

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

EAST PUTNEY WARD 'LET'S TALK' MEETING

Held at West Hill Baptist Church, Haldon Road, SW18
on Tuesday, 24th February 2015

PRESENT

Council Members

Councillor Govindia (Leader of the Council and East Putney Ward Member – in the chair); Councillor Osborn (Leader of the Opposition) and Councillors Crivelli and McDonnell (East Putney Ward Members).

Council Officers

Mr. Wale Adeyoyin – Head of Parking Road Safety & Highway Infrastructure (Housing and Community Services Department)
Mr. Andrew Jolly – Neighbourhood Officer (Administration Department)
Mr. Isaac Kwakye – Principal Engineer (Traffic) (Housing and Community Services Department)
Ms. Sharron Lecky – Area Housing Manager (Housing and Community Services Department)
Ms. Sue Moran – Principal Planner (Development Management - Housing and Community Services Department)
Mr. Mike Singham – Waste Policy Manager (Housing and Community Services Department)
Mr. Gareth Jones – Committee Secretary (Administration Department)
Ms. Ozu Okere – Committee Secretary (Administration Department)

Residents

Approximately 17 members of the public

INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed the residents present to the meeting and introduced the Council Members and officers present.

Following brief statements by the Ward Councillors, setting out the issues affecting East Putney Ward with which they had been involved, the Chairman invited questions and comments from residents.

ISSUES, RESPONSES AND ACTIONS

1. Housing Developments on Upper Richmond Road

Residents expressed the following concerns regarding the new developments on Upper Richmond Road;

- (i) They are an over development, are too high, lack views through them and block out sunlight;
- (ii) What is meant by “affordable homes” and what is the percentage required for new developments? First time buyers are finding it increasingly difficult to buy homes near their parents and where they have lived all their life;
- (iii) The number of new properties left lying empty because they are bought by foreign investors – does the Council intend to introduce measures to reduce the number of foreign investors buying up properties on new developments ?;
- (iv) The impact on parking facilities that these new developments have on neighbouring roads; and
- (v) What consideration is given to the infrastructure required as part of these new developments, such as schools provision and GP surgeries?

Response – (i) The Council’s planning officers do assess the sunlight and daylight report for each development so are unlikely to recommend approval of a development which fails to meet the required standard of sunlight and daylight test.

The Council’s tall buildings policy generally regards any development over 5-storeys as a tall building. In certain parts of the borough such as Nine Elms, taller buildings can be considered acceptable. For any site where a tall building is proposed a statement is required which justifies the number of storeys in the context of the criteria of the policy [before approval is granted for the proposal].

(ii) Affordable housing is defined as 80% of market value and the number of affordable housing units on each site varies as it depends on the viability of the development. The developer’s financial viability report on the amount of affordable housing it can provide on a site is verified by the Council’s own independent assessor to ensure that the maximum provision is secured.

(iii) The Council cannot prevent foreign investors from buying properties and leaving them empty. However, this is not a big problem in Wandsworth as the majority of properties are occupied.

(iv) The Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) rating for the area is very high therefore there is less provision for parking, and

(v) There is always dialogue with the local community on new developments and the associated infrastructure. There is an annual school assessment to predict what the future population and demand for school places will be, and NHS England works with the Council to ensure that there are adequate numbers of GP surgeries to serve the population.

2. Lifts at East Putney Station

Residents asked whether lifts will be installed at East Putney Station to make it more accessible for wheel chair users.

Response – There are ongoing discussions with Transport for London (TfL) to try to bring forward the planned improvement work to East Putney Station.

3. Crime Statistics

Residents asked if the crime statistics report would continue to be produced following the retirement of Stephen Selby, Community Safety Consultant, who was responsible for circulating the information to the Neighbourhood Watch Groups.

Response – There are plans to continue with the statistics especially as it is recognised that it has been a useful tool in reducing the level of crime in the area.

4. Second Entrance to Putney Station

Will the local community have any input in the opening up of a second entrance to Putney Station from Oxford Road?

