criteria based on low volume, low speeds and very few accident statistics. Nonetheless, officers did put forward a proposal to provide passing spaces which the residents could not all agree on, so this had been put on hold. An extension of the current CPZ operating times is instead being progressed first. The Broadwater Road resident invited officers to come and sit down with him in his home for an hour to see how bad the problem was. Mr. O’Donnell added that the traffic team received approximately 300 requests a year for interventions on local roads and have a very limited budget which had to be prioritised to ensure best value.

Based on the information provided, Mr. O'Donnell advised the resident he would need to submit a petition as per the Council's Traffic Management Policy. Mr. O'Donnell suggested one possible option could be the introduction of a 3.5 tonne lorry ban which would only cost a few thousand pounds to implement to cover the necessary Traffic Management Order and signage.

Councillor Daley suggested that more resources were needed and that he appreciated the processes involved but no progress had been made.

In response to a question from a resident employed by a local school bus operator regarding her concerns that a lorry ban would prevent them from picking up special needs pupils from their homes, Mr. O'Donnell clarified that the Council's existing lorry ban areas have an exemption for key trips such as a school bus pick up and the Chairman reiterated this point.

## 2. Preventing Cycling on pavements.

Councillor Daley would take this up with the Safer Neighbourhood Team, the Police did have the power to fine cyclists riding on pavements and he would take the residents details at the end of the meeting.

(Action – Councillor Daley)

## 3. Traffic Signs on Brenda Road, Mandrake Road, Noyna Road and Fircroft Road, Parking in Garratt Terrace and Community Speedwatch.

In response to questions regarding signposting on the above roads to give priority to vehicles going uphill (or downhill), Mr. O'Donnell said he would need to look into it further and the relevant highway legislation.

## Parking problems in Garratt Terrace especially at weekends.

Councillor Critchard informed residents that Community Speedwatch would be taking place this Friday at 3pm in Glenburnie Road corner of Beechcroft Road and that residents were welcome to come along, they could also email Councillors to suggest streets for future Community Speedwatch locations – a resident added that Derinton Road suffered from vehicles speeding, as well as double parking and congestion.

## 4. Youth Opportunities

A resident expressed concern at the lack of after school provision and opportunities for older children following the closure of Shaftesbury Young People Education Centre in Upper Tooting Road, the Chairman responded that a children's services officer could not be present at the meeting because of preparations for an Ofsted inspection but would find out why the centre had shut.

(Post meeting note – the centre was run by a voluntary sector organisation and despite requests they have not responded to explain why the centre in Tooting had closed. Local Secondary and Primary Schools in the area offer a range of different after school activities and parents can check their child's school website to see what is available.)

## Waste Management

### 5. Weeds

In response to questions, Mr. Singham explained that weeds over 10cm high should be cleared as part of the scheduled sweeping service and that weeds are treated twice annually with contact weed killer. Councillor Critchard suggested that operatives working for the Council across different services should be integrated when it came to reporting and dealing with on-street issues. The Chairman didn't disagree but it was pointed out that if they were all doing their individual jobs correctly then the problems shouldn't arise.

In response to a resident reporting that the gardens in Kenlor Road had recently been treated for Japanese Knotweed and her concern that this may have spread in to the neighbouring Lambeth Cemetery, the Chairman asked Mr. Jones to ensure that Lambeth Council were informed.

(Action – Mr. Jones)

(Post meeting – Lambeth Cemeteries and Crematoria Service were informed and carried out an inspection of their boundaries and reported that they did not have any knotweed present in the cemetery.)

### 6. Road Markings

In response to the issue of faded road markings and incorrectly marked box junctions, Mr. O'Donnell indicated that these matters can quickly be resolved and he would speak to the resident at the end of the meeting.

(Action – Mr. O'Donnell)

(Post meeting – list of areas affected received and being investigated)

7. Fly-tipping and assault on young girl in car park on the Hazelhurst Estate, this area had previously had a deployable CCTV camera which had successfully deterred fly-tipping and it was felt would have also prevented the assault (op Whitchurch Court). Foss Road parking

Councillor Daley urged residents to keep emailing details of fly-tips and photos to the Council and copy in their ward Councillors. Councillor Critchard explained that Foss Road was not part of the estate but adopted highway and had no parking restrictions and was consequently taken advantage of by staff from St George's Hospital. Mr. O'Donnell said he would take the resident's details and arrange a walkabout with Councillors, housing officers and residents on the estate, he added that the Council now had 1300 CCTV cameras across Borough. In addition, the Council has a small number of deployable cameras which can be effective in dealing with anti-social behaviour and localised issues. More are on order and one can be deployed on the estate temporarily.

Mr. Byrne added that the cleaning contractor had been made aware that Foss Road is public highway and he would ask Estate Services to monitor the situation daily and look at reinstating the deployable camera.

