

ROEHAMPTON PARTNERSHIP

Notes of a meeting of the Roehampton Partnership held at
Whitelands College, University of Roehampton, Ruskin Room,
Roehampton SW15,
on Wednesday, 17th July 2013

PRESENT

Rev. J. McKinney	Holy Trinity Church
Miss. S. Price	Roehampton Resident
Mr. D. Lunt	Roehampton Resident
Miss M. Aldgate	Roehampton Resident
Mr. W. Tomlinson	Roehampton Student Union
Dr. G. Alwani-Starr	University of Roehampton
Councillor Cousins	Cabinet Member (Economic Development & Business Partnerships) - WBC
Councillor P. Carpenter	Wandsworth Borough Council
Dr. P. Ilves	Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group
Mr. J. Horrocks	Roehampton Forum

OBSERVERS

Miss M. Hogan	Roehampton Resident
Ms M. Heraty	Roehampton Resident

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms E. Curley	Community Development - WBC
Ms C. Millar	Public Health - WBC
Mr. D. Edwards	Housing Department - WBC
Mr. B. Brennan	Housing Department - WBC
Mr. A. Jolly	Community Safety - WBC
Mr. J. Moore	Economic Development Office - WBC
Mr. N. Smales	Economic Development Office - WBC
Ms J. Newton	Economic Development Office - WBC
Mr. C. Hall	GVA Ltd
Mr. D. West	Studio Egret West
Ms C. Lindstrom	Studio Egret West
Ms O. Okere	Committee Secretary – WBC

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Knowles, Nickels, Mrs. Sutters; Mr. M. Newey (Roehampton Club); and Dr. S. Manning (Roehampton Trust).

2. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

On item 2, Dr. Ilves declared that his surgery sits within Roehampton and he is also a provider of services in his role with the Clinical Commissioning Group.

3. CHAIRMAN

Rev. McKinney informed the Partnership that he would like to step down as Chairman of the Partnership. The increased activity in the Roehampton regeneration means that he can better serve the Roehampton community as an ordinary member of the Partnership. Rev. McKinney added that he considered that Councillor Cousins, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Business Partnerships, would be the appropriate person to now Chair the meetings. As such, Rev. McKinney stood down, nominated Councillor Cousins to be the next Chairman and this was duly seconded by Dr. Ilves. There being no other nominations for the position of Chairman, Councillor Cousins was duly elected as Chairman of the Partnership for 2013.

Councillor Cousins, in his role as Chairman, thanked the Partnership for his nomination. He spoke of the Council's commitment to the Roehampton regeneration and the significant sum of money which had now been put in to help facilitate the process. He said that his role as Chairman of the Partnership now means there would now be a top table link with the Council. He reassured the Partnership that he would, as Chairman, defend the interest of Roehampton at Council's Cabinet meetings. He said it was an exciting time for Roehampton and hoped any existing cynicism would eventually turn to positive enthusiasm.

Councillor Cousins asked that Rev. McKinney be elected as Deputy Chairman given the breadth of his knowledge. Councillor Cousin duly nominated Rev. McKinney as Deputy Chairman, and was seconded by Dr. Alwani-Starr. There being no other nominations for the position of Deputy Chairman, Rev. McKinney was duly elected as Deputy Chairman of the Partnership for 2013.

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

On item 3, it was

Agreed – That the notes of the previous meeting held on 18th March 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to an amendment being made to page 5, item 9 'Review of the Partnership's Constitution', 2nd paragraph, line two to read as "... for the Partnership to be effective, it had to be transparent and ...".

5. MATTERS ARISING

On item 4, the following matter was raised:-

A3 Roundabout: Miss Price informed members that TfL will now pay for major improvements to the pedestrian access at the A3 roundabout near ASDA.

6. CONSTITUTION UPDATE

On item 5, the Partnership was informed that the changes to the Constitution and membership of the Partnership as agreed at the March meeting had now been approved by the Council's Finance and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Mr. Moore, Economic Development Office, added that the vacant positions shown on the agenda have now been filled but these occurred after the agenda despatch.

It was agreed that item 9 be dealt with next.

7. ROEHAMPTON HEALTH CHALLENGE (PAPER "C")

On Item 9, Ms Millar, Public Health – WBC, spoke on the paper and informed members of the community based projects which have been developed to improve health challenges faced in Roehampton. Ms Millar highlighted some of the projects as set out in the paper including the Roehampton Festival scheduled for 3rd and 4th August 2013 which she said would also allow residents to participate in various activities on improving their health. In response to a question on whether any of the projects would cover the Putney Vale area, Ms Millar said that she would need to get back with that information.

