

Neighbourhood Governance

Note of Southall Green Ward Forum meeting

Tuesday 23 February 2010. 7pm at Featherstone Primary School, Western Road, Southall UB

Present: Cllrs Dhindsa (Chairman) and Anand

Apologies: Cllr Kang and Sergeant Richard Moelwyn-Hughes

Attendees: 6 residents attended with 5 signing the attendance sheet

Jane Strachan (JS) – Enviro-crime manager, Southall

Shehzad Ahmed (SA) – Economic Regeneration, Southall

Note taken by: Kofi Nyamah (KN) - Neighbourhood Co-ordinator (West)

No	Note	Action point / information
1.	<p>Chairman's introduction</p> <p>The meeting started at 7.15pm in Featherstone Primary School, Western Road. Cllr Dhindsa (Chairman) welcomed all and introduced the panel. Apologies were made for Cllr Kang.</p>	
2.	<p>Enviro-crime report</p> <p>2.1) Jane Strachan (JS) provided an update on Southall Green Enviro-crime issues.</p> <p>2.2) JS said all commercial waste premises in the ward have been visited to establish their trade waste agreements - A resident asked how many premises were visited in industrial estates?</p> <p>2.3) Hartington Road alleyway was cleaned as part of the borough-wide clean-up campaign earlier in 2010.</p>	<p>2.1) Residents can call in Enviro-crime issues to the Council's customer services:</p> <p>Ealing Customer Services Perceval House, 14/16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing Opening hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Tel: (020) 8825 6000 Email: customers@ealing.gov.uk</p> <p>2.2) JS said Enviro-crime officers do not visit industrial estates.</p> <p>2.3)</p>

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2.4)	On January 19, Southall Green partnership taskforce day (PTD), commercial premises were visited to check on their waste agreement. Fly-tips were removed and nuisance vehicles were addressed.	2.4)
2.5)	As part of the PTD, several Housing with Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in the ward have been identified and passed to Regulatory Services for further visits to be arranged.	2.5)
2.6)	From the week beginning March 1, British Waterways and the Council will begin a Canal clean-up activity. This will start at The Common and work its through Southall, finishing by Bankside.	2.6)
2.7)	A major fly-tip on commercial land in Gordon Road is in the process of being investigated and contact has been made with the owners of this land with a view to removing all of the waste.	2.7)
2.8)	A resident said he had seen improvements to the cleanliness in the ward compared to the past, particularly by Ellison Gardens and Witley Gardens Industrial Estate. Rocky's Fast Food in Norwood Road still has waste problems around its premises, as there were no waste bins. He asked for more bins to be placed in strategic locations around the ward.	2.8) JS said officers would carry out site visits around Victoria Road and waste bins could be placed strategically and monitored - Cllr Dhindsa said the issue of waste bins was discussed at the last ward forum. There tended to be a build up of waste around the bins and it could also pose security risk if certain items were placed inside.
2.9)	A resident said the area of Witley Gardens Industrial estate to Ellison Gardens is a hot spot for refuse. With people using this location for street drinking and eating.	2.9)
2.10)	A resident said domestic refuse is being dumped in the alley of Montague Way to Recreation Road.	2.10) JS said a blitz crew went around borough as part of the council clean-up campaign. Most hot-spots in this ward were cleared including this location. Hopefully, a new blitz will happen in the near future - Cllr Anand said Dudley Road was also cleared as part of this clean-up campaign.
2.11)	A resident said that alley gates and wheelie bins have proved successful in dealing with refuse and fly tipping.	2.11) Cllr Dhindsa said Balfour Road and Sussex Road needed to be monitored for refuse, fly-tips and many HMO issues.

