

## **WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **SHAFTESBURY WARD** **LET'S TALK MEETING**

Held at Shaftesbury Park School, Ashbury Road, SW11, on Wednesday, 11th November 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

#### **PRESENT**

##### **Council Members**

Councillor Ellis (Council Cabinet Member – in the Chair); Councillors Cook, Cousins and Senior (Shaftesbury Ward Members); Councillor Osborn (Leader of the Opposition).

##### **Council Officers**

Chris Grace – Senior Planner (Housing & Community Services)  
Peter Gaskin – Head of Contracts, HR and Schools Support (Education and Social Services)  
Sharron Lecky - Area Housing Manager (Housing & Community Services)  
Steve Lane – Parking, Engineering and Highways (Housing & Community Services)  
Stewart Low – Head of Community Safety (Administration Department)  
Mike Singham – Waste Strategy Manager (Housing & Community Services)  
Gareth Jones – Committee Services (Administration Department)  
Rachel Williamson - Committee Services (Administration Department)

##### **Residents**

Approximately 36 members of the public.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman, Councillor Ellis, introduced the Council Members and the officers.

The Ward Members then gave a brief overview of their role representing ward residents and updates on recent local issues.

#### **ISSUES, RESPONSES AND ACTION**

##### **1. Trees and Pavements**

**Issue** - A resident from Sabine Road complained of the state of the pavements around the base of trees and this was particularly an issue for her as a wheelchair user, a further resident agreed that this was a problem and that tree roots had also caused a gas leak outside her house. Another resident from Elsley Road asked that the types of tree used for replanting be given consideration as some grew too large too quickly and the two yearly

lopping of the street trees should be more severe. The Plane trees in Eversleigh Road were too big and where a tree had been removed the roots had not died away.

**Response** – Councillor Cousins asked that residents contact him to report any issues with trees and pavements. Councillor Cook added that he was the Cabinet Member responsible for these issues and that consideration was given to the types of tree used for replanting, with thinking evolving in this area, and the preference being to plant non-invasive trees. He personally did not favour the planting of lime trees due to the slippery residue they leave on the pavements. Tarmac was generally used in preference to paving slabs around the base of the tree. Councillor Osborn added that Plane trees were good for absorbing pollution but not for supporting insect life.

## **2. Fly-tipping, Waste and Recycling**

**Issue** - A resident of Holden Street opposite Shaftesbury Park School said there were 4 sites where rubbish was dumped and he had called waste services on numerous occasions to report this, he suggested that the Council didn't care about the estate, he had lived there for 25 years and he was not aware of any previous meetings such as this one to discuss issues with residents. Residents also reported problems with flytipping in Acanthus Road and Dunston Road, Sabine Road and Ashley Crescent, in one case they had taken the registration number of the van and nothing had been done.

**Response** – Councillor Cook asked that fly-tip sites be reported to him he added that the rate of prosecution for this offence was increasing. Mike Singham explained that small fly-tips on the public highway should be removed as part of the twice weekly street clean, so should not be left for more than 3-4 days. Residents could either telephone or use the Council's website to report fly-tip locations or if they had evidence of the perpetrator they should contact the enforcement team. He also explained that the Council had campaigned using wanted posters displaying fly-tipping suspects' photo's as captured on CCTV which was an effective deterrent, also that the fee for collection of bulk waste had been reduced from £21 to £16.00 (now £16.50) in a further effort to discourage fly-tipping.

Councillor Cook explained that the Council were aggressive on enforcement – recently two individuals each received a 4 year prison sentence for dumping on Tooting Common. However, the Council did need the residents help. Councillor Osborn added that he was in favour of a spring clean where bulk items could be collected for free at regular periods, he encouraged residents to take photos and inform Councillors.

**Issue** - A resident said she was shocked at the amount of waste taken to landfill sites and thought there should be more effort made to recycle, it made no sense for her to drive all the way to Western Riverside to dispose of a food processor and other small items including garden waste and she supported the idea of a spring clean.

**Response** - Councillor Cousins responded that he did care about the estate as he is a resident and his children attend the local school, he agreed that there is a problem with flytipping, but when this had been reported the Council

was responsive and removed fly tips quickly, but if they were not alerted to a fly tip by residents it could remain for some time. On one occasion he had deliberately not reported a flytip to see how long it would take to be removed. It remained there for 6 weeks before he reported it and it was then removed quickly.

**Issue** - A resident of Eversleigh Road asked whether the Council had considered using wheelie bins. Another resident asked why the street cleansing was done on a Monday when the refuse was collected on Wednesdays.

**Response** - Councillor Cook explained that garden waste, up to 5 bags, was taken free of charge as part of the rubbish collection service and since 2011 none of the waste had been taken to landfill but was taken by river to an incinerator at Belvedere where the waste was converted into energy and the ash used for construction. The subject of food waste was always being considered but at present would not be cost effective, also he had noticed the food waste containers in other boroughs did not enhance the streetscape and would increase the number of refuse vehicles. Wheelie bins were unattractive and expensive, and there would be problems with storage particularly where there were small or non-existent front gardens. Where possible the Council co-ordinated street cleaning and waste collection, but that this was not always possible to achieve.

Mike Singham informed residents that each street received a weekly sweep as well as a litter pick, with the litter pick taking place following the weekly (dustbin/sack-based) waste collection service. Residents could check on the Council website for details of when street cleaning is scheduled to take place.

