

Neighbourhood Governance

Notes of a meeting of the Southall Green Ward Forum

held on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at the Dominion Centre, The Green, Southall UB1 4BQ

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

Attendees: 41 residents attended the meeting

Apologies for absence: A number of residents had sent their apologies

Officers present:

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

Ealing Council: Mark Reynolds – Park Ranger
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 Kamaljit Dhindsa welcoming those residents present. He introduced his fellow ward councillors, Jasbir Anand and Swarn Singh Kang – also Dennis Frost who supports the work of the ward forum.</p> <p>Councillor Dhindsa noted that Councillor Anand had been delayed and he offered her apologies for lateness.</p>	

No.	Note	Question /Action Point
2.	Notes of last ward forum – 25th June (circulated) to note, along with any matters arising	
	<p>Councillor Dhindsa asked DF to updated residents about the four items listed on the agenda:</p> <p>Hayes Road congestion – further update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hounslow Council have reported that design changes to the Costco junction on the Hayes Road are being reviewed by Transport for London, with implementation planned for early in the New Year. Longer term work to widen the carriageway is facing some delays. A local landowner is reluctant to release a parcel of land for the widening work. <p>Old St John’s Church – update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rev Mark Poulson had been delayed. The update will await his arrival. <p>Sangam Close – security improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catalyst Housing has confirmed they are paying for a number of improvements, including new entrance gates. Residents will be required to pay the ongoing maintenance costs. <p>Conway Asphalt Plant – liaison with Hillingdon LBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The council has written to Hillingdon, asking for their support in monitoring the plant. Residents are advised to continue reporting any interference or annoyance. - Residents believed that waste from the plant’s chimney was the cause. 	
3.	Local Police update from the Safer Neighbourhoods team	
	Councillor Dhindsa asked Sgt Richard Molewyn-Hughes to provide	Southall Green Safer Neighbourhoods Team – details

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	<p>his regular residents' update.</p> <p>Richard began by noting that reductions in Police budgets meant that he had a smaller team than previously. However believed there was continued Police commitment to neighbourhood policing.</p> <p>He reminded residents that the ward's policing priorities – agreed with residents – were: dealing with anti-social behaviour and drug abuse.</p> <p>Work to close a property in Bulls Bridge Road – which had been a centre for drug dealing – had been successful. Dealing with anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of bookmakers continued to be a priority.</p> <p>Regular patrols in Emerald Square and Recreation Park (Southall Rec) had helped to tackle illegal activity in these locations, and working with colleagues in Norwood Green had taken place – to deal with anti-social behaviour in Manor House grounds.</p> <p>Important multi-agency work, with the UK Border Agency and with Ealing Council, had resulted in good progress in number of areas such as illegal immigration and food hygiene.</p> <p>The Smartwater programme was to be re-launched in the ward, where residents are encouraged to identify their valuable possessions with an invisible but traceable liquid.</p> <p>Richard answered a number of questions from residents:</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> <p><i>What is being done to tackle the misuse of disabled vehicle badges?</i></p> <p>The Police are aware of the false ownership and use of disabled badges. Residents can help by reporting alleged misuse to the Police.</p>

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	<p>Councillor Kang added that the CCTV cameras installed in Western Road – part-funded by the ward forum – had played an important part in dealing with street prostitution.</p> <p>Report from the Safer communities team – Jo Spedding</p> <p>Jo provided more details of Richard Molewyn-Hughes’ report concerning the property closure in Bulls Bridge Road. The property had been closed for three months – with the court decision being largely due to valuable intelligence provide by residents.</p> <p>A previous property closure in Clifton Road had been successful, with the location new being re-opened – the criminal activity having not re-occurred.</p> <p>Work with the Police in clearing the Manor House grounds had resulted in four exclusion orders being issued.</p> <p>Jo noted that crime prevention officers based at the council were available to advise on home security and also will be helping with the Smartwater campaign.</p> <p>Councillor Kang asked if there could be additional patrols in Recreation Park, to deal with drug dealing and anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p><i>Is street prostitution still taking place in the ward?</i></p> <p>Richard reported that prostitution remained at a low level. He reminded residents that a significant increase during summer 2014 had been dealt with, by a number of prosecutions for kerb crawling. He urged residents to continue reporting incidents to his team – which had been a significant help previously with achieving the resulting prosecutions.</p> <p><i>Can residents set up a Neighbourhood Watch group?</i></p> <p>Richard offered to help and urged residents who would like to establish a group, to contact him.</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:</p> <p>safercommunities@ealing.gov.uk</p>

