

ROEHAMPTON PARTNERSHIP

Notes of a meeting of the Roehampton Partnership held at
Whitelands College, University of Roehampton, Ruskin Room,
Roehampton SW15 on Monday, 2nd December 2013

PRESENT

Councillor Cousins (Chairman)	Cabinet Member (Economic Development & Business Partnerships) - WBC
Rev. J. McKinney (Deputy)	Holy Trinity Church
Mr. M. Young	Co-operative Food
Mr. A. Woldu	Café Joy
Mr. J. Horrocks	Roehampton Forum
Miss. S. Price	Roehampton Resident
Mr. D. Lunt	Roehampton Resident
Fr. D. Gummett	St. Joseph's Church
Dr. G. Alwani-Starr	University of Roehampton
Councillor P. Carpenter	Wandsworth Borough Council
Councillor A. Knowles	Wandsworth Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. S. Sutters	Wandsworth Borough Council

OBSERVERS

Mr. V. Ganeshacomar	Co-operative Food
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IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. B. Brennan	Housing Department - WBC
Mr. D. Edwards	Housing Department - WBC
Mr. B. Glockling	Children's Services – WBC
Mr. A. Jolly	Environment & Community Services - WBC
Mr. J. Moore	Economic Development Office - WBC
Ms J. Newton	Economic Development Office - WBC
Ms O. Okere	Committee Secretary – WBC

1. SHIRLEY PRICE

The Chairman informed the Partnership that Mrs. Price (Roehampton Resident) was recently honoured by the Council at its annual Civic Awards ceremony in recognition of her campaigning work for the people of Roehampton. The Chairman, on behalf of the Partnership, congratulated Mrs. Price on her well deserved recognition.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

On item 1, apologies for absence were received from Mr. C. Einloth (Roehampton Resident); and Councillor J. Nickels (Wandsworth Borough Council).

3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

On item 2, Mr. Horrocks (Roehampton Forum) declared a personal interest as regards item 5, Roehampton Health Challenge, insofar as he was recently awarded one of the free swimming passes under the scheme.

4. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (PAPER "A")

On item 3, it was

Agreed – That the notes of the previous meeting held on 25th September 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to an amendment to page 5, item 10, 'Alton Area Masterplan', second but last paragraph should read as follows: "Councillor Sutters asked whether consideration had been given to transport provision given that over 50% of the population in Roehampton do not own a car. In response the Chairman agreed that with the low PTAL ratings for Roehampton, good transport infrastructure was important to aid employment opportunities."

5. MATTERS ARISING

On item 4, the following matters were raised:-

Street Drinking: Mr. Lunt thanked Mr. Edwards (Housing Department – WBC) and his team for their work in trying to reduce the number of street drinkers on Danebury Avenue. However, he said that street drinkers could still be seen out on the streets and raised concerns about the staffing level of the police. Mr. Lunt also raised concerns about there being only one camera in Portwood Place and that the street drinkers stand underneath it so they cannot be identified. Mr. Jolly (Community Safety Officer – WBC) said in response that he was aware that various options were being considered to tackle the issue of street drinking and these have included the use of CCTV cameras, visits to shops in Putney Vale asking proprietors not to sell alcohol to street drinkers etc. He added that the aim is for a police representative to attend the next meeting of the Partnership to outline further strategies being developed to combat the problem. As regards the number of CCTV in Portwood Place, Mr. Jolly confirmed that there was more than one camera in the area.

Mr. Edwards agreed that the current level of police staffing was an issue in trying to combat street drinking. As such, he welcomed the presence of the Police at the next Partnership meeting and for the opportunity for them to show how they plan on implementing Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO) on a ward to ward basis.

Mrs. Price spoke about residents being intimidated by the street drinkers. She said that a lot of hard work was put into putting in place the DPPO but it feels like the Council is not doing anything to ensure that they are implemented.

In conclusion, the Chairman said that it was obvious arresting street drinkers was not an effective tool whilst the reduction in police resources also raised its own issues. As such the Police will be invited to attend the next Partnership meeting to help address the problems highlighted.

Traffic Management - Roehampton High Street: Mr. Horrocks confirmed that a meeting with Mr. Adeyoyin (Highways and Traffic Manager – WBC) and businesses

in High Street took place on 22nd October 2013. It was a very positive meeting and will now result in modest changes being made to parking arrangements on the High Street following approval at the Council's January meeting of the Strategic Planning and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Adult Learning Classes: Mr. Moore (Roehampton Regeneration Project Manager) informed members of the Partnership that following discussion with relevant officers he was able to confirm that there had been no reduction in the number of adult learning classes. Instead there had been changes to where classes were being taught, for example, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) has been relocated to 166 Roehampton Lane etc. Mr. Moore also stated that there would be a programme of Family Learning classes from January 2014. Mr. Moore asked that anyone who required further information about adult learning to speak to him after the meeting.

