

Neighbourhood Governance

Notes of a meeting of the Southall Green Ward Forum

held on Wednesday 2nd October 2013 at the Manor House, The Green, Southall UB2 4BJ

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

Attendees: 22 residents attended the meeting

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

Officers present: Dennis Frost (DF) – Ealing Council, Neighbourhood Governance Co-ordinator
Jo Spedding – Ealing Council, Safer Communities Team

No.	Note	Question /Action Point
1.	Chair's welcome and introductions	
	<p>The meeting began at 7.34pm with Councillor Swarn Kang welcoming those present. He explained that the alternative venue had been necessary because of building work at the Dominion Centre (across the road).</p> <p>He introduced his fellow councillor Jasbir Anand, and reminded residents that councillor Kamaljit Dhindsa was taking no part in the year's programme of ward forum meetings because of his role as the borough's Mayor.</p>	

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2.	<p>Notes of the last Southall Green ward forum – 19th June 2013</p> <p>- to note, along with any matters arising</p>	
	<p>Councillor Kang reported that the notes had been circulated to residents on the ward's mailing list, although further copies were available at the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Anand proposed an amendment to the notes. Concerning item 3 Local Police update from the Safer Neighbourhoods Team – page 4. This concerned partnership working, and Councillor Anand noted she would provide DF with an amended form of words.</p> <p>Councillor Kang then worked through the notes, to deal with any matters arising. The following points were raised:</p> <p>Page 2 – drugs and drug dealing: residents were concerned that the poorly lit alley between the Tudor Rose and St Anselm's Church had become a location for this activity. Could the lighting be improved? Councillor Anand explained that the alley was not a public thoroughfare, and that the owners would need to be approached. DF confirmed that the alley was owned by the church.</p> <p>Page 2 – prostitution: Councillor Anand appraised residents of the Police's recent Operation Tolkein – a crackdown on kerb crawling and street prostitution in Southall. Forty-one arrests were made between July and September, of whom 24 have been charged. Full written details of the operation were made available to residents.</p> <p>Councillor Anand welcomed this initiative and understood that the operation would be continuing. Residents were</p>	<p>Add to the 19th June notes – item 3 Local Police Update from Safer neighbourhoods team – page 4 – after, ".....was in progress....."</p> <p><i>"The walk also included Recreation Road, Montague Waye and Regina Road when councillors were accompanied by Jess Murray the service Manager from the Council's safer Communities. The alley leading from Montague Waye to Recreation Road was visited, with a recommendation that it should be gated, to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour and fly tipping."</i></p>

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	<p>also pleased to know that this significant local matter was being dealt with.</p> <p>Councillor Anand added that the Police have their own Focus Group, where they report to residents about their local policing work. She understood that the Group had not met recently, and hoped that it could be revived.</p> <p>Page 6 – Havelock Road perimeter fence: DF updated residents, about the proposed fence bordering the open area leading to the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha. It was proving difficult to select a design which was both aesthetically pleasing, while being secure. Councillor Kang added that, as part of the project, it was intended to close the alleyway leading to Hammond Road.</p> <p>Page 8 – Open Area in Norwood Road: DF reported that this grassed area, adjacent to the second car park in Norwood Road, was owned by the council. She understood that the area had been earmarked for a land swap, thereby creating a dedicated parking area for the Gurdwara.</p> <p>Page 8 – International Trading Estate – noise nuisance: residents of Bulls Bridge and Tilney Roads confirmed that noise was now less of a problem. However they had asked Bestway if they would cut back the overhanging trees. Councillor Anand confirmed that council officers from the Safer Communities team had visited Bestway and had received an assurance from the manager that the trees would be cut back.</p>	<p>Residents reported that drug dealing was taking place in Belmont Avenue. DF offered to brief the Police.</p>

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		DF offered to follow this up, to ensure that the work was in hand.
3.	<p>Local police update from Safer Neighbourhoods team</p> <p>As the Police had not arrived, Councillor Kang proposed to move on to the next item – and deal with Police matters when the team arrived.</p> <p>Update: unfortunately the Police were unable to attend. Sgt Molewyn-Hughes subsequently sent a message to DF, apologising that some operational matters had intervened, preventing his team from attending the ward forum.</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"> • Inspector Julian Holton • Sgt Richard Moelwyn-Hughes • PC Anne-Marie Pilkington • PC Gwyn Hunt • PCSO Mark Owen • PCSO David Diaz <p>Telephone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 020 8721 2047 <p>E-mail: SouthallGreen.snt@met.police.uk</p> <p>Web site: www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods</p>
4.	Community Safety Report	

