

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

WEST HILL WARD 'LET'S TALK' MEETING

Held at Linden Lodge School, 61 Princes Way, SW19 6JB
on Tuesday, 20th October 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Council Members

Councillor Govindia, Leader of the Council (in the Chair);
West Hill Ward Members: Councillor Nick Cuff, Councillor Malcolm Grimston, Councillor Andy Peterkin; and
Councillor Osborn (Graveney Ward Member and Leader of the Opposition).

Council Officers

Mike Singham	– Waste Strategy Manager (Housing and Community Services)
Andrew Jolly	– Neighbourhood Officer (Administration)
Nick Calder	– Head of Development Permissions (Housing and Community Services)
Gary Hipple	– Head of Schools ICT (Education and Social Services)
Sharron Lecky	– Area Housing Manager (Housing and Community Services)
Mark Maciver	– Principal Enforcement Officer (Housing and Community Services)
Jade Murrell	– Committee Secretary (Administration Department)
Jacky Bennett	– Committee Secretary (Administration Department)

Residents

Approximately 54 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 West Hill Ward with which they had been involved, the Chairman invited questions and comments from residents.

ISSUE, RESPONSES AND ACTION

1. Roads and Traffic

Construction lorries using Princes Way

A resident spoke about Princes Way currently being a rat run for traffic. Construction lorries used the road and it was anticipated that the situation would worsen with the development at Ronald Ross School. There were already two bus routes on the road and motorists ignored the 20mph speed limit. The resident asked what the long term plans to resolve the situation were.

Response – Councillor Peterkin said that the Construction Management Plan for the Ronald Ross development specified that the access for construction lorries should be via Beaumont Road and that only smaller sized lorries were to be used in the middle of the day to avoid the worst traffic.

Councillor Grimston said that he had submitted a petition to the last Council meeting to introduce a one way system on Keevil Drive to improve road safety and the flow of traffic, but solutions such as this can feel like ‘rat runs’ to residents. There was no overall on road solution to all of the issues, but tweaks could be made.

Councillor Cuff said that enforcement needed to be a big part of improving the situation.

Road dip on Princes Way

A resident reported that Princes Way had a dip in the road which became flooded when it rained, impacting on the pedestrian path and the Greenwood properties.

[Post meeting note: No dangerous highway defects could be identified on Princes Way that could be related to the flooding issue. If it was the physical geography of the road that was the cause, it could not be repaired. However, colleagues in the traffic engineering consultancy had been notified in case there was anything further that could be done.]

Broken step in George Wyver Close

A resident complained that there was a broken step on George Wyver Close that required fixing and requested that a ramp be installed as a replacement so that a neighbour who uses a double push chair could access her property more easily. The resident expressed concern

that the Council had said residents should pay for the work themselves, when it should be their responsibility.

Response – Sharron Lecky said that the Council would repair the broken step but the request for a ramp would be considered as an ‘improvement’ and one that would be to benefit an individual freeholder. This, combined with the limited resources available, meant that it could not be carried out.

(Action – Sharron Lecky)

2. Environment

Anti-Social behaviour at Montfort Place

Residents complained that Montfort Place was an eye sore that attracted anti social behaviour and the small independent businesses there were being pushed out. Residents asked what could be done about this.

Response – Councillor Cuff said that this area needed more than a temporary solution and suggested that the local Councillors carry out a site visit with a Housing representative to discuss design and improvements.

Sharron Lecky said that the anti-social behaviour in the area had been recognised and although there couldn’t be an immediate solution, a site visit with the local Councillors, the Residents’ Management Organisation (RMO) and Housing would be arranged to establish a long term plan.

(Action – Sharron Lecky)

Dilapidated shops on Beaumont Road

A resident complained that the shops on Beaumont Road needed regenerating and asked if they would be closed until development begun, and when this would be.

Response – Councillor Peterkin said that the site had been purchased, marketing was currently ongoing and it was hoped that a developer would be in place by January 2016.

Nick Calder added that planning permission had been granted and by the time the shops were vacated development should begin, but much of it depended on how long the tendering process took. He would arrange for a more detailed development timetable to be sent to the resident from the property services team.

(Action – Nick Calder)

Sainsbury's at Southfields Town

A resident asked if the Sainsbury's being built at Southfields Town shopping centre had agreed to having a turning point for delivery lorries as part of their planning permission.