Councillor Osborn again stressed the need to report problems which would then indicate hotspots, triggering further monitoring and inspections.

### **3. Anti-social behaviour**

**Issue** - A resident complained that the area at the end of Acanthus Road, which was blocked off, had become a point where youths on motor scooters congregate, playing loud music, using bad language, and causing a disturbance until 2am. The road backs on to the gardens of the houses in Glycena Road.

**Response** – Stewart Low said that the Police wanted to know about this type of anti-social behaviour and residents should report it. Sharron Lecky responded that this behaviour was unacceptable and should be reported to the Council's emergency control which was available 24/7. Steve Lane also added that there was a Noise Nuisance Team that would also investigate any noise related disturbances to residents. Councillor Osborn suggested that the local neighbourhood watch coordinator should be made aware of the problem and also that it is reported to the Safer Neighbourhood Team for action. A resident added that they had had a similar problem in Sabine Road and this had been dealt with following reports to the SNT.

**Issue** - A resident commented on the excellent repaving in Lavender Hill and asked whether it would be extended up to Cedars Road.

**Response** - Councillor Senior confirmed that the repaving would be completed in phases and that subject to funding it was planned to re-lay the footways along the whole length of Lavender Hill in the next 18 months. Monies from the Community Infrastructure Levy would also be used to improve the overall street scene, furniture, etc.

#### **4. Planning**

**Issue** - A resident expressed concerns regarding the number and style of loft conversions on the Shaftesbury Park Estate. She asked whether having so many in a row could weaken the structure of the terrace. Also, she had objected to the design of a loft conversion and had been told that as permission had been granted there was nothing that could be done. Another resident added that the frontages were very important and that in Holden Street there were at least 12 satellite dishes on the front fascia below the roof line, which was contrary to the planning conditions for the conservation area. He had reported this and was told that enforcement was not a priority. He also added that front doors and windows were being replaced using inferior quality materials not in keeping with the originals. Lastly, he suggested signs should be erected at the main access points into the Shaftesbury estate similar to De Beauvoir Square in Hackney, he suggested this would instil greater pride in the estate.

**Response** - Chris Grace explained that when considering applications to make alterations, the Council would encourage good design and try and maintain consistency each case was considered on its merits in conjunction with the Conservation officer. Any comments from the Battersea Society and Peabody Trust would be taken into account. However, it was difficult for the Council to object to an application if a precedent had already been set as they would lose on appeal. The load bearing issues would be considered by Building Control. He added that breaches of the conservation area conditions would be investigated.

On the issue of maintaining the frontage of properties on the Estate, the Council followed up on reports of satellite dishes. They had also issued conditions for conservation area roof lights to be installed.

Councillor Cousins said it was important for the streetscape to be maintained, but he also acknowledged that changing economics meant that more families were living on the Estate and they wanted to adapt their homes for family living. He added that where reported the Council enforced results in relation to satellite dishes and the installation of PVC windows, although enforcement action could take sometime.

#### **5. Battersea Park and Formula E (FE)**

**Issue** - A resident asked what the Council's stance was on FE, a further resident added that the event had caused damage to the park and the setting up for the event had excluded residents from being able to use the park for 3

weeks, he went on to explain that he wasn't against FE *per se* but that it would be more appropriate to hold it in Hyde Park. Another resident claimed that it was not for the benefit of local residents, she questioned how much money was being made from selling out the park. Residents also asked why the event could not be held in November when the park was not as well used.

**Issue** - A resident also raised the issue of anti-social and aggressive cyclists using the park.

**Response** - Councillor Osborn explained that the question of whether to hold another FE event would soon be brought to Committee (24 November), he added that it was not a straight forward decision and acknowledged that it had been popular with many residents but he also appreciated the concerns raised by those who were against it, the opposition party had supported the original event but the guarantees and assurances requested were not adhered to.

Councillor Cook explained that it was important to maintain the integrity of the park, a lot of investment had been made in the park which he would not want to see harmed. He accepted that some of the conditions relating to the first event had been broken, such as the use of helicopters. An independent assessment carried out after the event had concluded that the park had been reinstated to its pre-event condition. He added that lessons had been learnt and improvements would be made. The first event had provided 2,000 free tickets to local schools and community groups and there had been many tickets on sale for £10. 30,000 spectators had attended the event on each day. He appreciated the concerns raised by those who were against holding another event.

Councillor Cousins added that he had voted against the original decision to hold the event, he conceded that it was brave to go ahead with it and there were still many questions to be answered on what went wrong and he was still opposed to holding another race. Battersea Park was one of those things that made the area special and should not be exploited. He was opposed to the Council in effect "selling" the park for a month a year to allow for the hosting of the Formula E race.

Councillor Osborn added that there was a large financial incentive for the Council to hold the event and he asked that the figures be made public. He did support the accessibility to the event from the deprived local areas and the availability of low cost tickets.

Councillor Cook said that the Council was keen to encourage cycling and broaden its appeal. He hoped that cyclists would show consideration for other park users.

### **CLOSE OF MEETING**

Councillor Ellis thanked the residents for attending the meeting and invited them to stay and speak with councillors and officers about any further queries that they might have.

The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

Gareth Jones (020 8871 7520)  
Rachel Williamson (020 8871 7857)