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3.	<p>Southall Green regeneration presentation</p> <p>Shehzad Ahmed (SA) gave a presentation regarding Southall Town Centre regeneration.</p> <p>3.1) SA said £1.9 million was awarded to Southall for regeneration.</p> <p>3.2) A feasibility study confirmed there is low pedestrian use of the Merrick Road Underpass for access. This is due to anti-social behaviour (ASB), fear of crime and the smell.</p> <p>3.3) The study identified pedestrians struggled to cross Merrick Road and as a result of the findings, it is recommended the underpass be closed and a zebra crossing installed on Merrick Road as an alternative crossing point for pedestrians.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resident asked how much does the zebra crossing cost. <p>3.4) Phase one of the Pocket Park regeneration Western Road has been completed. This included removing benches, pruning back overgrown trees and displaying <i>Do no feed pigeon</i> signs. Phase two has begun, with new hanging basket columns and 20 hanging baskets displayed in the park.</p> <p>The reasons for these improvements were to reduce crime and street drinking.</p> <p>3.5) Funding has been allocated for businesses in the area to improve their shop fronts. Currently, 25 businesses have currently agreed to be involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resident asked what benefits does shop front improvements provide to residents. <p>3.6) The Council will be providing visual merchandising and customer care training for 50 businesses in Southall.</p> <p>3.7) A project is underway to restore Manor House in The Green. The building is a listed building and currently on the English Heritage buildings at risk register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resident asked if Chambers of Commerce and the existing businesses using the Manor House would be evicted? All the existing businesses must be allowed to continue in the building and not turn Manor House into a museum. 	<p>3.1)</p> <p>3.2) Advertisements notifying the public of the underpass closure will be published from 27 February 2010.</p> <p>3.3) SA said the zebra crossing is to be located at the earliest safe crossing point, which is opposite The Arches Business Centre. The cost of the crossing is about £18,000 and is scheduled to be operational in March 2010.</p> <p>3.4)</p> <p>3.5) SA said the decision to allocate the money for shop front improvements was taken at Council Cabinet as part of the 2008 Southall Framework study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The framework study is available to read on the Council website: Home > Regeneration > Town centre and area regeneration > Southall <p>3.6)</p> <p>3.7) SA said the aim of this project was to take the Manor House of the building at risk register and not to displace businesses. The Council were consulting with Southall Chambers of Commerce and Southall Community Alliance to ensure the needs of the organisations based in Manor House were taken into consideration.</p>

No	Note	Action point / information
3.8)	£20,000 of Section 106 (s106) money will be funding trees to be planted in Scotts Road, Caxton Road, Lonsdale Road, Marlborough Road, Derley Road, Greenland Crescent and in Brent Road.	3.8)
3.9)	A resident asked why trees were not yet planted in Brent Road? The trees were being planted in roads that do not suffer direct problems with heavy goods vehicles (HGV's), but Brent Road does have safety and pollution problems from HGV's.	3.9) SA said trees for Brent Road are to be planted in October after highway works are completed.
3.10)	<p>A resident asked if this £20,000 funding was from the Chancery Gate development/USC site and requested a Trees Officer to attend the next forum meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Anand said s106 monies were agreed to be ring-fenced for Scotts Road and Brent Road at a planning committee by Cllrs and affected residents. She had not seen the amount of trees planted as proposed in Greenland Road. - Cllr Anand asked why were s106 monies being used for other roads when it was only ring fenced for Scotts Road and Brent Road, as they were HGV routes. She asked officers to refer to the relevant Planning Committee minutes? - Cllr Anand asked why were Cllrs and local residents not consulted before the trees were planted? - Cllr Anand asked for confirmation that the tree planting locations provided were accurate. 	<p>3.10) Trees service response: The s106 monies have not been ring fenced for specific roads. The only mention of Brent Road and Scott Roads in the minutes of the Planning Committee is within the Landscape comments and original tree officer comments. The reference is for increased planting along the access routes to and from the USC site and also within the immediate residential streets to attempt to ease air pollutants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officers have reviewed the minutes of the planning committee and have not found any reference to specific tree planting locations. A s106 agreement was sought to increase street tree planting along the access routes to and from the site and also within the immediate residential streets to attempt to ease the air pollutants and enhance the local amenity of the residential areas - The Council current tree planting process does not include consultation, prior to street tree planting due to the minimal planting sites available. The residents immediately involved have the opportunity to make representation, if they feel any trees have been incorrectly planted, where any reasoned justification is reviewed. The majority of sites used are older previous planting locations where trees had previously been removed. - There was a slight discrepancy in the tree locations provided at the ward forum, where I believe the