Response – The decision to open up the second entrance has now been identified by Network Rail in their recent Wessex Route Study. The land belongs to Network Rail which recognises that measures are needed to cope with future passenger numbers. Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is available and local residents can shape where and how this is spent. The Council can also make a contribution towards the cost from S106 and CIL sources.

5. Electronic Bus Countdown Timetable

A resident asked whether the electronic bus countdown facility at the bus stop on Putney Hill will be replaced ?

Response – The information will be passed to the Council's transportation section who will raise the matter with Transport for London (TfL).

(Action – Isaac Kwakye)

(Update: the board has been removed for repair, the current status of repairs can be viewed on the TfL website -

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/modes/buses/live-bus-arrivals> The resident has been informed.)

6. Refuse Collection

- (i) Would the Council consider introducing wheelie bins to address issues of rubbish sacks being ripped open by foxes and littering the street?;
- (ii) Would the Council consider supplying dustbins for those residents that could not afford one? And

(iii) A resident suggested that the refuse collectors regularly fail to replace dustbin lids and that this could result in a road traffic hazard if and when they end up in the road.

Response – (i) There are no plans to introduce wheelie bins and residents should use conventional dustbins where they have suitable front gardens. There is clear information and advice regarding rubbish collection on the Council's web site and there has recently been a poster campaign to raise awareness about this;

(ii) No the Council would not provide dustbins, the cost of a dustbin is relatively low and is unlikely to be the reason why residents did not use them, and

(iii) The contractor will be reminded that dustbin lids should be put back on as found.

7. Queues at Polling Stations

How will the Council deal with a potential queue of voters after the 10pm deadline at the forthcoming general election.

Response – In the event of queues forming at polling stations, any voters in the queue at 10pm at the polling station will be allowed to vote. However, those arriving after 10pm will not be able to vote.

8. Pavements

Could smaller paving stones be used when relaying pavements as the larger paving slabs get cracked easily and become a hazard for pedestrians and wheelchair users? Furthermore, who is responsible for the maintenance of vehicle crossovers as they are in a particularly bad state in West Hill Road?

Response – The Council tries to replace like for like to have uniformity in its paving but the request will be taken back to the transportation section. As regards the maintenance of vehicle crossovers, the Council or TfL will be responsible for any works required from the boundary of the house up to the road. Details of any crossover requiring works should be given to an officer at the end of the meeting so the matter can be looked into.

(Action – Isaac Kwakye)

9. Gyratory System

What is happening to the Wandsworth one-way system?

Response - A recent consultation had been undertaken by TfL on proposals for a new gyratory system for Wandsworth Town Centre, more detailed proposals were being drawn up and would again go out to consultation in due course.

10. Wandsworth Museum

A resident felt strongly regarding the closure of the museum and the loss of community space, and was concerned that the building might be sold or demolished; and asked what had happened to the museum collection?

Response - Councillor Govindia explained that the building had been marketed for letting and negotiations were ongoing to secure a new tenant, the Council was duty bound to get the best financial return from the premises, as it was a Council owned building, and it would not be sold or demolished. He was not sure where the collection was at present but added that it does rotate and is displayed at other venues.

11. Cycling

Can the Council do anything to make it safer for cyclists travelling between Putney Heath and Putney High Street?

Response - Isaac Kwakye explained that it was difficult to introduce any additional measures to improve safety for cyclists along this route because of the width of the carriageway and pavement. Councillor McDonnell suggested that cyclists could use Oxford Road rather than Putney High Street. Wale Adeyoyin added that a recent investigation into air quality in the High Street could result in delivery lorries being prevented from unloading at peak times which would benefit cyclists using the High Street.

12. CCTV monitoring box junction

Could a camera be installed at the junction of Putney Hill/Putney High Street/Upper Richmond Road to monitor traffic entering and blocking the box junction?

Response - This is part of the TfL Road network and this suggestion will be passed on to them.

(Action – Isaac Kwakye)

CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman thanked residents for attending the meeting and invited them to stay and speak further with Councillors and officers about matters they had raised or any queries that they did not wish to discuss in the open meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.

Gareth Jones (020 8871 7520)
Ozu Okere (020 8871 6035)

February 2015