

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**ST MARY'S PARK "LET'S TALK" MEETING**  
**ST JOHN BOSCO COLLEGE, PARKHAM STREET, SW11 3DQ**  
**WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2019 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT**

**Council Members**

Councillor Ravi Govindia (Leader of the Council)  
Councillor Mrs Melanie Hampton (St Mary's Park Ward Councillor)  
Councillor Rhodri Morgan (St Mary's Park Ward Councillor)  
Councillor Emily Wintle (St Mary's Park Ward Councillor)  
Councillor Simon Hogg (Leader of the Opposition)

**Council Officers**

Chief Executive's Group

Ms Lorinda Freint – Business and Enterprise Manager  
Ms Anna James – Community Engagement Officer  
Ms Elizabeth Kingdom – Partnership Officer  
Ms Laura Campbell – Democratic Services  
Mr Gareth Jones – Democratic Services

Environment and Community Services Department

Mr Henry Cheung – Head of Engineering  
Mr Nigel Granger - Area Team Manager East Team (Development Management)  
Mr Don Ogunyemi - Senior Network Co-ordinator  
Mr John Scully – Inspection and Enforcement Manager  
Mr Michael Singham – Waste Strategy Manager  
Mr David Tidley - Transport Strategy Team Manager

Housing and Regeneration Department

Mr Tom Crawley – Area Housing Manager  
Mr Ian Ruegg – Head of Development

**Residents**

Approximately 60 members of the public were present.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Leader of the Council 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 provided as follows.

## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

### TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

**No. 19 Bus** – an update was requested in respect of the No.19 bus and TfL's proposals to change the route to only run from Finsbury Park to Holborn where it would then terminate. Councillor Mrs Hampton referred to a petition of 2200 signatures that had been submitted to TfL and the GLA requesting that the current No.19 bus route be retained. TfL had indicated that a decision would be made following the consultation in January, but Councillor Mrs Hampton had not yet been informed and had contacted the Assembly Member that day to ask for a response. Councillor Morgan pointed out that there was also an online version of this petition for residents to sign. Mr Tidley reported that Councillors and officers were working hard on behalf of residents to save the No.19 bus. TfL's consultation on the proposal had finished in November and Council officers had undertaken an additional survey and provided information to TfL in support of retaining this bus route.

In response to a question about the justification to change this bus route, Mr Tidley reported that TfL believed that there were too many buses serving that corridor, but officers opposed this and noted that the data produced by TfL showed that passengers would have to travel to different bus stops and change buses if this bus route ceased to operate. Residents commented that this was an important bus route at night and was the only bus in the area running on a Sunday, also this is the only route from north to south London without needing to change. It would also present difficulties for disabled people if this bus service was discontinued. Councillor Morgan stated that there was an obvious demand to retain this bus route. A resident suggested as a compromise that the bus service continued but should run every 15 minutes instead of every 10 minutes. Residents were told that the Council would continue to oppose the proposal on behalf of residents.

(Post meeting note: TfL have announced that the No 19 route will continue.)

[http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/news/article/15019/19\\_bus\\_saved\\_from\\_the\\_axe](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/news/article/15019/19_bus_saved_from_the_axe)

**Consultation on Battersea Church Road** – a resident referred to the amount of heavy goods vehicle traffic in Battersea Square, noting that 62 had passed within one and a half hours, and commented that he had raised this issue three years ago with the Council. He asked about the consultation that had taken place regarding Battersea Church Road. Mr Cheung reported that a brief to improve traffic had been drawn up that should be available in September, this would include better provision for cyclists and pedestrians. The effects of construction traffic going to and from the Royal Academy of Dance site was questioned and it was reported that a construction management plan was in place which controlled construction traffic to and from the site and included details such as wheel washes.

Councillor Wintle added that the ward Councillors were aware of the issue of traffic, which was not just limited to Battersea Church Road but also the surrounding area including Vicarage Crescent and Battersea Square, air quality in this location was also being monitored so evidence could be gathered. Councillor Mrs Hampton also

referred to a study undertaken by officers and TfL to investigate the speed of traffic along the route and had attended the area with TfL and Council officers to request flashing stop signs and an additional zebra crossing.

**Crossing at Vicarage Crescent** – in response to a request to have a zebra crossing on Vicarage Crescent, Councillor Mrs Hampton responded that TfL had visited the area and discussed the practicalities of where a crossing could be located. Mr Tidley agreed that measures were needed on that stretch of road. There had been many requests for crossings and different locations suggestions, so this would be looked at in a coordinated way.

**Battersea High Street Scheme** – in response to a question on the consultation on the scheme, Mr Cheung reported that comments from the consultation had been taken into consideration and works were expected to start in May. Councillor Morgan added that Wandsworth Living Streets had been involved and the Council wanted to make the street look more attractive by taking such measures as removing unnecessary street furniture and making it more user friendly for pedestrians and cyclists. Details of the scheme would be attached to these minutes for information, and details of the costs of the scheme would also be included.

