

Neighbourhood Governance

Note of Southall Green Ward Forum Meeting

Southall Green Ward Forum meeting – held on Thursday 15 January 2009 at 7.30pm at The Dominion Arts and Education Centre, The Green UB2

Present: Councillors Anand (Chairman) and Dhindsa

Attendees: 12 residents with 9 signing the attendance sheet.

Trevor Davies (TD), interim Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards (EH&TS)

Graeme Duggan (GD), Community Safety officer, Southall

Sergeant Richard Moelwyn-Hughes (Sgt. MH) – Southall Green Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

Apologies: Councillor Kang

Committee Administrator: Mike Davidson (MD) – Democratic Services Officer

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

Papers available at the meeting:

- Agenda
- Report on Southall Green Ward Forum Spending Recommendations
- Map of Southall Green Ward Forum Spending Recommendations
- Design drawing of Western Road improvement plan
- Design drawing of Williams Road/Regina Road minor parking scheme
- Updated notes of Southall Green ward forum meeting held 16 October 2008
- Ward forum survey

No.	Note	Action Point/Information
1.	Appointment of Chairman/Vice Chairman Councillor Anand was appointed as Chairman. The meeting started at 7.30pm in the conference room of The Dominion Centre, The Green with Councillor Anand welcoming those present. Councillor Dhindsa, Sergeant Richard Moelwyn-Hughes and the Ealing Council officers gave introductions. Health and safety information was provided.	

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2.	<p>Notes of the last Ward Forum – 16 October – to confirm accuracy</p> <p>All were agreed that the notes of 16 October 2008 were a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising from the last Ward Forum</p> <p>Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) TD presented an update on the situation regarding HMOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A report is being prepared regarding overcrowding in the private rented sector to the February 2009, Council's Health, Housing and Adult Services Standing Scrutiny Panel meeting - Outhouses (rear-garden garage conversions) were a problem throughout the borough in terms of planning, building control and housing standards - The construction of an outhouse may not in itself be unlawful however, compliance with planning, building control and housing standards would be required if the construction were used as private rented accommodation. - HMO licensing fees had been increased to more properly reflect the Council's costs of licensing and regulation. The additional funding will provide additional support staff to tackle HMO issues <p>Residents questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resident enquired whether HMO information could be published on the Council's website, including HMO addresses under investigation in individual wards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EH&TS response: Addresses of licensed HMOs are publicly available information and can be made available on request or published on the Council's website. We are currently upgrading database software and this will provide the facility for making applications online, displaying and public register of licences including HMO licences. The new software takes effect on 2 February 2009, however, the online facility is a stage 2 development and we are in discussion about

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resident asked if the Council could provide information of how many properties have been identified as unlicensed HMO's in the Southall Green ward. This information was provided by other local authorities 	<p>possible introduction dates with the development Project Manager, hopefully this will be achieved by late February 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are currently, 44 licensed HMOs in Southall Green ward. A further seven applications are currently being processed. It would not be appropriate to publish the addresses of suspected unlicensed HMOs. In addition to the possibility of prejudice to investigations there may be civil law implications for the Council - EH&TS update - April 2009: The online licensing tool is not yet completed, and therefore is not signposted from the Council's website. - The Council has grounds to suspect that 190 properties in Southall Green ward are operating as unlicensed HMOs and officers are carrying out investigations. It is likely that there are in fact many more unlicensed properties however; the Council does not have the evidence to provide a meaningful estimate or indicative figure. We welcome information where there are grounds for suspecting that unlicensed HMOs are operating and this can be reported to: <p>Proactive Housing Team, Residential Services, Housing and Environmental Health Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing W5 2HL Tel: 020 8825 5115 Email: hmos@ealing.gov.uk</p>
	<p>Community safety action plan update GD gave an update for the Southall Green ward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A partnership taskforce day involving the Council, the police and other organisations to enforce crime and anti-social behaviour in Southall Green is planned for January 2009 - The hanging vegetation on The Common will be cut 	

