

Raynes Park Community Forum Thursday 8 March 2018 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Michael Bull, with Chris Edge from the Raynes Park Association (RPA). More than 30 residents attended, as well as Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. Chris Edge opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and introducing Councillor Bull as the Chair.

Open Forum

Merton Citizens – a new group has formed bringing together more than 20 local community organisation to focus on mental health and housing issues. A launch event is planned for 19 April at St Marks Academy, Mitcham.

Raynes Park Summer Festival

Tom Underwood introduced plans for this summer's festival. Events will take place from 29 June until 8 July, ending with 'Lark in the Park' on the final day. There will be a range of arts events and displays over the week. More information and updates are available at <https://mailchi.mp/1974ecf97e68/myraynespark-february-update>

Town Centre Developments

Tony Edwards provided an update on recent improvements to the Town Centre. The pictures provided by Tony can be found at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/community-forums/raynes-park-community-forum>

There have been significant improvements to the South Side of the Skew Arch with the bins removed and new Astroturf installed. There is still some funding available for planting but it is difficult to make significant changes with the impact of Crossrail 2 still unknown.

On the North Side the hoardings have been removed, but it is still not possible to access the embankment to make improvements due to Network Rail restrictions. The RPA will be meeting with Network Rail on 26 March to press this concern. Tony asked residents to consider the removal of the bins of the North Side. Claire Walshe, Merton Council, explained that the recycling centres are emptied three times a week and monitored weekly. This work has been disrupted recently due to staff being diverted to gritting duties. After a discussion residents were asked, by show of hands, if they supported removing the bins. There was a clear majority of those present in favour. Tony agreed to ask the Raynes Park and West Barnes Residents Association to raise this issue in their newsletter to gauge a wider viewpoint.

Tony said they have submitted a suggestion to the Community Infrastructure Levy for improvements on West Barnes Lane.

Raynes Park Station

Chris Larkman said that in addition to the embankment the RPA would also raise the issue of the frontage of the station and bridge at the meeting with Network Rail. They will ask NR to paint and clean up these areas.

Department for Transport has announced a new Independent Affordability Review of Crossrail 2. The review will report back in the summer on how costs could be reviewed.

Heathrow Airport is holding a consultation on the physical changes on the ground needed to build a new north west runway and potential principles Heathrow could apply when designing the new flight paths. An exhibition had taken place in Wimbledon and several residents had attended. A resident asked if Merton Council was part of the 2M group opposing Heathrow expansion, the response is that Merton is part of 2M and opposes expansion. Another resident suggested that the now vacant Manston Airport would be a viable alternative.

Changes to Waste Management Collection Services

Claire Walshe, Neighbourhood Client Officers, and Graeme Kane, Assistant Director of Public Space, from Merton Council were joined by Will Graham from Veolia to set out the changes to waste collection services that will occur in October 2018. The presentation can be found at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/community-forums/raynes-park-community-forum>

In response to questions from residents the team explained that the separation of materials is designed to improve the quality of the recyclables so that they have more value and can be reused. The principle of this service works well and whilst the roll out in Sutton did not go well Merton has been able to learn from this and has adopted a much longer lead in time. A 'hanger' system will be used to let residents know about contamination, a note left on the bins. Households in apartments with alternative systems will continue as they are, as will timed collections. Assisted collection services for those with disabilities will continue. Residents are unable to speak directly to Veolia managers and have to go through Merton so that Merton is able to use the evidence to monitor performance. Please report any issues with waste collection online or via the call centre to help Merton monitor Veolia's performance. As well as the data the contract is monitored by the Neighbourhood Client team visually checking the streets.

Will explained that operatives are trained to return bins to resident's property but this issue has to be constantly reinforced across the whole industry. Consistent problems can be reported and will be investigated. Spillages should either be cleared up by the crews or reported if this is not possible. Will also said that the food caddies are the best available in the industry at the moment and should prevent vermin from getting to the food waste if locked properly. Graeme explained that nappies cannot be recycled due to the materials used so have to be collected with residual waste. It would be possible to provide a specific collection but this would have a significant cost and in the areas with fortnightly collection nappies have not proved to be an issue.

Further Information on the changes can also be found at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/changes-from-2018>

Planning

Chris Larkman provided an update on behalf of Neil Milligan.

557 Kingston Road – Dundonald Church – 17/P0763 - proceeding towards finalising the S106 agreement for the new church with flats above and then issuing planning permission.

559-589 Kingston Road – Manoplastics and land to the west – 16/P1208 - work has commenced on sorting out the S106. There is also a second application for 103 units (17/P2529) which is now in abeyance. The agent has said his client will review whether to withdraw the second application pending the outcome of work on the S106 for the initial application. There is no new on any implementation dates on the site nor do we know if there will be any Crossrail implications on this site

South side of Wyke Road – 17/P0609 - Despite the Inspector's decision on the earlier appeal we are yet to be convinced that this is a site suitable for housing – even if it is non-family.

Rainbow – non material amendment applications submitted to add/amend conditions so as to enable phased development – 18/P0258 and 18/P0259. Otherwise, no news.

35 Coombe Lane – 14/P1921 – Development of 14 units under construction. (site next to Waitrose)

40A Lambton Road - 17/P2023 - 3 dwellings on a backland site – reduced from 4 – considerable local interest - likely April Committee.

3/3A Orchard Lane - 17/P3256 – 5 dwellings on backland site – approved but nothing in the form of discharge of conditions since then.

61 Grand Drive – 17/P2016 – 3 dwellings – amended plans received - not a committee case.

Southey Bowls Club Kingston Road - S73 application to amend design of approved scheme for housing and new club house – S106 being updated and then able to sign off. Not a lot of local interest unlike initial proposals.

80-86 Bushey Road - 16/P1317 - Major retail/food and drink development. most unoccupied buildings now demolished. Unclear as to how the approved scheme might progress for the time being as occupied buildings like Pets at Home remain and the scheme would need to somehow work around these. Perhaps they will decant once a suitable unit becomes available in the new development.

Updates

A reminder that the Ride London event will come through Raynes Park on 29 July 2018. As usual a street party will take place in the area.

Merton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Commission is asking residents for ideas for issues that Councillors could investigate. A resident suggested that bonfires should be considered by Scrutiny. For more information or to submit an idea please see:

<https://www2.merton.gov.uk/council/decision-making/scrutiny.htm>

Dates of future meetings: All at 7.15pm in the Library Hall

Thursday 14 June 2018

Tuesday 18 September 2018

Thursday 6 December 2018

Tuesday 26 March 2019