(Scheme details have been posted alongside these notes)

**Cycling** – improvements to walking and cycling facilities was questioned, it was asked why funding for walking friendly neighbourhoods had not been applied for; the resident expressed concern that there was not a continuous segregated cycle lane in Wandsworth. Mr Tidley commented that a lot of work had been done for cycling in the borough, such as education and training in schools, the extension of the Santander scheme in Battersea, additional facilities at junctions etc. As part of the Council's cycling strategy, cycle routes were being looked at to see where improvements could be made. Officers would look at introducing segregated cycle lanes where possible. Safety concerns were raised regarding Lombard Road, the Thames path and the route entering Battersea Square for cyclists and pedestrians, Mr Tidley asked residents to let officers know of any specific locations that needed to be looked at.

The ward Councillors added that cycling needed to be encouraged, and asked residents to also let them know of any areas where improvements could be made. Councillor Mrs Hampton referred to comments made about barriers on the riverside path and noted that a balance was needed between cyclists and pedestrians and that street furniture had been installed to slow cyclists down when using the route for the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists. One resident suggested that signs be erected to ask cyclists to reduce their speed (Signs are already in place).

**Parking in Cycle Lanes** – in response to concerns about car parking in a cycle lane opposite Chelsea Bridge Wharf, it was reported that this area could be a suitable location for a segregated cycle route and officers were looking into that option.

**Duck Tours** – in response to a question about the proposal for Duck Tours to use a slip way opposite St Mary's Church to access the river, Councillor Morgan reported that the Council had not been approached about this and he had written to the company on behalf of residents and asked to meet the representatives on site to discuss this proposal. He had not yet received a response and would follow this up.

Councillor Wintle had also written to the company and suggested that a public meeting be held with residents to discuss the proposal. Councillor Mrs Hampton noted that the roads were not suitable for this purpose and commented that there had been confusion about who owned the access route and slip way and that it was not owned by the Council.

(Post meeting note: as at end of April Councillor Morgan is still waiting for a response from the Duck Tour operators.)

**Drainage** – a resident referred to lack of drainage on Falcon Road under the railway bridge at Clapham Junction and Mr Cheung asked the resident to speak to him at the end of the meeting to give him further details and he would investigate this and get back to the resident. Another resident commented that drainage in the whole of the borough should be looked at as there were issues in other areas, such as Vicarage Crescent and Shuttleworth Road.

A resident suggested that developers of new sites should be made to clear gutters when they left the site.

A resident referred to a parking suspension in order to clear gulleys on Battersea Church Road which was by the No. 170 bus stop, but no one attended to fix the issue and the flooding remained. Mr Cheung reported this would be looked into.

(Post meeting note:- There are currently 6 gullies on Falcon Road under the railway Bridge at Clapham junction, 4 are now serviceable and 2 will need further work to be carried out. Once those are resolved, officers will attend site to reassess the drainage concerns at this location. Please note, gullies are discharged via the Thames Water asset and if they are at capacity during heavy downpours, the existing gullies will appear to be ineffective.

The Council's has a cyclic drainage cleansing programme to ensure gullies on the publicly maintained highway are serviced. The cleansing crew will be asked to attend Vicarage Crescent and Shuttleworth Road. If you would like to report a blocked gully, please visit our website at

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/streetproblem>

Parking suspension was organised on the 6<sup>th</sup> March and the cleaning crew did attend to service the gully outside 65 Battersea Church Road. With the jetter unable to clear the blockage it was referred back to the Engineers to arrange for the gully to be dug out.)

Another resident referred to leaves not being swept around parked cars at Somerset House which then blocked drains and caused flooding. Mr Crawley would speak to the resident following the meeting to get further details and he would make sure it was cleared.

The overflowing of drains in Battersea Park during winter and periods of heavy rain was reported, and it was asked if a study could be done to look at how this could be resolved. This has been reported to Enable who manage the park.

(Post meeting note: Enable has reported that some of the Park infrastructure is very old and has limited capacity. They ensure that the grounds contractor works as a priority on leaf clearance throughout the Park to minimise any issues but acknowledge the problem which continues to be monitored.)

## **HOUSING**

**Community Centre suggestion at Randall Close** – a resident referred to the Randall Close development and asked if the Council would consider having a community centre facility at this site as part of the redevelopment. Councillor Wintle responded that many residents supported this, and she had raised this with Council officers.

(The Design team are planning their third resident consultation event at the end of April on the redevelopment proposals.)