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	<p>Jo replied that the council's contractor – Parkguard – had achieved some successes with their patrols, which complemented the Police's work. Additionally, Parkguard had been tasked with locking the borough's parks each evening.</p> <p>Councillor Anand – who had now arrived – welcomed the good work in improving the Manor House grounds for local people. Plans in progress to open a café by the war memorial, and to extend the Manor House to include a cookery school, would all contribute to an improved community space.</p>	
2.	Old St John's Church – update	
	<p>Rev Mark Poulson arrived. He reported that work had begun to convert the old church will into a community centre – called the King's Centre. An extension will be created on the site of the old pocket park in Western Road, while the section of King's Street pavement in front of the church will be opened out, to create a community space.</p> <p>Mark thanked residents and councillors for the ward's £2,000 grant in 2014. This had allowed the project to be kick-started – with work to set up a fund-raising strategy and to make preliminary surveys of the site.</p>	
4.	Ward projects – 2014/15	
	<p>- Updated progress report – to note (attached)</p> <p>DF drew residents' attention to the progress report (in colour) which had been updated since the last meeting.</p> <p>It has been a successful year. All but two ward supported projects</p>	

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	<p>had either been completed, or where in progress (coloured green and yellow).</p> <p>- Reports from projects in receipt of ward funds</p> <p>Desi Radio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An important project to promote the Punjabi language among young people was now in progress, and further updates would be provided in due course. <p>St John's Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A report had been provided in 2) above. <p>Reports from other ward supported projects – Gujarati Women's Association and the Khat Project – were awaited.</p> <p>DF added that he had been able to arrange recently for the railings around the war memorial to be repainted. This work that had been overlooked when the memorial was renovated in 2014 with funds provided by the Southall wards.</p>	
5.	<p>Ward projects – 2015/16</p>	
	<p>- update on projects in progress (attached)</p> <p>Councillor Dhindsa introduced this item. He noted that this year the ward's budget had reduced to £30,000. Previously the total had been £37,500.</p> <p>Taking account of some unallocated funds from last year, the ward had £32,500 available – comprising £27,500 capital, and £5,000 revenue.</p> <p>A draft 2015/16 budget had been circulated, listing those projects</p>	

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	<p>which had been suggested to date.</p> <p>Councillor Anand noted that the proposed project to support homeless people was an important scheme, designed to meet a pressing need in Southall. St Anselm's church in the ward was to be applauded for making space available and the scheme was due to be launched next month.</p> <p>Councillor Dhindsa noted that the Southall Day Centre (Milap) had asked if the ward could help – as the organisation was facing significant budget reductions.</p> <p>He asked if there were further residents' suggestions.</p>	<p><i>Could the ward fund improvement to the footpaths in the Manor House grounds?</i></p> <p>Mark Reynolds (Park Ranger) explained that his department was unlikely to have sufficient funds to support this. DF offered to see if this was a viable project – given the improvements to the Manor House will be built on some of the existing park space (noted in item 3 – above).</p> <p>DF was asked to prepare a finalised budget, based on the projects listed and discussed, and to seek formal approval from the Leader of the Council.</p>
7.	<p>Public Forum</p>	
	<p>- issues and questions from residents</p> <p>Councillor Dhindsa asked for questions and comments from residents:</p>	<p><i>The new housing developments in Salisbury Road have put considerable pressure on local parking.</i></p> <p>Councillor Anand understood that restrictions to the planning</p>

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		<p>permissions for these new properties were designed to limit residents' car ownership. She asked if DF could look into this matter.</p> <p><i>Residents' parking in Western Road was becoming intolerable. Can the local Controlled Parking Zone be extended?</i></p> <p>DF offered to investigate this further.</p> <p><i>People are feeding pigeons in Havelock Road.</i></p> <p>Councillor Dhindsa noted that this practice is always discouraged, both with signage and when council officers are in the area.</p> <p><i>How is the council dealing with fly-tipping?</i></p> <p>The council always clears up dumped rubbish in public places within 24 hours. Residents should report fly-tipping and, if they are able, identify individuals involved so the council can take action.</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> <p><i>Can an alley in Montague Road be cleared of rubbish?</i></p> <p>DF offered to investigate.</p> <p><i>There are difficulties with an alley gate in Albert road being constantly left open.</i></p> <p>Again, DF offered to help.</p> <p><i>Why have some litter bins been removed?</i></p>

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		<p>Because they unfortunately have sometimes become a focus for fly-tipping. Removing them often deals with the fly-tipping problem.</p> <p><i>Are there any facilities for young people in Southall?</i></p> <p>Yes, the Southall Young Adult Centre in Park View Road offers a range of activities:</p> <p>http://www.younggealing.co.uk/youth-centres/young-adult-centre/</p>
9.	Date of future meeting 2015/16	
	<p>-</p> <p>23rd March 2016 – at the Dominion Centre</p>	<p>Please note the change of date</p>

Dennis Frost
09: Nov: 2015