

## Raynes Park Community Forum Wednesday 22 June 2016 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Mary-Jane Jeanes with Chris Edge from the Raynes Park Association (RPA). More than 35 residents attended, as well as four other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Open Forum**

#### *Flooding*

Several residents raised concerns about the recent flooding in the town centre and the resulting traffic problems this caused together with the impact on businesses, some of which lost electric power. There were concerns about impact of litter in gullies, and pathing over of front gardens. In response Neil Milligan, Development Control Manager, Merton Council said that the flooding was caused by a number of factors. Engineers have been reviewing the local situation in Raynes Park and will be coordinating with other agencies. Neil explained that residents need planning permission to pave over front gardens unless the materials being used were porous. If residents have made changes since 2012 without permission these can be reported to the Planning Enforcement team.

It was agreed to invite relevant officers to attend a future meeting of the forum.

#### *Wheelie Bins*

Previous discussions led by the Apostles Residents Association found that residents were very against the introduction of wheelie bins so there was concern that these would now be introduced. Feedback to the Raynes Park and West Barnes Residents Associations was also against wheelie bins. A show of hands at the meeting showed 20 against wheeled bins, two in favour and the remainder neutral. It was agreed to return to this issue in the future.

#### *Traffic*

At the Bushy Road/Grand Drive junction drivers were ignoring the Keep Clear signs and causing congestion. The possibility of introducing a yellow box junction and re-phasing the traffic lights was raised. This would need to be raised with Merton and Transport for London Highways teams.

#### *Parking*

The impact of new buildings Kingston Road and Lower Downs Road on parking provision was raised. Neil explained that some parking provision was provided underneath one of the sites. In considering planning applications Councils are required to consider local public transport provision and make it a requirement that residents in new developments are not able to apply for Residents Parking Permits.

### **Raynes Park Christmas**

Nick Cooke from the Salvation Army said that the 2016 Christmas festival will be on 2 December and organisers are looking for more businesses to get involved. They will also be looking for more volunteers to help, especially with being stewards for

the large crowd. Agreement was being sought to move the stage to Waitrose car park. Contact [nick.coke@salvationarmy.co.uk](mailto:nick.coke@salvationarmy.co.uk) if you would like to help.

## **Current and anticipated planning applications**

Neil Milligan, Development Control Manager, Merton Council updated the meeting on local planning issues.

- The proposed new cycle route between New Malden, Raynes Park and Wimbledon – consultation has take place with streets that adjoin the route. Due to the impact on Thames Water pipes the route may be diverted along Taunton Avenue.
- Manoplastics site – application for offices and residential units of two to seven stories is currently being considered. This can be found on the Council's online planning portal using reference number 16/P1208
- The bins south of the Skew Arch will be removed in the summer to reduce the incidence of fly tipping. Further tidying up of the area will follow.
- Bushey Road Retail Park – application 16/P1317 has been submitted. Detailed discussions on the transport impacts are taking place with TfL.
- Burlington Road, New Maldon – application for McDonalds drive through has received lots of objections. The applicant has been asked to provide a safety audit due to the close proximity of a school.
- Albany House 300 Burlington Road – permission was given on 16 June for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of 41 residential units.

## **Road Safety**

Councillor Stephen Crowe had recently conducted a tour of the area with Neil Milligan, Chris Edge (RPA) and Chris Chowns, Transport Planner for Merton Council, to review road safety. The issues raised were:

1. Crossing the road to access the health centre on Lambton Road: It would not be possible to install any additional crossings but it might be possible to either extend the pavement to slow traffic down or to change the phasing at the traffic lights to create a gap in traffic flow. The pavements would have financial cost but the lights would need permission from TfL. Chris Chowns will investigate further.
2. Coombe Lane outside Man Chinese Restaurant and Waitrose: cars are overtaking buses putting themselves in the line of oncoming traffic. It could be possible to either reduce the pavement width or lane width but this will need further investigation.
3. Speeding – a 20mph zone with speed reduction infrastructure is not possible so a 20mph speed limit could be considered. This would require a statutory consultation and TfL approval with significant cost.
4. Bicycles on pavements by the station – Chris Chowns will explore if more signage could be placed. Cllr Crowe has also spoken with the new PC for Raynes Park who has agreed to look at enforcement operations.

## **Raynes Park Station**

Chris Larkman said that plans to paint the bridge had been placed on hold due to the re-franchising process for SW Trains. The RPA has written to Department for Transport to ask for improvements to the station to be included in the new franchise.

No reply has yet been received. The embankment has got worse as a result of the rain but Network Rail has not given permission for volunteers to enter the embankment to help clean-up.

### **Capital Clean Up Bid**

The RPA was successful in bidding for a clean-up toolkit which Tony Edwards was able to demonstrate. Volunteers are welcome to meet outside Starbucks at 10am on 2 July to take part in a Clean-up. A further event will be organised for 3 September.

There also a number of Council led community clean-up events being organised including one in Raynes Park on 10 August. Details of the events can be found at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/transport-streets/street-care-cleaning/streetchampions.htm>

### **Crossrail 2**

Jerry Cuthbert from RPA is leading a sub-committee of the RPA to improve dialogue with TfL, Network Rail and Merton Council to help influence the planning of Crossrail 2. No proposals south of Wimbledon for either safeguarding or design have yet been consulted on. RPA want to make the most of the opportunity to improve Raynes Park Station whilst understanding both the construction impacts and longer term impacts.

### **Ride London**

Residents are reminded that Ride London would be taking place on 31 July 2016 and as in previous years there will be road closures in Raynes Park. Details can be found at <https://www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk/info-hub/road-closures/>

**Dates of future meetings** all at 7.15pm, in the Library Hall:

29 September 2016

30 November 2016

8 March 2017