Rev. McKinney urged that the project on the community outreach service for sex workers be dealt with sensitively. In response, Ms Millar confirmed that Public Health will work with the local police to ensure that the project is carried out properly and sensitively.

Mr. Horrocks queried the aim of the Active Life Style project as he recently completed an active life style course to lead walks but there have been no walks organised in Roehampton. Ms Millar said, in response, that she would take the information back to the responsible person so they can contact Mr. Horrocks directly. Councillor Carpenter added that the recently published Roehampton Heritage book contained helpful information about organised walks in the area.

Dr. Ilves raised concerns about the sustainability of these projects. In response, Ms Millar said that a sustainability element had been built into each project. They have all been developed from intelligence gathered and backed up so that each project addresses a specific and existing problem. Furthermore, each of the projects is linked with a community leader.

Councillor Carpenter drew attention to the existence of the Health and Wellbeing grant and Ms Curley, Community Development – WBC, added that the grant was in the region of between £5,000- £10,000 and asked that Partnership members direct any interested parties to her.

8. CRIME IN ROEHAMPTON AND PUTNEY (PAPER "B")

On item 6, Mr. Jolly, Assistant Community Safety Officer – WBC, spoke to his paper, although he did not think that a paper on crime statistics was the most appropriate way to put across information about crime in Roehampton. He said that

Sgt Adams from the Police who had been scheduled to also attend the meeting had to send his apologies because of work commitments.

Of the 20 wards in the borough, Roehampton is ranked 10th which indicates a fairly average crime rate. It would also appear that the level of crime is coming down as the figures show amongst other things that violent crime is down, as is robbery, and theft of motor vehicles. Mr. Jolly said that this had come about through working closely with the Police and targeting crime hot spots in the area. A number of events have also been implemented to raise awareness amongst residents such as residents being invited to B&Q (home ware shop) to learn about the different types of locks available to help them improve their home security. Mr Jolly said his team also works closely with the Roehampton Safer Neighbourhood Team, and collaborates with the University of Roehampton Safety group offering advice on how students can keep safe.

Mr. Lunt reported that despite a Designated Public Place Order implemented at the end of May, there were still problems with street drinkers in Danebury Avenue. Mr. Lunt added that the response from calls made to the 101 number to address the problem have been unsatisfactory as nobody comes down to investigate the report. In response, Mr. Jolly said that he will pass the matter to Sgt Adam.

Councillor Carpenter said that it would be more useful to have a year on year comparison of crimes for the Partnership. Despite assertions made by Mr. Jolly that the crime level in Roehampton was down, Councillor Carpenter said that there was no room for complacency as the statistics does also show that Roehampton is not doing well on sexual offences, drugs etc. Councillor Carpenter added that the reduction of the neighbourhood team from six to two can will not help matters as the team now has to deal with a much larger patch but with less manpower.

Information was sought on when the Safer Neighbourhood Team Residence Panel would next meet. Mr. Jolly said he would send out the information with the minutes. Dr. Alwani-Starr added that the University will be willing to provide a venue for the meeting, and asked that the SNT attend the Fresher's week at the University.

9. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT – ROEHAMPTON VILLAGE

On item 7, the Committee Secretary informed the Partnership that Mr. Adeyoyin, Highways and Traffic Manager - WBC, was unable to attend the meeting. However, he had asked the Committee Secretary to refer Partnership members to Paper No. 12-628 (distributed with Appendix 1 at the meeting) which was presented at the Strategic Planning and Transportation Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2012. The paper detailed the outcome of an investigation into issues raised in a petition received from residents of Longwood Drive requesting consideration of a controlled parking zone (CPZ) in the area.

Mr. Horrocks raised concerns that businesses in Roehampton High Street were being squeezed out and do not benefit from the present arrangement on parking. The Clerk informed members that Mr. Adeyoyin wanted it made known that businesses views will be sought through consultation on the most suitable parking arrangements. Councillor Carpenter agreed that there was room for work to improve

the traffic flow on the High Street but added that there was no blanket provision of a no parking zone but instead alternatives such as width restrictions might need to be considered because of the narrow roads on Roehampton High Street.

