

ST HELENS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION/ST QUINTIN AND WOODLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING HELD ON MARCH 27th 2014

Present: Chair Henry Peterson, SHRA Vice-chair Ruth Hillary, SHRA Secretary Tania Martin, SHRA Treasurer Maggie Tyler, other SHRA and StQW Forum management committee members, Cllr Julie Mills (RBKC) and around 60 members of the public.

1. Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and reminded everyone that the St Helens Residents Association and the StQW Neighbourhood Forum share a common membership, the former body having initiated and established the latter. Hence this would be a joint meeting as on previous occasions.

The Chair explained that candidates for the local elections on 22nd May had been invited so that they could briefly introduce themselves to local residents. There are new ward boundaries for these elections, with St Quintin Avenue now forming the dividing line between the new Dalgarno ward and the new St Helens ward.

The following candidates introduced themselves:

New St Helens ward

Conservatives: Yvonne Allison and Ian Hargreaves

Labour: Mohammed Bakhtiar and Nigel Wilkins

New Dalgarno ward

Labour: Robert Thompson. Cllr Pat Healy would be standing again but sent apologies for this evening.

2. West London Bowling Club

The Chair advised that the Bowling Club was in the process of restructuring its management committee and discussing how to increase membership and find new members. SHRA was assisting in this process and a recent open meeting held by the Club had attracted 30 local residents. A further meeting would be held on 1st April to establish a new management committee. In the meantime, the premises of the Club were now on the RBKC Register of Community Assets.

3. Westway Advertising Towers

The Chair explained that RBKC would not be making a decision on discontinuance action on the advertising on these towers until after the May local elections. The decision would be made by the council's Planning Applications Committee, and residents would be able to make representations. The council had made written commitments in 2009 that discontinuance action would be taken after the initial 5 year approval period.

David Marshall questioned why Westway Development Trust had moved so far away from its origins as a community based amenity body. Dominic Howson from WDT responded that the Trust now had a new senior management team and was keen to rebuild relationships with the local community. He also confirmed that the Trust was proceeding with improvement works to the pedestrian/cycle route through the Westway Sports Centre, and also working with Imperial College on proposals for the underpass from Latimer Road to Oxford Gardens, with a target completion date of 2016.

4. Flytipping

Olivia Dando circulated publicity developed by residents of Blakes Close to counter the problem of repeat episodes of illegal flytipping of builders waste, from vans and tipper lorries. Similar acts had

occurred elsewhere in the area, and should be reported to the council's Streetline on 020 7361 3001. Cllr Julie Mills agreed to pursue the issue of enforcement action within the council.

StQW Neighbourhood Plan update

The Chair gave a presentation on current work on the neighbourhood plan, focusing on Traffic/Transport issues and the regeneration of Latimer Road.

He thanked the over 100 local residents who had completed and returned the survey questionnaire distributed to the 2,000 households in the neighbourhood area. This was a 5% response rate, and gave a good evidence base for the next stages of drafting the neighbourhood plan.

Campaign for a new Overground station on the West London Line

Measures to relieve traffic pressures on Wood Lane, and at the North Pole Road/Wood Lane junction, has been identified in the StQW survey as a major issue. Congestion will only worsen as the planned new developments in the White City Opportunity Area are built. The meeting viewed a set of slides setting out the case for a new station beneath the Westway Roundabout, linked in with the proposed pedestrian/cycle underpass. The Forum would continue campaigning for a station at this location, in addition to an interchange at the proposed Old Oak HS2/Crossrail hub.

On this latter interchange, the Forum was supporting the third and latest option put forward by Transport for London (TfL). This involved a separate WLL and NLL station, and avoided the need for the 'Boris viaduct' across the northern boundary of Wormwood Scrubs. The Friends of Wormwood Scrubs are also lobbying for this option, which has support from 3,000 petitioners.

Members of the audience confirmed that delays and queues at the North Pole Road traffic lights were worsening, and that the lights did not appear to be managed effectively. The Chair and Cllr Julie Mills agreed to pursue further with RBKC traffic engineers and TfL, following up previous efforts by the Association and by ward councillors.

Proposed underpass from Latimer Road to Imperial West

The meeting discussed the pros and cons of the underpass, an issue on which the Association had consulted locally in 2011. Dominic Howson from WDT said that ensuring the safety and security of the underpass would be a high priority for the Trust, and that Imperial were being asked to include both entrance/exits within their security umbrella for the Imperial West campus, with roving security staff as well as CCTV.

It was noted that the underpass would significantly reduce walking times and improve connectivity across the borough boundary, and was important to the regeneration of Latimer Road

A hand vote was taken, to test whether levels of support and opposition to the proposed underpass had shifted since 2011. A clear majority of those present supported the proposal, while there remained a significant number who remained opposed to the idea.

It was agreed that the Trust and Imperial would be invited to the next meeting to present the plans and proposals in detail. There would also be the normal statutory public consultation on the planning application, due to be submitted fairly shortly to both RBKC and LBHF.

Bus routes in the area

A map and details of existing bus routes was shown. The Chair commented that levels of 'public transport accessibility' are not that good in the StQW neighbourhood. However there seemed to be

limited interest from the public in altering existing bus routes, which currently largely skirt round rather than pass through the neighbourhood area.

Cycling

A slide was shown of the Mayor of London's proposed 'Westway Cycle Route' involving a protected cycle route on one lane of the Westway. Were this proposal to be put into effect, the link with north/south cycle routes through the White City Opportunity Area would need to be considered.

Latimer Road regeneration

The Chair reported back on the consultation drop-in session on February 6th, held in one of the light industrial units in Latimer Road. Some 40 people had attended to discuss ideas for reducing vacancy levels in the business unit. There had been general support for widening the mix of uses in the street, as discussed at previous open meetings, and for providing additional housing units.

The pros and cons of residential accommodation above commercial floorspace were briefly discussed, and slides shown illustrating possible means of redeveloping the light industrial units with two floors of housing above. The Forum recognised that any such redevelopment would be gradual and incremental, as all these units are in individual ownership. The possibility of some residential accommodation as part of the underpass entrance/exit was also noted. This would help with footfall and security at the southern end of Latimer Road.

Next meeting

The Chair sought views on whether people would be willing to attend a further open meeting in a month's time, as the pace of work on the neighbourhood plan was now increasing. It was agreed that such a meeting would be valuable, with conservation policy in the neighbourhood as one of the main items for discussion.

The meeting closed at 21.03 hours