

Neighbourhood Governance

Notes of a meeting of the Southall Green Ward Forum

held on Wednesday 19th June 2013 at the Dominion Centre, The Green, Southall UB2 4BQ

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

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

Attendees: 32 residents attended the meeting

Officers present: Chief Inspector Colin Wingrove – Metropolitan Police, Safer Southall Project
Dennis Frost (DF) – Ealing Council, Neighbourhood Governance Coordinator

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| 1. | Chair's welcome and introductions | |
| | <p>Councillor Swarn Kang began the meeting at 7.34pm by welcoming those present.</p> <p>He introduced his fellow councillor Jasbir Anand, and explained that the third councillor, Kamaljit Dhindsa, would be taking no part in the year's programme of ward forum meetings because of his role as the borough's Mayor.</p> <p>Councillor Kang explained the importance of ward forums to local democracy. They were valuable opportunities for residents to raise local issues with their elected councillors.</p> | |

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| | Councillor Kang announced that he wished to take item 3 next. | |
| 3. | Local police update from Safer Neighbourhoods team | |
| | <p>Chief Inspector Colin Wingrove introduced himself. He was the senior Police officer for the Southall area, concerned with implementing the Southall Charter and managing the Safer Southall project.</p> <p>As Richard Molewyn-Hughes the local Safer Neighbourhoods sergeant had sent his apologies, Colin will also report on local crime and policing.</p> <p>The Local Policing Model had now been implemented – the result of a reduction in police budgets. The Safer Neighbourhoods officers will in future be able to draw on a local problem solving team.</p> <p>Overall crime in the ward has reduced by 12% year-on-year. Burglary has reduced by a smaller amount – 1.5%.</p> <p>A significant local effort is under way to deal with prostitution. Anti-social behaviour orders are an effective way of removing prostitutes from the area. The Police were also acting on an initiative from the London Mayor’s office, to deal with violence against women. Kerb crawlers were being identified and the local press used to name and shame individuals.</p> <p>Drugs and drug dealing was another significant local concern and considerable resources are being used to deal</p> | <p>Southall Green Safer Neighbourhoods Team – details</p> <p>Address: Unit 4 - The Arches Business Centre Merrick Road Southall UB2 4AU</p> <p>Team members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sgt Richard Moelwyn-Hughes • PC Anne-Marie Pilkington • PC Gwyn Hunt • PCSO Rosalind Hyatt • PCSO Mark Owen • PCSO David Diaz <p>Telephone: 020 8721 2047</p> <p>E-mail: SouthallGreen.snt@met.police.uk</p> <p>Web site: www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods</p> |

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| | <p>with this.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Wingrove also gave details of the Safer Southall Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a council fund – the Micro Fund – has been made available to support local voluntary organisations who are working to build and support community activity - City Safe Havens: working with local businesses to create safe environments, where people can shelter if they felt threatened or unsafe - a shopfront improvement scheme to the retail premises on The Green - a canoeing club, using the local canals – and which is proving very popular - Westside Radio’s project to capture the experiences of children living in Southall - a dedicated police officer – supported by special constables – who will be starting work in July to improvement engagement with local businesses <p>Councillor Kang asked if there were questions to Chief Inspector Wingrove</p> | <p><i>Are the Police dealing with brothels and pimps?</i></p> <p>Colin noted that the Police were aware of a number of local brothels and were gathering evidence in order to close them down. Dealing with the people who control prostitution is complex, but again the Police are now investigating a number of related matters, including people trafficking and</p> |

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| | | <p>violence against women.</p> <p><i>Drug dealers seem to be cautioned and then they are back on the streets.</i></p> <p>Offenders who are arrested for supplying drugs generally lead to a prosecution. However it is sometimes difficult to prove that an individual is supplying rather than consuming illegal drugs.</p> <p><i>A particular resident spoke at length about prostitution. A report had been compiled, detailing the offences he had observed to have been committed, and he urged residents to support a local petition urging the Police and the council to do more to tackle the problem.</i></p> <p>Councillor Anand thanked the resident for the work to highlight this matter. She and her fellow councillors had walked through the parts of the ward that were causing concern, while being advised by senior council and police officers. She was assured that a significant local effort to deal with prostitution was in progress</p> <p>Chief Inspector Wingrove confirmed the councillor's view. He noted that a year ago there were 59 active prostitutes working in the ward – now reduced to a maximum of 12. He and the councillors cautioned residents of the risks associated with taking direct action themselves.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Notes of the last Southall Green ward forum – 11th March 2013 – to note, along with any matters arising</p> <p>Councillor Kang drew residents' attention to the notes, which had been circulated previously and were also available at the meeting.</p> <p>During a discussion of matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible 2013/14 projects – preliminary discussion (page | |

