

Neighbourhood Governance

Notes of a meeting of the Southall Green Ward Forum

held on Wednesday 11th February 2015 at the Dominion Centre, The Green, Southall UB1 4BQ

Present: Councillors, Swarn Kang (Chair), Jasbir Anand, Kamaljit Dhindsa

Attendees: 29 residents attended the meeting

Officers present:

Police: Sgt Richard Molewyn-Hughes – Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Ealing Council: Mark Reynolds – Park Ranger

Daniel Malone O'Halloran, Jo Spedding – Safer Communities Team

Dennis Frost (DF) – Neighbourhood Governance Co-ordinator

No.	Note	Question /Action Point
1.	Chair's welcome and introductions	
	<p>The meeting began at 7.00pm with Councillor Swarn Kang welcoming those residents present. He introduced his fellow ward councillors, Jasbir Anand and Kamaljit Dhindsa and the attending Police and Council officers (listed above).</p> <p>Councillor Kang explained that ward forums were a valuable opportunity for residents to question their elected representatives – and therefore were an important part of promoting local democracy.</p> <p>He added that Southall was benefitting currently from a number of</p>	

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	<p>significant infrastructure projects, including the new car park at the old Cattle Market, Crossrail and redevelopment of the Gasworks site. There were also a number local schemes under way – such as a planned catering school at the Manor House and improvements to the public areas in front of St Anselm’s Church and The Green. Local shopping parades, at Dudley Road and Western Road were also being improved.</p>	
4.	<p>Local Police report from the Safer Neighbourhoods Team</p>	
	<p>Councillor Kang announced that he would be taking this item next.</p> <p>Sgt Richard Molewyn-Hughes began his report by noting that his team now comprised one PCSO and seven constables.</p> <p>Work was continuing to deal with the ward’s crime priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - anti-social behaviour – drugs - anti-social behaviour in general - prostitution <p>This involved particular work, such as search warrants for the possession on drugs, dealing with anti-social behaviour around local betting shops and identifying illegal immigrants.</p> <p>St Anshelms is supporting local homeless people with a weekly open evening. However the church has found itself inundated with requests from the homeless on other days, such that the Police have needed to deal with related issues such as rough sleepers.</p> <p>Overall crime is continuing its downward trend, although there has been an increase in violent crime – which has often been drug related.</p> <p>Thefts of luxury cars have been increasing – involving vehicles</p>	<p>Southall Green Safer Neighbourhoods Team – details</p> <p>Address: Southall Police Station High Street Southall, Middx UB1 3HG</p> <p>Team members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector Paul Byrne • Sgt Richard Moelwyn-Hughes • PC Darren Ives • PCSO David Diaz <p>Telephone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 020 8721 2047 • 07843 291 127 <p>E-mail: SouthallGreen.snt@met.police.uk</p> <p>Web site: www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods</p>

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	<p>using remote keyless access systems. Richard urged owners to use additional in-car security, such as steering locks.</p> <p>Councillor Kang asked if there were residents' questions to the Police:</p> <p>Councillor Dhindsa noted he had recent experience of residents reporting criminal activity to the council. Sgt Moelwyn-Hughes urged residents to report all crime direct to the Police, by ringing 999 if immediate assistance is needed, or 101 for less urgent matters.</p> <p>Councillor Anand reported that Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) were working with local businesses to identify any non-compliance with employment matters. This related mainly to the employment of illegal immigrants. She asked how the local Police were involved. Sgt Molewyn-Hughes understood that HMRC officers had visited local business, offering advice in the first instance. The role of his team was to support this work, and to continue developing positive relationships with the business community.</p> <p>Councillors welcomed this approach and noted that HMRC had briefed them in advance.</p> <p>Jo Spedding updated residents about the work of the council's Safer Communities team who worked closely with the local Police.</p>	<p>Council's Safer Communities Team:</p> <p>Telephone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 020 8825 5994 (Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm) <p>E-Mail: safercommunities@ealing.gov.uk</p> <p><i>Drug dealing is taking place is Brent Road</i></p> <p>Sgt Molewyn-Hughes is aware and taking action.</p>