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	<p>back in order to reduce incidents of fly-tipping and robbery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCTV is to be used to monitor the alleyway at the rear of commercial premises along The Green - A yellow-box is to be painted outside the Abbey Bank on King Street to prevent distraction burglary at the ATM machine - CCTV cameras are being used to monitor and record vehicles crossing the public footway by the HSBC bank on Montague Way. There was no crime or anti-social behaviour evidence recorded to suggest the benches would need to be removed <p>Residents questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resident asked if the Community Safety action plan written notes could be provided at future forums to accompany verbal updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor Dhindsa said the telephone booths opposite the Brilliant Restaurant were being misused and enquired if the booths could be removed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor Anand requested that ward councillors receive information on the installation of bollards to prevent vehicles parking outside the HSBC Bank on Montague Way. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community safety response: Currently we don't do this for other ward forums, but often do for the SNT ward panel meetings, as these are specifically about crime. Additionally, due to the way the notes were structured, some of the residents thought that written responses had not been provided by council officers to the matters arising from the previous meeting, however the responses were attached at the back. - GD said, a working group has been established between the Southall police SNT's, BT, Ealing planning, regeneration and community safety teams to address this problem across Southall, replacing the majority of the phone boxes with new standalone telephones which cannot be used for the type of crime the old style booths are. This is a long-term project, and a number of factors need to be taken into consideration. Planning permission needs to be granted, it is a legal responsibility for telephone companies to provide public phones, also the boxes are privately owned and the Council have little or no power to remove them without

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		<p>the consent of the owner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Southall Green SNT response: The SNT regularly patrol the area and do very occasionally find drug related problems. There are currently no plans to try and get the phone boxes removed, as they are still used by legitimate customers.
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1)</p> <p>4.2)</p> <p>4.3)</p>	<p>Public forum</p> <p>Resident expressed concerns with the development of the Southall Gas Works as this could lead to more population density in Southall Green</p> <p>Councillor Dhindsa said on Featherstone Road by the old school building site, there is a yellow line on one side of the road and a controlled parking zone (CPZ) on the other side. He requested the yellow line to be removed and this area brought back in to use for parking</p> <p>Resident enquired if any ward forum spending were for provisions for local youth</p>	<p>4.1) The Council planning policy manager was requested to attend the next Southall Green Ward Forum to discuss the Local Development Framework (LDF) Scrutiny Panel and listen to local concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dick Johns will attend the next forum meeting and also discuss a report that will be going to the Cabinet regarding the Council planning strategy. <p>4.2) Highways response: Highways officers if requested to do so by ward councillors can assess a business parking facility on this yellow-line section. An example of a business parking facility could be a 'pay and display' bays.</p> <p>4.3) KN to provide further information on the youth football project at Featherstone Sports Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Featherstone Sports Centre offer the following activities for young people from 5.30pm – 7pm. <p>Monday - football Tuesday - badminton Wed - Trampolining Thurs - Basketball Friday - football</p> <p>Costs are £2.80 - £3 per session Discount card for frequent users costs £15 per year</p>