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		<p>contractors were unable to locate trees in a number of the proposed locations. A number of trees in the original proposals have failed or been vandalised. The tree section shall endeavour to replace and continue to provide additional plantings throughout each subsequent planting season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current planting locations on Brent Road has been and shall be held in abeyance until confirmation / amendments have been carried out by the council's Highways service.
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1)</p> <p>4.2)</p> <p>4.3)</p> <p>4.4)</p>	<p>Suggestions for 2010/11 ward improvements</p> <p>Cllr Dhindsa gave a progress update on Southall Green improvement projects.</p> <p>A variety of projects have been completed including a purchase of a CCTV camera, double yellow lines, alley gates and an Alertbox system.</p> <p>A resident asked for a youth centre in Featherstone Road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Another resident said £1.9 million should be used for youth facilities rather than the proposed regeneration projects. Local residents' real needs were being ignored. <p>Cllr Anand said £43,000 is allocated for toilets in Southall Recreation Grounds by redeveloping the disused pavilion. £5,000 would be used for its maintenance. She said the £5,000 maintenance could only be used when the toilets were up and running.</p> <p>A resident asked the Council would consider letting out the pavilion to a local business on a peppercorn rent?</p>	<p>4.1)</p> <p>4.2) Cllr Dhindsa said it would cost more than the ward forum budget could afford, even for a minor scale youth centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Anand said ward Cllrs did raise concerns about how the regeneration money would be spent. If Cabinet have agreed this, then ward Cllrs cannot undo this. <p>4.3) Parks and Countryside response: Parks and the Southall area police do not recommend that toilets be opened at this location due to the potential for inappropriate and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>4.4)</p>

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5.	<p data-bbox="286 113 488 145">Public forum</p> <p data-bbox="188 188 1167 368">5.1) Cllr Dhindsa said regarding the recent controlled parking zone (CPZ) LL consultation. The CPZ extension will be introduced fairly soon, as most residents were in favour. An objector has possibly gone to Ombudsman regarding this extension. Recreation Road will be one of the roads affected.</p> <ul data-bbox="286 373 1200 553" style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Anand said roads were able to opt out - A resident said CPZ's attract a better quality of residents. As CPZ shifts ASB into roads that do not have CPZ's. There were more HMOs and unregulated planning developments in areas without CPZ's. <p data-bbox="188 558 1205 627">5.2) A resident said Ealing Hospital children's casualty is due to close after 4pm. Strokes will not be treated in Ealing Hospital.</p> <p data-bbox="188 632 1167 700">5.3) Cllr Dhindsa provided updates to resident's queries previously raised at the ward forum:</p> <p data-bbox="286 743 813 775">Parking and driving on pavements</p> <p data-bbox="286 780 1200 960">Cllr Dhindsa said the Council can enforce vehicles driving on the pavement and require this to be witnessed by an officer or a resident can provide a witness statement. Residents can call the Council customer services to report and officer should call back to take further information.</p> <ul data-bbox="286 965 1196 1114" style="list-style-type: none"> - A resident said what is stopping Council enforcement if a car is actually parked on the footpath? Vehicles are driving onto the footpath in Adelaide Road. Many cars parked in Brent Road are overhanging the footpath. <p data-bbox="188 1118 1104 1187">5.4) Montague Waye (absence of enforcement and vehicle removal)</p> <p data-bbox="286 1192 1178 1260">Cllr Dhindsa said this issue was discussed at the 15 January & 30 April 2009 ward forums.</p>	<p data-bbox="1240 188 1294 220">5.1)</p> <p data-bbox="1240 558 1294 590">5.2)</p> <p data-bbox="1240 632 2007 813">5.3) Cllr Dhindsa said the law requires evidence for a prosecution.</p> <ul data-bbox="1240 707 2007 813" style="list-style-type: none"> - JS said the onus is on the Council to prove the case in court. Witnesses are required to prove a vehicle drove on a footpath. <p data-bbox="1240 1118 2042 1332">5.4) A letter was sent to the mosque reminding them about the parking of worshippers, particularly at the peak hours of 7pm, Monday to Fridays.</p> <ul data-bbox="1240 1230 1995 1332" style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Anand said parking enforcement should be stepped up in Montague Waye to take action on illegal parking.