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	<p>Alleyway – Montague Waye / Recreation Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the house being used for drug dealing in this alley – and referred to at the last meeting – has been closed down. The alley gate at the southern end has been fitted with higher fencing, and a more secure access system introduced. - a prolific drug dealer had been issued with a Criminal Behaviour Order, with a court appearance scheduled shortly. <p>Milan Palace – off The Green</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rough sleeping is taking place here, linked to St Anslem’s open evenings referred to above. The team are working with the individuals concerned, referring them to homeless charities such as St Mungo for further support. <p>Spencer Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an alley leading under the railway to the Gasworks site was a focus for drug dealing. A local consultation was under way with a recommendation to close the alley. <p>Councillor Kang asked if there were questions to Jo Spedding:</p> <p>Councillor Kang also asked Mark Reynolds (Park Ranger) to give a verbal report on his work.</p> <p>Mark noted that two further canopied seating areas would be sited</p>	<p><i>There is a lot of anti-social behaviour in the churchyard of the old St John’s Church in King Street.</i></p> <p>Jo was aware of this, and was working with the church to improve matters</p> <p><i>Sangam Close is still a place for drug dealing</i></p> <p>This was raised at the last meeting, and DF offered to press the owners to limit access to this cul-de-sac.</p>

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	<p>in Southall Rec shortly. The additional public exercise machines, a table tennis table, along with the protective surface around each installation, had been well received.</p> <p>Councillor Kang asked Mark to report about the work of Parkguard. Mark explained this was a council engaged contractor, who patrolled the borough's parks with dogs. They had proved to be extremely effective in identifying drugs and weapons, and their staff had been given a number of powers, for example to detain individuals while the Police were summoned.</p> <p>Daniel Malone added that Parkguard were also helping to deal with activities in particular crime 'hotspots' as well as patrolling parks.</p>	
2.	<p>Notes of last Southall Green ward forum – 2nd October 2014 - to note, along with any matters arising</p>	
	<p>Councillor Kang reported that the notes of the last ward forum had been circulated to residents and published on the council's web site. Further copies were available at the meeting.</p> <p>Matters arising from the notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hayes Road congestion Councillor Kang asked DF update residents. <p>DF reported that the significant congestion resulting from the opening of the new Costco store had continued to lessen. Using bus journey times as a guide, there had been an overall 25% improvement on the peak days, Fri, Sat and Sun. The return of two-way traffic in The Broadway had also brought about an expected improvement.</p> <p>A further report will be provided at the next meeting.</p>	

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	<p>- Conway asphalt plant DF advised he had put local residents in contact with both the Ealing and Hillingdon Council's pollution officers, so that apparent breaches could be reported.</p> <p>Residents noted that they were now in contact with the plant's manager.</p>	
3.	<p>Crossrail & Southall Station</p> <p>Councillor Kang regretted that Nick O'Donnell the council's assistant director strategic transport was unable attend due to illness and asked DF if he would speak to Mr O'Donnell's presentation (copy attached).</p> <p>DF reported that in late 2010, Crossrail had published their outline plans for a new station. Following a series of meeting, Crossrail had accepted the council's suggested improvements, including the station's layout and orientation – along with better interchange provision for other public transport services.</p> <p>The finalised station plans have now been received and incorporate almost all the improvements that Nick and his team suggested.</p> <p>The council wishes to improve the area around the station at the same time, including widening the road bridge and improving the Beaconsfield Road / South Road junction.</p> <p>Councillor Dhindsa noted that the station plans will be submitted shortly to the council's Planning Committee. He urged residents to consider the plans and to use the opportunity to comment on Crossrail's proposals.</p>	