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| | <p>7) it was noted that it may not be necessary to install three stop and shop bays in Adelaide Road.</p> <p>- Alley leading from Montague Way to Regina Road (also page 7). Councillor Anand noted that she and Councillor Kang had visited the area the previous Monday with council officers, who had been asked to investigate if the alley can be gated.</p> | <p>DF offered to seek more details</p> <p>DF to follow up the various action from the visit</p> |
| 5. | <p>Envirocrime report - Written report from Ruston Wyatt – Envirocrime Officer</p> | |
| | <p>Councillor Kang introduced the regular written report, which was available at the meeting and dealt with activity in the ward from March 2013 to date.</p> <p>Councillor Anand welcomed the report, in particular the work to deal with unlicensed street trading and the dumping of rubbish. She encouraged residents to contact the council to report these and similar matters (details opposite).</p> | <p>Council's Envirocrime Team – details:</p> <p>Ruston Wyatt and Seema Patel – Envirocrime Prevention Officers</p> <p>Ealing Council, Customer Service Centre, Perceval House, 14 -16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing W5 2HL 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'</p> <p>http://www.ealing.gov.uk/customers</p> |
| 6. | <p>Ward funded projects for 2012/13 - Review of ward projects</p> | |
| | <p>Councillor Kang introduced this item, and the associated report, which summarised the past year's ward supported projects and their associated costs.</p> | |

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| | <p>He drew residents to particular projects:</p> <p>Norwood Road / Victoria Road junction – pedestrian crossing feasibility study. Council officers had not recommended that a crossing be installed at this location, but that a traffic calming scheme would be worthwhile. This was now the subject of a local public consultation.</p> <p>Havelock Road – perimeter fence. It had been agreed that a fence was important, and that a suitably durable type was being sought.</p> <p>Southall Rec. The extensive ward funded work was almost complete and included new footpaths, flower beds, Canopied seating and a cricket practice area. Residents noted that the flower beds seemed poorly drained.</p> <p>Councillor Anand asked about the installation of the planned CCTV camera in Southall Rec. DF noted that funds for this remained available from the ward’s 2011/12 budget. There had been a delay through the lack of a clear wireless signal – essential for the camera to operate – and which was currently being resolved.</p> <p>War memorial renovation. This was a joint project with Norwood Green ward, and quotations for the work were now being sought.</p> <p>Community Grants. These had been paid. DF noted that a report had been received from the Punjabi Theatre Academy, as to how the grant for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Adelaide Road had been spent.</p> <p>Councillor Kang summarised the financial position: £31,000</p> | <p>DF offered to draw this to the attention of the council’s Parks team</p> |

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| | <p>from an available £43,000 had been spent during the year, leaving £12,000 to be carried forward to 2013/14.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Ward budget – 2013/14 - discussion of possible ward funded projects</p> | |
| | <p>Councillor Kang moved on to introduce the 2013/14 ward budget. A draft was available at the meeting, which incorporated project suggestions from residents, councillors and council officers received to date.</p> <p>DF noted that Mark Reynolds the council's park warden had secured funds from the QEII Fields in Trust fund, to support further improvements to Southall Rec. The ward's proposed projects – further benches and a canopy, and more public exercise machines – would complement this welcome award.</p> <p>Highways projects in Adelaide and Derley Roads – had already been discussed and it was confirmed that some further preparatory work to the scheme in Adelaide Road was required.</p> <p>Improvements to the Southall Manor House grounds – a joint project with Norwood Green ward – had been discussed at the last meeting</p> <p>Alley gating scheme from Montague Waye – had been referred to previously in Matters Arising – above.</p> <p>Contribution to Micro Fund. The fund had also been noted in Chief Inspector Wingrove's report – above – and that all Southall wards were being encouraged to support the second round of grants this year.</p> | |

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| | Councillor Kang summarised – that a further £17,000 was available to be allocated. He asked that further suggestions be made over the coming weeks to the ward councillors, or to DF. | |
| 8. | Public Forum | |
| | Councillor Kang asked for questions and comments. | <p><i>Can more be done to discourage the feeding of pigeons – in particular on the paved area at the corner of King Street and Western Road?</i></p> <p>Councillor Anand replied that the position was much improved from recent years, both by prosecution of persistent offenders, and by work to improve this area.</p> <p>Residents spoke of a scheme to convert the nearby church into a community project called the Kings Centre, which would also further improve this part of the ward.</p> <p><i>Could an open area in Norwood Road be fenced off, to stop unauthorised parking?</i></p> <p>Councillor Kang asked if DF could look into this.</p> <p><i>Can the parking arrangements in the Brent road / Western Road area be looked at?</i></p> <p>Councillor Anand reminded residents that the traffic arrangements had been improved last year, but that a review was certainly required.</p> <p><i>Residents from Tilney Road and Bulls Bridge Road asked if the noise nuisance coming from the Brent Road trading estate be looked at.</i></p> <p>Councillors offered to meet with residents to discuss this further</p> |

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| | <p>Councillor Kang updated residents on the proposals by the North West London health Authority to close some local hospital accident and emergency units, including the one at Ealing Hospital.</p> <p>The Secretary of State had asked for the decision to be reviewed, and the outcome was awaited. He encouraged residents to make their views of the proposed closures known to the review panel.</p> <p><i>To contact the panel direct, tel: (020) 7389 8046, email: info@irpanel.org.uk, or write to: Independent Reconfiguration Panel, 6th floor, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W9SP.</i></p> | |
| 8. | Dates of future meetings 2013/14 | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2nd October - 12th February 2014 <p>all the Dominion Centre, The Green, Southall UB2 4BQ, starting at 7.30pm</p> | |

Dennis Frost
26: June: 2013