**Ethelburga** - a resident expressed concern over lack of transparency noting that questions had been raised about the quality of work carried out by the same contractor as Carey Gardens, and was concerned that the works on Phase 2 would be the same standard as on Phase 1. The resident reported he had been told that the works on Carey Gardens (Queenstown Ward) had been completed which was not correct.

Councillor Wintle expressed concern over the difficulty she had experienced in trying to get information about the works relating to Ethelburga and made reference to the amount leaseholders would have to pay over a 10 month period to cover the costs of the works. The Leader of the Council noted a restriction on discussing these issues as the Chair of Ethelburga Residents Association has indicated that they would be making an application to the First Tier Tribunal, and a complaint had been escalated to Stage 3 and sent to the Chief Executive. The Chair of Ethelburga Residents Association expressed concern with the recent acknowledgement he had received in respect of the Stage 3 Complaint, and the Leader responded that this would be followed up.

**Cleaning** – a resident expressed concern over the cleanliness of her block which she had been previously reported but had been told that deep cleaning only took place twice a year. Mr Crawley reported that some parts of Council housing blocks were cleaned daily and confirmed that a deep clean took place twice a year. He asked that the resident speak to him at the end of the meeting to provide further details, and he would follow this up with the cleaning contractors and arrange for officers to meet the resident. It was reported that a new cleaning contract was going out to tender and better outcomes were anticipated; there would be more focus on quality and outcomes. Councillor Morgan added that the service should improve and there would be greater focus on the quality of the cleaning work and more random inspections so that the estate could not be tidied in advance of any inspection.

(Post meeting note: - this has been referred to the Council's Estate Services team and cleaning contractors to action.)

**Fire Safety** – a resident referred to sprinklers in high rise blocks and expressed concern this was being imposed on residents and that there had not been any consultation. Councillor Wintle responded that she agreed that more consultation

should take place and that Labour Group members had arranged meetings to discuss this issue. Councillor Mrs Hampton outlined details of the tribunal and the enquiry taking place and noted that more information was being gathered and waiting for the outcome of the Grenfell enquiry, consultation would not take place until relevant information had been collated. In response to reference to other types of sprinkler systems that could be used, the Leader of the Council was happy to hear from the resident noting that the Council had not yet determined what system would be used.

A resident referred to a letter received from the estate manager and had tried to contact her. Mr Crawley asked the resident to speak to him following the meeting and he would ensure that the estate manager contacted the resident.

(Post meeting note: - Fire safety – The Estate Manager could not get through to the resident about the inspection/letter on the telephone number they had provided after the meeting. Therefore, an email was sent to them on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019.)

## **PLANNING**

**Royal College of Art, Parkgate Road** – the design of the proposed new building on Parkgate Road was referred to and criticised for looking like a “washing machine” Mr Granger reported that a meeting had been held with the designers, and the design related to the industrial heritage of the area and commented on the World class reputation of the design team. This had been unanimously agreed at the Planning Applications Committee.

## **STREET LIGHTING**

**Vicarage Crescent /Battersea Square** – a resident referred to the replacement of new lamp post but without the lamp and the remains of a lamp post was also in the square.

(Post meeting note:- The broken lamp post in Battersea Square, was the result of a vehicle strike. The lantern was damaged and unfortunately, they are an obsolete design. As there were plans to upgrade street lights to LED, this one was put on hold until engineers had investigated suitable LED replacements. This is still an on-going project.)

## **POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES**

**Knife Crime** – concern was expressed by a resident over knife crime, in particular relating to a recent murder. Councillor Wintle commented on the need for more police. Councillor Morgan reported he was a member of the Safer Neighbourhood Board and had asked the Borough Commander how knife crime is being tackled, he said he would look into circulating the Borough Commander’s response with the notes of this meeting (these have been inserted below). He noted that more police had been deployed onto the streets to target areas in respect of this issue.

(Post meeting note – Borough Commander’s response –

**1. Approaches to tackling immediate issues** – South West BCU currently resources a Violence Suppression unit with 1 sergeant x 6 constables every day on

*a late shift. This is a reactive unit which responds to calls involving violence and can be sent anywhere across the BCU. It also patrols areas where violence is more prevalent or where issues have recently occurred.*

*Some of the methods used are both pre-emptive and reactive. The borough utilises existing relationships with partner agencies to provide mentor support and provide context to policing decisions which affect young people. Similarly, borough officers link in with the Gang Youth workers at Wandsworth Council and work together on various issues such as housing moves etc.*

*Officers from the BCU also make use of the London Gang Exit Programme by making referrals for either victims or suspects in gangs. Individuals who are 16-24 years old who are affected by gangs and serious violence can be offered support to bridge the gap offered by existing local services. This service reduces offending, assists them in finding stable housing and encourages them into training, education or employment.*

