

Neighbourhood Governance

Note of Ealing Broadway Ward Forum Meeting Tuesday 7 July 2009 at 7.30pm In the Telfer Room, Ealing Town Hall, Ealing W5

Present: Councillors Potts, Scott and Young (Chair)
Evelyn Gloyn (EG) Neighbourhood Co-ordinator (South)

Attendees: 23 signed attendees

Note taker: Evelyn Gloyn

1. Haven Green

Tom Jennings (TJ, Parks services) discussed ideas. He suggests using grass(plasti)crete that looks like and is managed like grass for the damaged sections behind bus stops. is a Grass(plasti)crete modular unit laid on a porous material, filled in with grass. Concerns were raised about high heels, but this would be no different from walking on grass. It has already been used successfully at the entrance to Acton Park, which also is a very shady area, similar to Haven Green. Unfortunately this cannot be seen at this time, as is part of a building site.

One resident suggested that the problem was because there was no clear indication where pedestrians should walk and where to wait for the bus. Councillor Young explained it would not be possible to widen the pavement. The resident further noted that the pavement becomes a bottleneck and suggested using better signage to separate pedestrians from people waiting for bus. Councillors did not support this. However another suggestion was for both bus shelters/stops to be positioned in the middle of the pavement so people could walk behind more easily, and it was generally agreed that it would be better if the existing bus stops could be re-sited closer to the road.

Action: Councillor Young undertook to write to TFL with this suggestion.

For the corner closest to florist shop (South West corner) during the Winter and Autumn seasons this area is not very interesting to look at. TJ recommends planting seasonal bulbs and also some ferns near the trees, as they are good for growing in sheltered areas. This could then be managed by making the necessary changes to the current grass-cutting schedule and normal litter picking rotas.

Concerns were raised over formality of the Green being kept and one resident expressed a view that she preferred the Green to be left as a Green. TJ explained that the formality will be kept because of the paths structure, and that the bulbs one they are planted will propagate themselves so floral display will improve year on year. However, if people don't like the bulbs, they can be mown off.

In the North East corner TJ suggests changes to the areas where bedding plants are used. The bedding has to be changed twice per year, sometimes more. He also wants to reduce the amount of driving on the Green. To achieve this he proposes using Erica's and Callunas (heathers).

One resident asked for more information about why we were discussing how to spend the money. Councillor Young replied that it was agreed at an earlier ward forum (15 January 2009) that there would be a rolling program of improvements of the Green.

TJ suggests replacing the low hawthorn hedges around young tree bases with 65 shrubs; the hawthorn is unfriendly, difficult to keep and is a litter trap. He wishes to change them for flowering shrubs providing scent and colour. One resident thought that the hawthorns had been planted to protect the trees when they were first planted. TJ said this was before his time, but they have now become a significant litter trap. Another resident suggested using lavender. TJ says there is no problem with this but to bear in mind that lavender has a short life span.

Action: Councillor Young noted that the general consensus was to go ahead, so the council's parks services will be instructed to carry out these works.

Another concern was for drainage improvements to be undertaken near the traffic lights (in the region of Gordon Road). TJ suggests creating a scrape; this is not a pond but a constructed dip that will attract the water and can then be planted with marginal aquatics, and still allowing the area to dry out in the summer. One resident asked whether this would help with the flooding along the path running south to north. Although it is appreciated that some of this is due to problems with street drainage and blocked gullies, this is exacerbated by compacted ground where people walk on it constantly, allowing the water to lie for several days. TJ suggests the grass(plasti)crete option will help alleviate this and the scrape will help to drain some of the water away from the path.

Action: Councillor Young confirmed that there was general support for this option. The council's parks services will be instructed to carry out these works.

Another idea was to make a feature on the Green, no exact location, but one suggestion is opposite the horse trough. There was no support for this option.

2. Five Roads CPZ

Councillor Young explained that this particular CPZ consultation was connected with the Daniels development and using s106 money (when a large development is permitted by the council, the developer may be required to give money to the council, known as s106 money, to help with local improvements to the environment). The ground floor of the old Daniels store is proposed to become a medical surgery although the council has received no planning application yet. It is believed that there is likely to be a significant impact on parking. This particular consultation has been posted to residents affected and finishes on the 24th July. If anyone else would like to contribute to consultation, they would be welcome as Councillors were aware that this particular proposal might affect other residents (especially potential users of medical centre).

Action: if you want to take part in the Five Roads Home Zone (Zone H) re-consultation, contact the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Evelyn Gloyn on 020 8825 8021, email mywardmatters@ealing.gov.uk. The consultation finishes 24 July 2009.