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4.4)	Resident said he had received a consultation form regarding a zebra crossing for Clifton Road and Talbot Road, he would like to know why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ealing Positive Futures also run five-a-side football and coaching at Featherstone Sports Centre for 10-13 year olds from 5.30pm-7.30pm on Tuesdays and from 6.30pm-8.30pm on Wednesdays. - An estate league for all the different Positive Futures teams run on Saturdays, from 12noon to 2pm. For further details please contact the Ealing Positive Futures Manager, Jen Emeny on 0845 262 9495. <p>4.4) Councillor Dhindsa responded the proposal for a zebra crossing was rejected as part of a 20 mph zone traffic-calming scheme.</p> <p>Highways response: Consultation with residents was carried out and the proposed zebra crossings were rejected in both Clifton and Talbot Road. This was because a large number of parking places would be lost. It has now been agreed to move forward with a raised table in Clifton Road at the location where the crossing was to be installed and to install speed cushions in Talbot Road.</p>
5.	Ward Forum – Spending Recommendations	
5.1)	Referring to item 5, Southall Green Spending Recommendations Report - Table of Recommendations on page 3, Councillor Anand proceeded to announce the recommended projects	<p>5.1) To read the full report and appendices, please visit the Council website: www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor Anand declared her interest as a business owner on Scott's Road regarding the minor parking scheme proposed for Scott's Road.
5.2)	Residents asked for clarity of what a download from the mobile CCTV unit would comprise	<p>5.2) A download consists of an officer and an engineer visiting the column where the CCTV camera is located to search through the footage on site.</p>
5.3)	Resident suggested that the ward forum should not fund the alley-gating between Hartington Road and Gladstone Road as the residents affected could apply directly to the Council's alley-gating scheme	<p>5.3) Following consultation with the forum, the ward Councillors decided to reject the recommendation for alley-gating between Hartington Road and Gladstone Road.</p>

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5.4)	Resident enquired about urinals in Southall Recreation Park and why ward forum funds was not used for this purpose - Sgt MH said that public toilets were often abused which lead to subsequent closure, as was the case for the public toilets on The Green	5.4) Male portable urinals cost about £150- 200 per unit inclusive of delivery.
5.5)	Resident requested a time switch to be put in place for the lights which are left on during the night in the grounds of Featherstone School	5.5) Councillor Anand has spoken to head teacher of the school. The head teacher will ask the school caretaker to switch off this lighting when it is not required.
5.6)	Resident wanted to know when the results of the Council officers assessment of Norwood Road car park 1 site would be available	5.6) Economic regeneration response: Correction - A study was conducted with regards to Norwood Road car park 2 and not car park 1. Transport planners advised only three extra parking spaces would be created and issues regarding noise and vehicle manoeuvrability mean redevelopment of Norwood Road car park 2 is not currently cost effective.
5.7)	Councillor Anand requested that Transport for London (TfL) should make all ward forums aware of possible schemes in order for the forum to input or make a bid to TfL	5.7) Transport planning response: A list of Southall traffic congestion schemes will be supplied by Ealing transport planning officers to ward councillors.
5.8)	Resident enquired when will the two benches on Featherstone Road be replaced	5.8) Highways response: Highways officers have scrutinised their records and were unable to ascertain the location or the history relating to the benches referred to. Can you please obtain from the councillors where the benches are required so that arrangements are made for the installation of bench/s at a correct location - A highways officer conducted a site inspection regarding the benches outside New Bharat Coach. This visit established that the benches in question are on private land and was not installed by the council.
5.9)	Resident enquired who has maintenance responsibility for the flower beds outside New Bharat Coaches	5.9) Parks response: The council's grounds maintenance contractor visited in April to tidy up, they planted a small number of shrubs during this visit to fill in gaps

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5.10)	There was discussion concerning skip-hire for a clean-up campaign. KN explained the hiring of skips is a revenue expense as opposed to capital expense	<p>that have appeared. The work schedule will be altered so that this area will be regularly maintained as a shrub bed. During the visit the contractor also worked on the grass areas outside New Bharat Coaches facing the Western Road, works will involve removal of basal growth on two trees.</p> <p>5.10) The ward forum decided to recommend, against officer advice, that 'multiple skip hire for removal of rubbish as part of clean up campaign' be agreed for spend because of an exceptional need in the ward. Locations for this campaign to be discussed at next Southall Green Ward Forum, 30 April.</p>
5.11)	Resident requested that the ward forum be provided with statistics on the number of penalty charge notices (PCN) enforced in Montague Waye	<p>5.11) Parking enforcement provided the following PCN statistics for Montague Waye in 2009: January 2009: Location logged on 185 occasions with 14 PCN issued February 2009: Location logged on 147 occasions with 9 PCN issued March 2009: Location logged on 206 occasions with 24 PCN issued April 2009 (up to 24th): Location logged on 117 occasions with 1 PCN issued.</p>
5.12)	There was discussion regarding the traffic lights on Western Road	<p>5.12) The ward forum recommends that the relevant Portfolio Holder request that Transport for London (TfL) remove the traffic lights on Western Road.</p>
5.13)	Resident said Hounslow Council have asked Ealing Council for a response regarding solutions for the right-turn from Tesco supermarket to Hillingdon boundary. Particularly, regarding Hayes Road of which one of the proposals include a traffic light on Hayes Road	<p>5.13) A request was made for the relevant transport officer to attend the next ward forum to discuss Hounslow council's proposals for the right turn from the Tesco supermarket to the Hillingdon boundary and how Ealing are contributing to the plans. Transport planning response: There are not the resources for officers to attend ward forum meetings. However, we are on hand to answer any questions or queries. This in fact is not an issue for Ealing.</p>