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5.5)	<p>Properties with unauthorised houses with multiple occupation (HMOs) Cllr Dhindsa said this was discussed in the 15 January 2009 ward forum. A lot of people would like to live in Southall, because they did not face racism and it addressed their religious needs. Homeowners were letting out rooms after they had moved away from Southall. It is a big problem that will take considerable resources to get to grips with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resident said Southall Green was a designated area for HMOs, why is this? Why isn't Norwood Green a designated area for HMOs? HMOs need to be enforced. 	<p>5.5) Cllr Anand said it was a long process to enforce HMOs. A local example was of an unlicensed conservatory built on a house. It took four years to have the conservatory removed. The process had to be adhered in order to obtain the results.</p>
5.6)	<p>Lack of permanent enforcement cameras in front of Featherstone Junior School Cllr Dhindsa said this was discussed in the 15 January 2009 ward forum and the following information was provided at the time: The council's Parking Enforcement is currently enforcing using parking in front of the school with CCTV on a regular basis.</p>	<p>5.6) Featherstone Junior School is included in the Parking Enforcement School's plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Anand said a mobile CCTV van was used, as the Schools Head teacher was very concerned about at peak hours parking. School children made a poster to highlight safer parking.
5.7)	<p>Replace seating benches outside New Bharat Coach Station Cllr Dhindsa said Highways officers conducted a site inspection regarding the benches outside New Bharat Coach. This visit established that the benches in question were on private land and was not installed by the council.</p>	<p>5.7) KN to investigate the ownership of the bench outside New Bharat Coaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ward forum agreed if this is feasible, to fund the replacement of the benches outside the old Featherstone Primary School in Featherstone Road.

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5.8)	<p>The impact of Tesco's right turn on Hayes Road to Western Road Cllr Dhindsa read out a response from Hounslow Council regarding the right turn on Hayes Road.</p>	<p>5.8) Hounslow Council response: Transport for London (TfL) does not have any immediate objections to the banning of the right turn but the new arrangement would have to be assessed and modelled and subsequently approved by their Network Assurance Team. As the proposed changes are not on TfL's highway, it is not something they could allocate funding for. The proposal would therefore have to be funded by Hounslow Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transport planning response: Ealing Council has contacted Hounslow Council and has been advised that they do not have funding either to pursue the option of the right turn ban. - Transport planning response: Plans showing the highway proposals associated with Western International Market were forwarded to ward councillors on 24th June 2009. However, a start date has not been agreed with the developer. Hounslow will notify Ealing officers once a start date is agreed
5.9)	<p>Western International Park - Hayes Road Temporary Access Cllr Dhindsa said Hounslow Council was managing this scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resident said Hounslow had stopped two-way traffic on Hayes Road by building a central reservation. This led to traffic tailbacks. When Hounslow Council carried out a consultation, Ealing Council did nothing. This has reduced traffic flow out of Southall and the issue had been going on for four years. - A resident asked for further information from Hounslow to be shared with ward forum. 	<p>5.9) Cllr Dhindsa said a meeting was held with Ealing Council officers to enhance flow of traffic along The Green and Western Road. Ward Cllrs said problems on other side of the boundary line needed to be resolved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Anand said ward Cllrs would need to be informed of any proposals. All proposals should come to the ward forum.

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5.10)	<p>Filter lane for left turners from Brent Road to Western Road Cllr Dhindsa provided responses raised about a variety of traffic issues around Brent Road.</p>	5.10) Transport planning response: Traffic counts carried out at the junction in June 2009 indicated that about 10% of traffic at the junction turned left (35 out of 303 during the morning peak hour). Based on this figure, a left turn filter is unlikely to significantly improve the problem.
5.11)	<p>Pavement parking from No 86 to Scotts Road on even numbered side - A resident said the Scotts Road scheme should be redesigned and costed and brought back to ward forum before going to Cabinet.</p>	5.11) Transport planning response: Pavement parking is not viable due to the number of crossovers along Scotts Road.
5.12)	<p>Waiting restrictions along one side of Brent Road - A resident said single or double yellow lines were required as HGVs were parking and blocking access through the road - A resident said only one end of Brent Road had been re-surfaced and this was re-surfaced twice. He had written to the Council regarding this matter and about blocked gullies outside 86 to 88 Brent Road. He was informed from the Council that potholes and gullies were being addressed, but there was no mention as to why the entire surface of Brent Road was not re-surfaced.</p>	5.12) Transport planning response: Transport planning has no objection in principle to waiting restrictions along one side of Brent Road and this would be subject to ward Cllr approval. - Cllr Dhindsa said any consultation should be done through the ward forum.
5.13)	<p>A mini-roundabout at the junction of Johnson Road and Balfour Road</p>	5.13) Transport planning response: Transport planning has no objection in principle to a mini-roundabout at the junction of Johnson Road and Balfour Road and this would be subject to ward Cllr approval.
6.	<p>Date of the Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Southall Green ward forum is scheduled for Thursday 16 September 2010. The venue will be, Featherstone Primary School and this will be confirmed in due course. The meeting concluded at 9.35pm.</p>	