(Action – Mr. O'Donnell/Mr.Byrne)

(Post meeting - Deployable camera on order and wider parking issues/de-adoption clarified.)

8. Littering and dog mess on Fountain, Pevensey and Kemsley Road, broken glass not cleared for 3 weeks and no bins for dog waste. Noise nuisance from road sweeping. Council's Telephony.

Mr. Singham informed the residents that both the glass and dog mess should be cleared when the street is swept and that all streets are cleaned a minimum of once a week, the earliest start for road sweeping is 6.30am weekdays and 7am weekends and should not disturb residents.

Littering can be reported via the Council's Report it App, or the website, and there is a rapid response within 1-2 hours if the matter is hazardous. In response to a further question as to what residents should do if they did not have web access or a smart phone, Mr. Singham added that they could telephone from a landline.

Councillor Critchard explained that telephoning the Town Hall was not a straightforward matter, the automated system needed to be looked at, it should be a simple and quick process, she suggested that if callers hang on the line and don't select any of the options then it eventually defaults to a human operator (or when prompted say "operator"). The Chairman acknowledged that the system was not perfect and that it was being looked at.

### Planning

9. What has happened to the Sound Lounge, Upper Tooting Road, why no response to an individual objection to the planning application for this site?

Councillor White said that he had visited the Sound Lounge on many occasions, its closure along with other businesses on the site had arisen through no fault of the tenants but because of sub-letting without the landlord's agreement. Alternative locations nearby had been looked at but considered too small, the Mayor's Office had also been involved. The landlord had offered to provide space for the tenants following the redevelopment of the site but this was not likely until after 2020, they also undertook to reimburse £120k that the restaurant had recently spent on a refit, following proof of expenditure.

Mr. Granger explained that Planning officers cannot enter into dialogue with objectors on any given application as there are generally too many objections to planning applications to respond to them individually. The 10-day response time was given as an automated response from the general Planning email address and related to planning enquiries for small scale projects. The Planning and Transport service do include and assess all objections raised to a planning application within a

detailed report for Members of the Planning Applications Committee to consider while making their resolution.

The Chairman explained that the Council had no role in the circumstances that led to the closure of the Sound Lounge.

Councillor Critchard encouraged residents to contact Councillors Daley and White on planning issues as they could speak on their behalf at the Planning Applications Committee.

The resident asked that it be acknowledged that the Sound Lounge had been an extremely valuable and significant contributor to the local community and it had gone.

#### 10. Condition of Pavements

In response to a question on the shocking state of pavements in the area and the resident's observation that the pavements are much better in Earlsfield, Mr. O'Donnell explained that there is a 5 year plan for pavement improvements and, although TfL had withdrawn its funding for TfL roads they were looking at ways of how the budget could be increased, he could not recall when Tooting was scheduled for improvements but he undertook to take the resident's details at the end of the meeting and would let her know where Tooting stood in the 5 year plan.

(Action – Mr. O'Donnell)

(Post meeting - Pavement plan will not be finalised until January 2018)

11. A resident pointed out that street trees need water and that tarmac laid up to the trunk restricted this and caused the roots to rise above the surface.

12. Gilbey Road over development with conversions of roof spaces and gardens into additional flats, increasing pressure on available parking and loss of light

Mr. Granger explained that if the applications complied with planning policy then they had no grounds for refusal, however, they could withhold parking permits for larger developments if there was already a lack of available on-street parking.

13. Homeless mother and son formerly based on a bench outside TK Max now the Post Office, outreach strategy for homeless persons

The Chairman explained that this was a difficult and complicated situation involving all agencies including the Police, Mental Health Services, the Council and Somali Community. Accommodation had been offered and declined by the family he assured the residents that every effort was being made to help them.

#### 14. Street Lighting

In response to a question regarding street lights being switched off after midnight, the Chairman responded that this was not Council policy and the lamps may be broken. Mr. O'Donnell explained that there was a programme of switching over to LED lighting (which have dimming controls) and he would take the resident's details at the end of the meeting and arrange to inspect the light columns.

(Action – Mr. O'Donnell)

(Post meeting – street lighting inspected and no problems reported.)

15. Business parking permits

In response to a question on whether the cost of business parking permits could be reduced to help offset the increase in business rates, the Chairman responded that this was not something being considered but if there was a demand from business owners then it could be looked at.

16. Crossrail

The Chairman added that there was nothing new to report and the dialogue continues, next week the Mayor of London would be meeting the Transport Secretary to look at refreshing the business case and reducing costs. A decision between Tooting or Balham was not expected at this time.

The Chairman brought the meeting to a close and thanked the residents for their contributions, this was repeated by the Ward Councillors and Councillor Hogg.

Residents were reminded to copy in their ward Councillors via email on any issues they had and that they could also come and speak to them at their surgeries held at Tooting Library on Saturday mornings 11am-12am.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

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