

WALPOLE WARD FORUM NOTES

Monday 3rd February 2014
7.00pm-9.00pm
Room M0.10 Perceval House,
14-16 Uxbridge Road, W5 2HL

Members: Councillors Ann Chapman – **(AC)**, John Cowing (Chairman) – **(JC)** and Ashok Kapoor **(AK)**.

In attendance: Tan Afzal **(TA)** - Neighbourhood Governance Coordinator, Jane Newman (JN) – Major Projects, Emma Allen (EA) – Walpole Park Manager, Paula Wilkinson **(PW)** - LBE, Safer Communities Team Leader, David Highton **(DH)** – West Ealing Neighbours, Nick Woolven (NW) – Central Ealing Neighbourhood Forum, Eric Leach (EL) – West Ealing Centre Neighbourhood Forum and PC Steve Robinson – Walpole Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Attendees: 35

Papers available at the meeting:

- Notes from the previous meeting
- Ward forum budget summary
- Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr John Cowing opened the meeting by introducing her fellow councillors, council officers and guests in attendance. He apologised for the last minute change of venue, which was necessary due to the gas leak by St Johns Church.

2. Dean Gardens Christmas Festival – David Highton

David Highton reported on the festival which took place at Dean Gardens:

- Just over 1,000 attendees took part, many families with a cross section of people
- The children's activities were very popular
- A £500 deposit for the grass was required to ensure it would maintain its original condition
- Some teething problems with lighting which were quickly resolved
- 106 children visited Father Christmas

Res: Well done, an excellent event, which many of us enjoyed.

Res: Can a tent be erected on hard standing surface such as Leeland Terrace, which would avoid having to pay park fees.

DH: The intention was to repurpose Dean Gardens which has traditionally been considered as a no-go area, due to the alcohol and drug abuse. We want to encourage more residents to use Dean Gardens.

Res: It needs a better marquee, lighting and power supply.

NW: The Council must purchase an acre of pierce steel planking for events such as Walpole Festival, can that not be used?

Res: No, they rent the planking. They have no place to store such large items.

Cllr Chapman reported on the pop-up shop along West Ealings section of the Uxbridge Road:

- The West Ealing Steering Group which is responsible for managing the Riots Fund and the High Street Initiative Fund has helped to set up a pop-up shop along West Ealing.
- The intention is to improve the local shopping environment by encouraging footfall in property which otherwise could remain vacant.
- The pop-up shop is the Wellshore building located at the corner to St James's Avenue.
- We invited groups to use the space at a very low cost.
- Some of the groups have been young people from the Westside youth centre.
- On some occasions there will be 3 to 4 different businesses
- Second week the shop was devoted to selling Fair trade products
- In future weeks there will be a tea shop using vintage tea services, a group promoting roller skating and the Belvue School will use the space to promote their glassware.

Res: Do they have to pay business rates?

Cllr Chapman: Wellshore business community has applied for an exemption. The pop-up shop is a retail venture, the Riot Fund pays for their business rates.

3. Update on Walpole Park - Emma Allen & Jane Newman

EA provided an update on the developments at Walpole Park:

- The council is half way through the project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- The fishpond with islands had the islands demolished and reconstructed. A new concrete basin, piped and pump will be installed by May. In future the ponds will not have to be drained every winter
- The serpentine shape pond will remain as an aquatic pond
- Bridge is currently under restoration, some decorative works may not be embellished due to structural issues. A wooden path will be added to enhance the crossover.
- The northern cedar tree is in good condition, whereas the one located at the southern end has damaged limbs which require severe crown reduction. This is a public hazard, therefore, the works behind the house will be deferred to a later date
- Archway to Pitzhanger House is closed for access.
- Tree thinning along Mattock Lane
- More shrubs are being installed along with a meadow
- North facing wall requires more work at the walled garden. Six beds have been created out of sleepers, additional beds will be created for fruits and vegetables
- Landscaping will begin at the end of May/early June.
- A tar and chip path is to be installed
- A new playground will take shape in the last phase of the project
- The rickyard building has a seeded green roof, timber cladding and the utilities are currently being installed. It is expected to be ready by mid-April.
- Hoardings are to be taken down mid-April.

Res: Where will the annual jazz festival take place?

EA: This is being arranged by the events team, likely to happen in the field closer to Culmington Road. It will require better traffic management, where there is no pressure on trees.

Res: please aerate the ground.

EA: There is funding available for maintenance.

Res: The north/south route from the junction at Barnes Pike needs to be opened as soon as possible. Why have two oak trees been removed?

EA: They were diseased at the roots, but this will not affect the other healthy trees.

JN: Landscape contractors need the entire compound to successfully complete the project on time. They have been exemplar so far, a public footpath would slow down the programme and cost a lot more money.

Res: My daily walk through Walpole Park reduces the amount of time taken to get to the train station.

Res: Patience is required, if there was an accident you would all ask to have the area cordoned off.

Res: Can we have Ealing College open their entrance?