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5.14)	Resident said on Brent Road after the canal bridge, the road is not being maintained well, Hounslow Council appear to maintain the road on there side of the boundary, but Ealing Council does not maintain its side	<p>Hounslow council is dealing with the development that affects this junction, but are not ready to move on this yet. We shall liaise with Hounslow officers at regular intervals and notify the ward forum once we have some information.</p> <p>5.14) Highways response: The resident may well be referring to Western Road and not Brent Road, as there is not a canal bridge on Brent Road. Brent Road has not been selected to be resurfaced in the 09/10 programme as the average rating was 65.5. Roads being resurfaced in this years programme received a minimum of 97 and above. Patching work has been carried out at the bridge in Western Road, however the kerb still needs to be realigned. These works will take place shortly, at present the inspectors are making arrangements to have the road closed due to the fact that the carriageway where the works need to happen is very narrow.</p>
5.15)	Resident asked about the update for the Section 106 money secured for USC site. He asked if residents views would be taken into account in the proposals for spending	<p>5.15) Transport planning response: The council transport consultants, Mouchel have completed an initial review of the traffic proposals for Southall Green. Transport officers are able to meet with ward ccouncillors and Mr. T Virdee for their views in the design of the S106 proposals for the USC site.</p>
5.16)	Resident asked when the damaged kerb on the Brent Road, near the parking lot, will be repaired	<p>5.16) Highways response: A highway inspector will visit the site to ascertain extent of damage. Once this has been established and if the defect meets with the council's intervention level criteria an order will be sent to our contractors to carry out repairs.</p>
5.17)	Councillor Anand confirmed the items in Appendix 1 be included for spend apart from the alley-gating proposal. Also, supplementary to Appendix 1, the removal of the yellow-line on the site of the old Featherstone School and to obtain costs for the urinals in Southall Recreation Park	<p>5.17) Southall Green ward councillors agreed to recommend to the appropriate portfolio holder the proposals, as set out in Spending Recommendations Report and to include removal of the yellow-line on Featherstone Road</p>

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5.18)	Councillor Anand updated the forum about Priory Way park. Ealing Homes has cleaned the park, repaired two street lamps and are scheduled to repair a third lamp on the 16 January 2009	5.18) All repairs completed
	<p>Southall Green Safer Neighbourhood Team</p> <p>Sgt MH updated forum on local policing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sgt MH said alleyways could be cleaned as part of the community payback scheme. This scheme will also be used to clear up rubbish on The Common - The next Southall Green SNT focus panel will be on the 5 February 2009 - The SNT would be targeting the illegal workers on the corner of King Street and Norwood road in partnership with Immigration services. They would target the vans picking up illegal workers - A steering group is to be set-up regarding the ongoing complaints concerning The Green - There was an increase of burglary over the Christmas period and the SNT would be encouraging residents to take precautions to prevent burglary - The SNT would be conducting test purchases for underage sales with police cadets. 	<p>Southall Green Safer Neighbourhood Team</p> <p>Merrick Road Arches Tel: (020) 8721 2771 Email: SouthallGreenSNT@met.police.uk</p>
6.	The meeting concluded at 10.00pm	