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5.	Council budget reductions	
	<p>Councillor Anand introduced this item. She drew residents' attention to the pages from the council's magazine <i>Around Ealing</i>, and which were available at the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Anand noted that £87million had been saved from the council's budget over the last four years, with a further reduction of £96million being necessary by 2018. This will mean that by 2019, the council's grant from government will have reduced by half – and it is inevitable that some services will be affected.</p> <p>As examples of savings being considered, there will be changes to the way waste and recycling is managed, there will be the sharing of costs between councils and some charges will have to be raised.</p> <p>DF added that the reductions will affect ward forums. From 2015/16 each ward's budget will reduce from £37,500 to £30,000 and in 2016/17 there will be fewer staff to support the ward forums, resulting in there being two meetings a year rather than three.</p> <p>Councillor Kang and DF also spoke of the recently launched community internet site, called Bubble. This was a positive way of helping residents to support community activities in their area – by drawing on the help of other organisations and identifying sources of funding.</p> <p>More details of the scheme, along with information about community grants – Springtime Community Fund – are available on the web site – details opposite.</p>	<p>More details of Ealing's budget challenge:</p> <p>http://www.ealing.gov.uk/budget</p> <p>A brief council video giving more details of the budget reductions:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfTxoV6XRmM</p> <p>More details about the Bubble site:</p> <p>http://www.dosomethinggood.org.uk/</p>

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6.	<p>Envirocrime Report</p> <p>- Changes to the Envirocrime team DF explained that the council's budget reductions this year have resulted in the borough-wide Envirocrime team being reduced from 12 to six officers.</p> <p>With fewer officers available, it is unlikely that the ward will receive a dedicated written Envirocrime report as in the past, and the team's work will be concentrating on delivering particular projects.</p> <p>DF had advised ward councillors to suggest suitable ward projects that the Envirocrime team could carry out – and he urged residents to also make suggestions.</p> <p>Residents were concerned that dumped rubbish would not now be cleared away. DF reassured residents they should continue to report instances by using the contact details opposite, and that all enquiries would be dealt with. Unfortunately, it will be difficult for the Envirocrime team to deal with the individual personal requests for help and advice which the officers had dealt with in the past.</p>	<p>Council's Envirocrime Team – details:</p> <p>Ealing Council, Customer Service Centre, Perceval House, 14 -16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing W5 2HL</p> <p>Tel: (020) 8825 6000</p> <p>Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm</p> <p>From the front page of the council's web site, click on: 'Report or request it' http://www.ealing.gov.uk/reportit</p>
7.	<p>Ward projects – 2014/15</p>	
	<p>Councillor Kang reported that the Leader of the council had approved the ward's budget, and that DF had been charged with supervising the various projects listed, along with allocating the agreed grants to local voluntary organisations.</p> <p>The budget had been circulated and further copies were available at the meeting.</p> <p>Mark Reynolds had already reported that the ward was funding two</p>	

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	further canopied seating areas in Southall Recreation Ground	
8.	Public Forum - issues and questions from residents	
	Councillor Kang asked if there were questions from residents:	<p><i>Can the cherry trees outside the Health Centre in Featherstone Terrace be pruned?</i></p> <p>DF offered to follow up this query.</p> <p><i>How can future applications for betting shops and alcohol licences he resisted?</i></p> <p>Councillor Dhindsa explained that he and his colleagues had opposed many applications over recent years. However the council had limited scope to reject or modify licence applications and was lobbying government for these powers to be increased.</p> <p>Residents could help by submitting their own comments, and it was the case that few objections from residents are received.</p> <p>Councillors urged residents to regularly review applications on the council's web site, and make appropriate comments:</p> <p>To comment on current licensing applications, use the following link:</p> <p>http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200063/licences_and_street_trading/1006/current_licensing_applications</p>

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9.	Dates of future meetings 2015/16	
	<p>Councillor Kang proposed a number of provisional dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25th June - 3rd November - 3rd March 2016 <p>Meetings to be held at the Dominion Centre</p>	<p>DF offered to confirm future dates and venues</p>

Dennis Frost
16: February: 2015