Councillor Potts confirmed that, as the Chair of the Planning Committee he knows that no planning application has yet been received. However, as a patient of the Mattock Lane clinic he can confirm that patients have been consulted on this proposal. Patients had already raised concerns over parking for the new health centre. When the planning

application is received one of the considerations will be parking provision, but this would be governed by rules laid down on parking that has to be provided. In his personal view this is not sufficient.

The parking bays in Hastings Road are very wide, and it may be possible to increase the number of bays by making them smaller.

One resident suggested the timing should operate 7 days per week from 8am-8pm but Councillor Young advised residents that existing CPZ policy was that any restrictions must operate for the least amount of time necessary to alleviate the problem. He would therefore suggest a morning period and then a late evening period.

Another concern was if it becomes a health centre this would attract more disabled drivers but Councillor Young noted that a CPZ would make no difference as people with a disabled parking badge are able to park in a CPZ. Another resident asked whether Daniels could have underground parking. Councillor Young was able to confirm the Daniels site includes two levels of underground parking.

A further concern was that the Mattock Lane surgery intends to charge for parking. This is outside the remit of the ward forum. (Such concerns should however be made to the Primary Care Trust by email to Marie.pemberton@ealingpct.nhs.uk, phone 020 331 39244 or in writing to Marie Pemberton, Ealing PCT, 1 Armstrong Way, Southall, UB2 4SA or to Ealing LINKs 020 8280 2275, www.ealinglink.org.uk)

A resident asked who owns the hoarding on the ground floor mezzanine level at Daniels. He suggested that a white line be painted on it, as it seems like a big black hole, he could organise a group of volunteers if the owner's permission could be obtained.

Action: Councillors advised this is not something the council can do but Councillor Scott offered to write to the owners and ask them whether they would have any objection.

3. Spending Proposals for 2009/10

People were invited to put forward any spending proposals to their ward councillors or directly to the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.

Councillor Scott advised people that item number 1 on the Ealing Broadway Project Ideas list (published separately) that the cost of street trees is much lower that £350 per tree, more in the region of £180 per tree.

Action: The Co-ordinator confirmed that this would seem to be the case and that she would confirm cost of trees.

4. Update from previous meetings

a. The Avenue - Removal of Parking Spaces

Councillor Young advised that he had met with the traffic engineer and parking services but unfortunately one of them had then gone on holiday so ideas have been discussed but not confirmed. One idea was to offer free parking for 30 minutes and to do so you would have to type in your registration number. A similar scheme is run in Kirchen Road, W13

but has not been working well. There is also a question mark about the cost. One resident reported that the taxi drivers were taking down the signs.

Action: The ward sergeant suggested that the council CCTV could be deployed to catch them. EG to investigate options.

A resident raised concerns about alleyway at back of Drayton Arms. The ward sergeant said it has been checked and they haven't caught anybody however there was evidence it is being used for drinking alcohol. He has been looking at the option of alley gating but this is difficult because access is required by the businesses.

b. Minor Traffic Schemes

The CPZ Consultation on St Stephens will happen in September but the implementation won't happen until at least next year. (The Five Roads CPZ is being done earlier as it is being funded through the Daniels s106 money). When asked about the consultation, Councillor Young assured residents it will be across the remainder of the ward, but reminded people that the consultation area is complicated to co-ordinate because the Argyll Road and Castlebar Hill are both shared by Cleveland ward, and there is potential for some of the roads to be included in the Montpelier CPZ consultation (shared with Hanger Hill ward).

Will it include Edge Hill Road, White Ledges, St Stephens Road and Hollingbourne Gardens? Yes, all will be included.

The Avenue, when will it be resurfaced? Councillor Young explained it has always been a problem road as it has a river running under it; this came to light when the report was done on traffic calming options some years ago. The only permanent resolution would be to completely rebuild it, too costly compared to benefits at this time.

St Leonard's Road. Councillor Young explained that he had been out with officers at different times of the day and tried to establish what the problem was, but more recently the fire brigade has been in contact as the exit and entrance has been restricted. The Officers have come up with a plan (see St Leonard's Road Fire Station published separately) with 2 options. Councillor Young also explained that while cars are parked other cars don't speed.

Action: Councillor Young asked residents and confirmed that Option 2, with the shortest length of yellow lines, was preferable as this would enable vehicles to park along other parts of the road and this would have a moderating effect on traffic speeds in the area.