Rev. McKinney referred to Appendix 1 of the paper and stated that whilst there were currently no controlled parking zones on Medfield, Ponsonby and Treville Streets he was aware of problems building up because of concerns about the speed at which cars travel through them. He informed members that he has invited Mike Salt a former Council employee to advice on this matter and will let the Partnership know when this will happen.

10. ALTON AREA MASTERPLAN

On item 8, Mr. Moore informed the Partnership that the procurement process for Roehampton begun in March and GVA and Studio Egret West were appointed to act as masterplanners for the Roehampton improvement project.

Mr. Hall, GVA, then spoke to the meeting and informed members that the process is at the baseline stage which considers the physical aspect of the whole Roehampton area. It is a technical exercise which entails considering available data and listening to stakeholders. As such, there have been meetings with health, residents, organisations and service providers to help with gathering information required to move project ahead. This will inform on the options available which has to be strategic and broad. At the end of this stage there will be a consultation exercise to commence in September 2013 for six weeks and an evaluation of available options will then be made in October.

David West, Studio Egret West, gave a PowerPoint presentation and spoke in more details about what the baseline work has entailed. It had found, for example, that the Town Centre in Roehampton is small for the number of people it serves, access is an issue, and there is no entry point from Roehampton into Richmond Park. As such the regeneration plan has to be strategic given the connection to a wider geographical area. The Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) for Roehampton was also found to be poor with journey times into central London taking considerable time despite how close it is.

David West gave a brief history about the evolution of Roehampton and concluded that Roehampton is like a patch work quilt of urbanisation which was inherited. However, there is now a need to find what works and if it does not work to find how it can work.

Questions and comments were invited from the Partnership.

In response to a question, Mr. Hall said that it was still early in the process to state exactly what is being planned for the Roehampton area. The overall aim and aspiration is to break down the existing barriers and ensure the different areas can relate to each other.

There followed discussion about the area losing its community spirit due in part to the high proportion of rental accommodation to students which in turn

generates its own problems such as traffic congestion etc. Mr. Smales agreed that whilst there might be challenges in having such large student accommodation, there were also benefits. For example, without the student population in Roehampton, the high street will not be viable as they do spend money. He assured members that the aim of the regeneration is to create a place that works for everybody.

Mr. Hall said the work being undertaken is to help it understand what is required and then create a place which will work for years to come. He concluded by stating that he would feedback to the Partnership at the consultation stage in September.

11. INITIATIVES IN THE COMMUNITY

On item 10, Dr. Alwani-Starr spoke on the differing initiatives within the community which is carried out by the University of Roehampton. They include amongst other things the Roehampton Festival which is held in May, Roehampton Performance Festival (Department of Drama); an end of year exhibition of photographic work held in Brick Lane; the work of the Student Union with Regenerate, summer school programmes etc.

Members said that they were unaware of these initiatives and there had been no publicity in the local newspapers. Mr. Wade, Student Union representative, admitted that he was not aware of the existence of the local newspapers and that the University had its own newspaper. It was agreed that there was an obvious need to strengthen communication and to use this as an opportunity for the University to have a visible presence within the community. It was also agreed that there are wide spectrum of opportunities on how the University could get its initiatives/messages across to the community.

Mr. Smales added that the Roehampton Festival might well be an opportunity to get the message out about the initiatives by the University. He informed the Partnership that it was part of Ms Newton's role to understand what is going on in the community and then generate information about it.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

On item 11, the following matters were raised for future agenda items:-

- Primary School places in Putney Vale
- Adult Education for older people
- Standing item – Roehampton regeneration

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

On item 12, the following matters were raised:

(a) Benches on Danebury Avenue – Mr. Horrocks asked that the benches on Danebury Avenue be put back in following their removal to deter loitering by street drinkers. He said letters to this effect had been sent to the Director of Environmental and Community Services but he was yet to receive a response. Mr. Edwards

confirmed that the representations were being considered. Councillor Cousin added that he would chase up on the matter.

(b) Undercroft – Councillor Carpenter reported that planning permission had been granted for the Undercroft in Roehampton. It was proposed that the regeneration team would be based in that office.

(c) Crossrail – Dr. Alwani-Starr said that the University will respond to the consultation process by Crossrail as Roehampton is need of a revolution on its transport system.

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday, 25th September 2013
- Monday, 2nd December 2013

The meeting ended at 9.10p.m.