Playrangers in Putney Vale: Councillor Carpenter sought an update on Playrangers being brought to Putney Vale and was told this had not happened.

Census Data: In response to an update sought by Councillor Carpenter, Mr. Moore said that the information sought on the comparison of census data between Roehampton and Wandsworth as a whole will be brought to the next meeting.

6. ROEHAMPTON HEALTH CHALLENGE

On item 5, it was agreed that this item be postponed to the next meeting of the Partnership.

[Post-meeting: Mr. Gibson, sent out an update on the Roehampton Health Challenge to all members of the partnership]

7. PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES IN PUTNEY VALE

On item 6, Mr. Glockling, Head of Planning and Development - Wandsworth Children's Services, spoke to his paper, copies of which he distributed to members at the meeting.

Mr. Glockling informed members that the birth rate borough wide has steadily increased since 2004. As such, projections have had to be made for the number of primary school places available in the Borough with expansions of 7.5 fulltime equivalent (FE) places earmarked for 2013/14. Mr. Glockling informed members that in Roehampton Granard School and Sacred Heart Roehampton will have a permanent expansion whilst a temporary expansion will be made at Heathmere School.

Mr. Glockling pointed out that there had been a sharp rise in birth rates in West Putney since 2011. Although there are no direct schools adjacent to Putney Vale there are two primary schools within 2km of the area; Heathmere Primary School in Roehampton and Robin Hood Primary School which is a Kingston School. For the September 2013 intake, all on-time applicants up to a distance of 2.69km were offered a place at Robin Hood Primary School and all applicants to Heathmere were offered a place and the school still has vacancies. Mr. Glockling added that his department will be monitoring changing trends within the ward and the impact of the regeneration, and he will be prepared to give an update to the Partnership in 2014.

Mrs. Price thanked Mr. Glockling for his presentation but said that the situation in Putney Vale is becoming critical. About 45 new families recently moved into the estate so there is concern about the availability of school places for the children. The problem is that whilst the Robin Hood School in Kingston has always taken children from Putney Vale, that position is likely to change in September 2014 as the governor of the School has informed her that the school will be full from next year with children from the Kingston area. As such, only siblings of children already at the school would have any chance of being offered a place. She asked that some of kind of dialogue should take place between the Council and residents on the estate when the time comes for completing the school admission forms.

In response, Mr. Glockling said that work was in progress to understand the impact of high mobility in the area and Children's Services administration team is monitoring the situation. He added that a lot of work is being put into Heathmere School; the new Headteacher has a lot of drive that will help make the school popular so that it becomes a school of choice for residents.

Mr. Glockling informed the Partnership that the increase in demand for primary school places is expected to impact on secondary school places from 2019/20 and will be met by developing the admission capacity at Burntwood School (from 283 to 313 per year), Ark Putney Academy and St John Bosco (from 120 to 210 per year). In response to a comment that Ark Putney Academy is not the school of choice for Roehampton residents, Mr. Glockling confirmed that this had not always been the case but acknowledged that with its building deteriorating so had its popularity. However, the ambition is to make it become the natural and popular choice locally and the current building programme will go towards achieving this. Councillor Sutters added that as Governor at Ark Putney Academy she was aware that this was also the ambition of the School who has been liaising with the local primary schools. She said that the temporary buildings in place were much better than the current building and that the School has a bright future.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Glockling for his report.

8. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Jolly, Assistant Community Safety Officer – WBC, spoke to his paper, a copy of which was distributed to members of the Partnership, comparing crime rates in Roehampton with Wandsworth and London over two years from November 2011 – October 2013. Mr. Jolly informed members that crime in Roehampton was falling and outstripping falls of crime in London and Wandsworth. This, he said, was good news and showed crime rates in Roehampton was moving in the right direction.

Dr. Alwani-Starr raised concerns about the crime figures for grievous bodily harm (GBH) in the ward which, she said, tends to have a disproportionate impact on students fear of crime. She asked if anything was being done to tackle the problem. Mr. Jolly said, in response, that the Police will deal with this matter at the next meeting of the Partnership.

Mr. Horrocks talked about a recent newspaper article which stated the crime figures were on the rise again especially theft of personal items. Mr. Jolly said that the Council had carried out a borough wide campaign advising residents on how to

keep their personal belongings safe. This had also proved popular with other boroughs that have now used the campaign for their own residents.

Mr. Moore added that the Masterplan had used a smaller area in trying to see the impact of crime, and Mr. Jolly asked for this information to be sent to him.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Jolly for his paper and asked that the year-on-year comparison be produced for future meetings.

9. ALTON AREA MASTERPLAN

On item 8, Mr. Moore informed the Partnership that the consultation period for the Masterplan concluded at the end of October, and the information is being analysed to reach available options.