Response – Councillor Cuff said that Sainsbury's were looking into a solution that evaded the infrastructure already in place under the road's surface, such as broadband internet cables.

Councillor Grimston said that he had more confidence in the current Sainsbury teams' plans and they had been clear on finding a solution.

Nick Calder explained that planning permission was not required for the Sainsbury's store itself, only the extension at the rear, but when plans were put forward they would be open to public consultation.

Another resident asked if the Post Office at Southfields would be moved.

Response – Nick Calder said that alternatives were currently being looked at and a long term plan would be established.

3. Parking and Speeding

Blind bends on Castlecombe Drive

A resident complained that there were three dangerous blind bends on Castlecombe Drive. Motorists ignored the 20mph limits and parents whose children attend the local schools parked on the double yellow lines. There had been no co-operation from the schools to stop this.

Response – Mark Maciver undertook to pass the issue to the Contract Manager (Parking) for follow up and assessment.

Speeding buses on Wimbledon Park Road

A resident complained that buses were speeding over the 30mph speed bumps on Wimbledon Park Road which resulted in vibrations and cracks to the neighbouring houses. The resident asked how the speed limits could be better enforced and if more measures could be put in place?

Response – Councillor Grimston said that he remembered when Wimbledon Park Road didn't have any speed bumps and this had also been very problematic. The speed bumps at the south end of the road had been lowered which may be a better solution. He received a lot of complaints about the buses on this road and was working with officers to put actions in place but in regards to adding more 'street furniture' a balance was needed.

Another resident asked if the traffic on Wimbledon Park Road would be affected by the development at the All England Club.

Response – Councillor Grimston said that although this development was on a large scale with predictions of up to 55 lorries used a day at peak times, Queensmere Road had been proposed as their main route, not Wimbledon Park Road.

Councillor Osborn added that the Council would be carrying out a consultation on the introduction of 20mph zones and residents could request these where they felt necessary.

Lack of resident parking on Beaumont Road / Orchards Estate / Linstead Way

Several residents complained that there weren't enough parking spaces on Beaumont Road / Orchards Estate / Linstead Way.

Response – Councillor Grimston said that Orchards Estate parking was controlled by Highways, therefore, to implement permit parking would cost residents £130. Other residents who have also reported the issue have said that the situation is not yet bad enough to pay out, however, it was an option for residents should they wish.

4. Refuse and Noise

Litter on Withycombe Road

A resident complained that there was a burger van on Withycombe Road with inadequate refuse facilities which resulted in a litter problem in the area. The resident asked if the van were to remain at that location, what would be done about this.

Response – Councillor Grimston undertook to establish if the van was licensed to operate at that location.

[Post meeting note: This van operates under a valid street trading license so is permitted to continue operating in this location. Following related refuse/litter issues being raised at the West Hill Lets Talk meeting, officers visited and inspected the area but did not find

significant evidence of the reported problem. Nevertheless, they spoke to the van's operator who agreed to keep the area around his van clear of litter & refuse, sweeping it daily if required.]

Supermarket trolley deliveries

A resident reported that there was an environmental noise problem caused by the delivery of supermarket trollies on Wimbledon Park and Beaumont Road. The lorries took 30 minutes to unload and due to the trollies solid wheels and metal frames it created a noise disturbance to residents. The resident thanked the Council for measures taken so far to stop night time deliveries, but requested that supermarkets be asked to use plastic trollies with pneumatic wheels in the future.

Response – Councillor Govindia confirmed that the Council would put this forward.

Street cleaning at George Wyver Close

A resident complained that George Wyver Close wasn't receiving any street cleaning.

Response – Sharron Lecky confirmed that it should receive a street cleaning service and undertook to look into it.

(Action – Sharron Lecky)

5. Health

'Fit for Life' in West Hill

A resident asked if there were any plans to extend the 'Fit for Life' programme to West Hill?

Response – Councillor Govindia said that if the residents contact details were left with officers this would be followed up.

[Post meeting note: Fit for Life ceased to run 4 years ago and was replaced with a programme called Active Lifestyles. This runs across the borough, the nearest session to West Hill currently is in Southfields Library on a Friday afternoon and is open to anyone who wishes to attend. All information is available at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/activelifestyles]

St Cecilia's Athletic track

A resident asked if the St Cecilia's athletics park being privatised would affect the children of Wimbledon Park School?

Response – Councillor Cuff said that he was sure that other sports provisions would be in place but he would endeavour to get the latest update.

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.

3rd November 2015