EA: Apologies, the contractors have not been particularly good.

Res: The Culmington Road end is not opened by 7.30am, which is also the case with Lammas Park.

4. Controlled Parking Zones – Plans for JJ

Cllr Cowing reported on CPZ JJ:

- It has been in place for several years, extended on three occasions
- Considering a further extension, from Northfield Avenue, along Northcroft Road to Leyton Road, to include Mayfield Avenue and Graham Avenue. A petition has been received, and two thirds of residents are in support of the changes.
- Recently become aware of traffic congestion at the north end of Mattock Lane, towards the Uxbridge Road. This includes Princes Road and Chapel Road which suffer from congestion associated with night time traffic.
- Consultation document will be available from the beginning of March, which will be supported with an exhibition.
- The restrictive times can also be changed, you have the opportunity to comment when you are consulted
- The funding for consulting on changes to the JJ zone will have to be approved by Cabinet

Res: It is just as difficult to park now as it was before the CPZ was in place, particularly for families.

Res: there are safety concerns, motorists parking at junction corners are making it very difficult for people with prams and wheelchairs to negotiate crossing points. At the weekend there are many arguments between motorists.

Res: At the weekends you run the gauntlet of trying to cross the road when there are parked cars on double yellow lines.

Cllr Cowing: We can raise this with transport planners.

Res: Parking pressures come from the local temple, do they have a travel plan in place?

Res: There are no speed humps at the bottom of Mattock Lane. The temple goes often have residents parking permits as they are visitors. The restaurants start serving their food quite early to feed people, Culmington Road is very busy at that time. Cars are coming from further afield, such as the Netherlands and Germany.

Res: The Gym located at the south side of Uxbridge Road has members sitting in their cars for up to 30 minutes waiting for the restriction to expire. Chapel Road should have DYL's, it also needs speed cushions.

Cllr Chapman: Recorded traffic speeds did not justify the need for speed cushions.

Res: Can you invite the elders of the temple to meet with resident representatives?

Cllr Chapman: We will try to engage with them with the intention of setting up a meeting once the Cabinet decision has been made,

Res: As a quick win, for the short-term can we have more enforcement.

Action: TA to ask Parking for more enforcement of this area, particularly in the evening and the weekend. **(Actioned)**

5. Update on Neighbourhood Forums - Nick Woolven and Eric Leach

NW reported on developments made by the Central Ealing Neighbourhood Forum:

- NW is a co-opted member of CENF
- Aiming to have a plan by the end of 2014
- Need to shape ideas into options and policies
- Striving for day-to-day projects and policies
- Hoping to make Ealing attractive in time for Cross Rail, we do not wish to be a dormitory, we want to be a place residents and visitors can enjoy
- To hear more about the forum please go to centralealingforum.com

EL provided an update on

- We encourage people who live and work in the area to participate, as the plan will lead to a referendum
- We are speaking to landowners and developers about their future plans to address issues in a holistic manner for reasons such as transport and movement
- Cross Rail is attracting developers which will increase Ealing's population
- More people will come into Ealing, we don't want this to degrade the quality of living
- The WECNF is the governments champion for Neighbourhood Forums, it has 198 members, we will be running a London wide conference for neighbourhood planning.

6. Update on West Ealing

Cllr Cowing reported on the issues raised about parking in West Ealing, Stating Arthur Breen had identified 60 parking spaces which could be installed to encourage more visitors. They cannot be incorporated within the Corridor 1c programme, but as a ward forum would like to take this forward.

Before it can be considered for implementation it is important to establish whether there is a genuine and factual need for more parking. A petition from WECNF and Wen would help support this along with a survey detailing the utilisation of car parks in West Ealing.

Res: We need clarity as to what is required for a parking survey to be completed.

Res: The WECNF would be happy to carry out a survey on behalf of the council.

7. Ward Forum Budget 2013/14

The Ealing Deans Allotment Society was invited to speak:

Christina Fox and **Simon Coleman** are allotment holders; they provided information on their intended project:

- The allotments are run on behalf of Pathways,
- The path alongside Northfields Avenue needs a great deal of attention, it too is owned by Pathways. It has been formerly named as Radbourne Walk.

- The path that is used to access the allotments is very muddy, it is 360m long, with some care and attention it could be a real asset to the local wildlife and a lovely country walk in an urban area.
- While there is no budget for the path, we have a great deal of enthusiasm and support from the allotment holders and local residents.
- Posted flyers through homes on Loveday Road asking for volunteers to help with clearing parts of the path. For the first working party 13 people showed up to help.
- Stag horn beetles do thrive on the allotments. They are a protected species and we should be able to expand their habitat into the pathway.

Res: Is it sustainable?

SC: It is a public right of way, with help from residents we can make it work.

DH: Perseverance will enable you to deliver.

Cllr Cowing reminded everyone the next ward forum meeting would take place after the local election in May 2014. All attendees were welcomed to stay back and join the councillors for a reception of drinks and light snacks.