Ms Newton (Community Engagement Co-ordinator - WBC) added that a proactive and flexible approach was taken in consulting/engaging with various groups within the community and in the method of engagement. As such, consultation options booklet and questionnaire were delivered to every property on the Alton Estate, there were publications about the process in Homelife, Brightside and Roehampton Voice; and feedback sought through the website and social media; as well as community meetings on one-to-one or small group discussions. Ms Newton went on to list the various groups she spoke to including older people's groups; young people's groups, families and parents; health related groups; various groups such as Residents' Association etc.

As such, responses to the consultation were received through questionnaires being returned, through emails, website and other social media as well as written responses from groups including political parties, local service providers, local groups etc.

Ms Newton went on to outline the interim results from the consultation process. As regards Danebury Avenue – Town Centre area, she reported that there is a great deal of support for transformative change in the village area; the need for a better variety of shops and for a new, improved library to be built; support for retaining the youth services; community focussed areas such as landscaped village green area with café area was very popular; and there has been support for significant housing development.

For Portswood Place, Ms Newton reported that was general support for change and a positive response to the development being proposed for outside of the village area. However, the proposal for relocation of Alton School did not prove popular with a lack support from parents groups, governors and Headteacher of the School, and the educational services. There is strong support for a retail element, such as a convenience store, at this end of Danebury Avenue; and there is strong support to retain services such as the GPs surgery, Regenerate, Methodist Church with discussions on-going with service providers.

As regards the open green spaces and the Bull Green, there is general support to make the spaces more usable for residents and specifically children and families; there is support to retain green spaces and work around the existing trees where possible; for a gate to Richmond Park for pedestrians and cyclists use. The provision of a Greenway down from Roehampton Lane to Richmond Park has

proved popular but some elements such as a pond and water feature installation have not been that popular.

Support has been split for the removal or opening Highcliffe and Danebury Barriers as have opinions regarding local buses but discussion with Transport for London (TfL) are on-going.

In response to a question on what the next steps were, Mr. Moore said that preferred options will be developed and tested internally until the end of December. A newsletter will be sent out before Christmas. The aim is for the preferred options to be available in February 2014 and with details as to how each option was reached. There will be a set option for each area so that the information is easily digestible. After which there will be a further consultation period for six weeks.

Mr. Horrocks asked how involved the Council's Strategic Planning and Transportation Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be in the process to which the Chairman that it was likely that the options result will go first to the Finance and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee as it will need to consider the financial implications.

Mr Young (Co-operative) spoke about the Co-op's attempt over the past three years to invest in Roehampton but have been unable to do so because of the lack of information on the time scale for the regeneration. The information, he said, is important to help decide whether to relocate or invest on the current site. Mr. Moore said that there will be individual discussions with shops /businesses to obtain their views on what they want. He said the plan is for the Masterplan to be approved just after the elections in May 2014

Rev. McKinney asked if there has been resentment from residents as the regeneration focus is on only Alton West. Ms Newton said, in response, that the consultation process has been open and transparent and that the physical development area has always been explained clearly. Having spoken with a wide variety of groups it is understood that some residents would like the physical development area expanded but that they understand this currently cannot be the case. Although physical development is concentrated on the west of the Alton Estate, the new facilities and improved public spaces will benefit residents in the wider local area. Moore added that the regeneration process is a long term programme of change, and if successful the Alton Estate will be considered in the future. Councillor Carpenter added that it was important not to focus just on Alton West so it is pleasing that some of the money is earmarked for Heathmere. He said that it was important for everyone to see that there is something for them in the regeneration process. It was also important that there was clarity on how the regeneration process will be implemented and asked that the preferred options booklet be kept succinct to make it easier to digest.

Councillor Sutters spoke of residents of Queen Mary's Place feeling left out of the process but Ms Newton confirmed that Mr. Moore has had a successful meeting with residents of Queen Mary's Place. However, Ms Newton said she was yet to make contact with the residents on Emerald Square but is aware that transport issues may be their main concern.

Mrs. Price spoke about the Phase 2 environmental works due to start in January on Putney Vale Estate but pointed out that if transport and parking issues

were not resolved it will be difficult to attract people to the Estate. Mr. Lunt asked if the Masterplan would cover the redevelopment and Mr. Moore said that it was being considered.

In response to concerns raised about the poor transport infrastructure in Roehampton, Mr. Moore said that there were on-going talks with TfL on the issue. He agreed that a programme of investment will attract businesses from other side of Roehampton so making the Town Centre a destination that will attract people from the wider area.

Councillor Knowles said that it was important to win over the hearts and mind of the people of Roehampton as without it the regeneration project was doomed to fail. Therefore, the preferred options should reflect what the people want and can be part of.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Mr. Moore and Ms Newton for all their hard work in reaching the consultation stage.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

On item 9, the following matters were raised for future agenda items:-

- Police
- Roehampton Health Challenge
- Standing item – Roehampton regeneration

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Monday, 17th March 2014

Mr. Moore informed members that there was a possibility that this date might change but members will be informed accordingly.

[Post-meeting – it was agreed that the date of the next meeting will now be on 10th February 2014]

The meeting ended at 9.00p.m.