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	<p>Jo Spedding from the council's Safer Communities team introduced herself, and explained she was deputising for Daniel Malone-O'Halloran, the Southall team leader.</p> <p>She explained that a recent reorganisation of the council's community safety work meant that the Southall team now mirrored the Police's ward-based structure. Jo noted that she was unable to provide a report on safety matters in the ward, but was happy to answer questions.</p> <p>Councillor Anand expressed her disappointment. She had been assured by senior council officers that a detailed report, dealing with matters such as the Grand Junction Arms, Brent Road and the ward supported proposed alley gating scheme from Montague Waye, would be presented to residents.</p> <p>Councillor Kang was able to report that the closure of the alley leading from Montague Waye was now the subject of a public consultation.</p>	<p>DF to request a full report on these and related community safety matters.</p> <p><i>What is the purpose the recently implemented dispersal order?</i></p> <p>Councillor Anand explained that the order gave the Police powers to disperse groups of people who are causing a nuisance and possible anti-social behaviour. She noted it was a welcome power, but appreciated that it required the Police to have sufficient resources to implement effectively.</p>
5.	<p>Envirocrime report - written report from Ruston Wyatt – Envirocrime Officer</p>	
	<p>Councillor Kang introduced a written report, dealing with officer activity June - October. Copies were available at the meeting.</p>	<p>Council's Envirocrime Team – details: Ruston Wyatt – Envirocrime Prevention Officers</p>

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	<p>This was a typically detailed report, and dealt with matters such as abandoned and nuisance vehicles, disposal of commercial waste and temporary structures relating to building sites in the ward.</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' http://www.ealing.gov.uk/customers</p> <p><i>What is a Section 34 notice?</i></p> <p>This is written request from the council to a trader, asking that they provide within seven days, details of their arrangements for disposing of commercial waste.</p> <p><i>Could the Envirocrime Officer attend the ward forum, to present the report and answer questions?</i></p> <p>DF replied that it would be difficult for officers to attend all meetings, given their other commitments. However he was briefed by the officer concerned, in order that DF could report on the current matters in hand.</p> <p>Councillors asked if it would be possible for the Envirocrime Officer to attend one meeting a year – which would be beneficial. DF offered to see if this would be possible.</p>
6.	<p>Ward budget – 2013/14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggested ward projects (update) - Finalising the ward budget (Draft 3 attached) 	
	<p>Councillor Kang introduced this item, and drew residents' attention to the updated budget, listing ward funded</p>	

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	<p>projects that had been suggested to date.</p> <p>Representatives from Desi Radio spoke about a young people's Punjabi language project, recording their experiences of Southall. Councillors and residents felt this was a worthwhile project, and asked that a more detailed proposal be worked up, in order that the ward could consider making a financial contribution.</p> <p>Representatives from the Kings Centre spoke of a scheme to bring the old St Johns church in King Street back into use as a community facility, incorporating the existing public open space on the corner of the Western Road. Councillor had met with the organisers and recommended that a grant of £2,000 would help to 'pump prime' the work of raising further funds.</p> <p>Councillor Kang provided more details of the Southall Great Streets project – an initiative to improve some of the significant buildings and spaces on The Green and King Street.</p> <p>DF advised it was appropriate that the draft budget, listing projects totalling £34,500 be put before the Leader of the Council for consideration, in order that the various listed projects could be implemented.</p> <p>This was agreed</p>	<p>DF was asked to submit the ward budget for the Leader of the Council's consideration</p>
8.	<p>Public Forum - issues and questions from residents</p>	
	<p>Councillor Kang asked for residents' questions and comments.</p>	<p><i>Could the areas around the public exercise machines in Southall Recreation Ground be improved?</i></p>

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	<p>Councillor Anand reported that the new car park in the High Street (Southall Broadway ward) on the site of the old Cattle Market had been opened in August. There were 81 parking spaces and the scheme had been a manifesto commitment from the current council administration.</p> <p>A resident who had spoken at length at the last meeting – about prostitution – arrived and asked that the matter be discussed again.</p> <p>Councillors explained that the matter had already been considered (in Item 2 above).</p> <p>The resident insisted that the matter be discussed further.</p>	<p>DF offered to arrange this, as part of the further ward funded work in the Rec.</p> <p><i>What is happening to the site of the old recycling centre in Adelaide Road?</i></p> <p>Councillor Anand reported that it is planned the land will be redeveloped for council housing. The project is at the design stage.</p> <p><i>How is the building work at the Dominion centre progressing?</i></p> <p>Councillor Anand noted that refurbishment of the existing facilities was almost complete, and that work on the extension – to house the relocated Southall Library – has begun and will be completed early next year.</p> <p><i>Can rooms in the refurbished Southall Manor House be booked?</i></p> <p>DF offered to provide details:</p>

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	<p>He believed that the new dispersal order was not being implemented that that there was more to be done to reclaim the nighttime public spaces in the ward.</p> <p>Other residents agreed, suggesting that a rally of local people could be organise, to demonstrate the strength of local feeling.</p> <p>Councillors offered to arrange a meeting for concerned residents with the Cabinet member for Community Services and Safety, along with senior council officers.</p> <p>Councillor Kang gave notice that the council was seeking recommendations for its 2014 annual review of parking in the borough – in particular the operation of, and suggestions for, Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ). Residents felt that the Bulls Bridge Road area could usefully become a CPZ.</p>	<p>DF to arrange.</p> <p>Update: this meeting took place on 16th October, and a report will be provided to the next ward forum</p> <p>DF offered to report this suggestion to officers in the council's Highways department</p>
8.	Dates of future meetings 2013/14	
	<p>- 12th February 2014</p> <p>at the Dominion Centre, The Green, Southall UB2 4BQ, starting at 7.30pm</p>	

Dennis Frost
09: December: 2013