*The borough also contains an Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team. These officers work with our most prolific, most violent nominals, engaging with them in an effort to divert them away from crime. This is a multi-agency approach whereby police chair regular panels with representatives from a plethora of statutory partners, charities and other forms of support agencies. It is split into two age categories; A Youth IOM (age 10-18) has very recently launched and adult offenders are over 18. The youth cohort focuses on youths both at risk of being the victim of knife crime and those who commit violence, those at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation, gang members, Child Criminal Exploitation (those who are being used in County Lines) and MACE (Missing and Child Exploitation) individuals. We are hoping that the Youth IOM mirrors the success that has been seen with the Adult offender cohort since this programme was introduced in May 2018.*

**2. What early prevention is being done?** *There are several schemes in operation. Funding from Barclays Bank was obtained as part of the Working Together Trust. Part of this project involves undertaking projects in schools across the BCU aimed at targeting knife crime through role play amongst other things.*

*Knife crime is also part of the Junior Citizen week which runs at all primary schools within Wandsworth and our police cadets also play a role by participating in test purchases at local shops to ensure weapons/knives are not being sold to young people.*

*Our youth engagement team for Wandsworth (youth offending team, schools police officers, cadet coordinators) work closely with local schools, delivering prevention messages and together with the schools and other agencies supporting children identified as vulnerable.*

*The borough also has good links with the Knife Crime Forum and has organised several Community Weapons Sweeps. Finally, the Proactive teams at SW BCU also have several operations underway tackling gangs and violent offenders. Merlin reports are placed onto the system if any of the suspects or victims of crime are particularly vulnerable or are classified as children. These reports then get picked up by the MASH, multi-agency safeguarding hub within the police to ensure that social*



*services are aware. Strategy meetings take place regularly with these partners with information being shared to safeguard and support a range of victims and suspects.*

*Moving forward we are looking to implement DIVERT, a London wide custody diversion scheme for 18-25 years old which will roll out to Kingston and Wandsworth custody as soon as funding is available. As the name suggests this aims to divert offenders into training or employment by providing support at a crucial time – it is staffed by trained volunteers.)*

**Anti-social behaviour** - A resident expressed concern over problems she had experienced in the Battersea area, which she felt had increased since the closure of the police station. She referred to a few incidents including anti-social behaviour that she had reported and suggested that the police should put up more CCTV cameras. Councillor Wintle noted that enquiries had been made for more cameras to be installed in Surrey Lane as a result of comments from residents. Councillor Mrs Hampton asked the resident to leave her contact details at the end of the meeting for this to be discussed further.

Other residents referred to incidents involving drugs, and they were advised to contact the police about any criminal activity.

Mr Crawley noted that information on anti-social behaviour on estates was gathered and passed onto the police. Officers could also speak to any families involved, such as looking at what tenancy enforcement action could be taken in respect of any issues. He asked residents to contact his team if they had issues on any of the Council estates. Officers tried to direct young people to the appropriate youth services or centres and to try to direct away from any anti-social behaviour. Monitoring CCTV footage required a lot of resources and it was helpful if a crime was reported that a time frame could be given and this could be looked at and passed onto the police.

*(Post meeting - regarding Anti-social behaviour – This matter was discussed after the meeting with a resident and is being followed up with the St Mary's Park Safer Neighbourhood Team.)*

**Youth Facilities** - The good work of Carney's Community Centre was referred to and a resident commented that a community centre was vital and that providing more facilities for young people was important. A former youth worker commented that young people should be trained to be tutors and if a new community centre was opened, then young people should be given the opportunity to run it. Another resident would like to see more community centres, noting that young men coming out of prison needed a direction and to be befriended.

Councillor Mrs Hampton responded to the comment made about the closure of the police station, noting that the Council had lobbied for Lavender Hill station to remain open and had been told that it would. Residents were encouraged to feedback as much information as possible to the police. Prevention work such as working with schools, identifying vulnerable young people, was referred to. The work of the Safer Neighbourhood team was also highlighted, which met regularly with residents.

## **TELEPHONE SYSTEM AND WEBSITE**



A resident expressed concern over the Council's telephone system, noting the length of time it took trying to contact the relevant officer. The Leader of the Council acknowledged the problem and accepted that the Council needed to do better in respect of the telephone system. It was noted that there was not enough staff to operate the system and staff needed to be trained and then retained to use the system. It was noted that Richmond had the same system but did not experience the same issues. The volume of calls in Wandsworth were high and the Council strived to have the same results as Richmond.

Concerns were also raised over the usability of the website. The Leader of the Council reported that the website was currently being revamped and improvements should be seen soon.

## **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Leader of the Council thanked residents for attending the meeting, and the Ward Councillors asked residents to get in touch with any issues.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

Gareth Jones 020 8871 7520  
[gareth.jones@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.jones@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

---