A query was raised about clearing the car parking on the bridge of St Leonard's Road and Councillor Young said that it is not cleared, again to reduce speeding. Residents also raised concerns about HGV's travelling south into Carlton Road and St Leonard's Road and then going on to West Ealing. This is an ongoing problem and any suggestions would be welcome.

Another resident asked about the status of the car park by the fire station. Councillor Young and other residents have observed it is well used, especially in the evenings.

c. West Walk Update

Councillor Young relayed some good news that someone was caught on CCTV and hopes that a successful prosecution will come out of it. They are aware that a builder has been using it for vehicles but as yet have not managed to catch him.

d. Gordon Road – Speed Humps

At the last meeting (24 March 2009) Councillor Young reminded everyone he was waiting for the speed counts. He has since received them and they confirm traffic humps are not effective at slowing the traffic down. In addition there have been several accidents at the St Leonard's Road/Gordon Road junction, and he has been talking to engineers about putting in a raised table roundabout, but this may be a problem with the bus route. Recently, there have been three accidents along Gordon Road; two involving buses and the third one when a car clipped a pedestrian. The remedial options are to look at speed tables, but these are very expensive, put in more island refuges, or take away the parking on the south side.

One resident noted that when you drive along Gordon Road from The Avenue to Ealing Broadway people seem to be confused about who has right of way at the roundabout. One option is to raise the height of the roundabout.

Councillor Young reminded everyone that buses don't want to go over raised tables/roundabouts so they are looking for other options.

5. Open Forum

a. Haven Green-Pedestrian Crossings

The controlled pedestrian crossing on Haven Green has a very slow response for crossing with the pedestrian lights, so it was suggested that it be removed and replaced with a pelican crossing. Councillor Young advised that the Council had looked at traffic congestion and queuing on the Castlebar Road and that the timing of the lights is to reduce this congestion; this particular set of lights are part of the same contract linked to other lights and have an impact on the Uxbridge Road.

A resident raised concerns about the Arcadia development as this would add three new crossings and there are already existing problems of traffic around that area. Would the only traffic mitigation measures be to rephase the lights around Haven Green? Councillor Young assured residents that there will be a lot more discussion about this.

Another resident suggested that at the pedestrian lights (near the North West Corner by the Baptist Church) the green crossing for pedestrians is unnecessarily quick, as traffic cannot turn left.

Action: Investigate this concern further.

b. Perception of Speeding

Residents reported allegations of speeding along the Castlebar Road on the corner by Tortoise Hill. Councillor Young notes there is a perception of speeding, but in fact it is not high for reported accidents.

Another resident asked about the flashing light repeater signs that are not working. Councillor Young said this is an issue across the borough and is being actioned by the Highways service.

Another resident pointed out Ripley Villas seemed to have suffered car damage and noted that the footpath is very narrow in this area.

Action: The ward sergeant undertook to use their speed guns to check for speeding along Tortoise Hill and Castlebar Road.

Another resident raised speeding in Mount Park Road however Councillor Young advised that although he appreciated the potential for accidents he was more concerned that the services focus on resolving where accidents had been happening and this is at the Castlebar Road and Eaton Rise junction.

c. Street Trees-Conservation.

A resident of The Knoll reported that there are three trees at the end of the Knoll; two of the cherry trees are now dead and one is dying. Councillor Young believes that this particular road does not belong to the Council.

Action: The resident will check and get back to Councillor Young if needed.

d. Conservation Management Plans

Someone asked for a copy of the White Ledges Conservation Plan Management Plan.

Action: Click on this link

http://www.ealing.gov.uk/services/environment/planning/planning_services/conservation/conservation_areas/consarea_gw.html

e. Localised Flooding

Someone else mentioned flooding on Castlebar Hill and at the bottom of Longfield Walk it has been blocked at the junction with Gordon Road. Councillor Young suggested these were isolated incidents arising from the unusually heavy downpour this evening.

f. Scrutiny Topics for This Year

Suggestions had been about air quality, phasing of traffic lights around the Green and cycling. Councillor Young advised that the ones that were being looked at were Crossrail, health matters such as access to GP's and parks as community assets. The other items may be picked up in the workplans of the standing scrutiny panels. Click on this link http://www.ealing.gov.uk/services/council/scrutiny/committees_and_work_programmes/

g. Longfield Walk

Residents expressed their thanks for the provision of a rubbish bin but asked if it could be re-sited on the grass as unfortunately its current location causes obstructions on the pavement.

Action: To be reported to Waste Management services for action.

The meeting finished at 9pm.