

Raynes Park Community Forum
Wednesday 25 March 2015
Chair's Report

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Brian Lewis-Lavender, assisted by Chris Larkman, Chair of the Raynes Park Association. More than 50 residents attended, as well as seven other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Nelson Hospital

Dr Andrew Murray, Chair-designate of Merton Clinical Commissioning Group updated the meeting on the opening of the Nelson Healthcare Centre, which is on schedule to open on 1 April 2015.

Two local GP practices, The Cannon Hill Lane Medical Practice and The Church Lane Practice, will relocate here and form a new single organisation. A range of outpatient clinics and diagnostics will be provided by St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Community services will be provided by Sutton and Merton Community Services and community mental health services by South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust. More information can be found at <http://www.mertonccg.nhs.uk/Local-Services/the-nelson/Pages/default.aspx>

Dr Murray also described a new multi-agency team offering one-stop support to older people with multiple needs called the Holistic Assessment and Rapid Investigation (HARI). In response to questions Dr Murray confirmed that referral would be through GPs and that the new services would compliment those available at the Raynes Park practice. The number of GP appointments available will be increasing and use of telephone and online appointments will also increase. The surgery will be open 8am-8pm Monday to Wednesday, 7am to 8pm on Thursdays, 7am to 6.30pm on Fridays and 9am to 12.30pm on Saturdays.

Current and Anticipated Planning Applications, including the Rainbow Estate

Neil Milligan, the Development Control Section Manager at Merton Council, provided an update on planning applications:

- Rainbow: could be considered at the Planning Applications Committee in either April or May. Still some outstanding issues to be resolved. The GLA raised issues which are not fundamental to the potential success of the scheme but further work is needed to resolve.
- 587 Kingston Road: Going to Committee on 26 March for 290 Residential units. *Please note this was approved.*
- Travelodge: the works were due to commence again very soon as a new contractor had been found
- 14-16 Coombe Lane application for ground and basement for medical use had been refused by the council under delegated powers

- Site next to Waitrose Coombe Lane. Historic planning permission for 15 flats still having conditions approved so there may be implementation still on the cards
- 1 Durham Road: Development of 8 units; the contractors progressing on site.

Proposals for South of the Skew Arch & Future of Morley Park.

Andrew Judge, Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration presented an update on the Raynes Park Enhancement Plan. The presentation can be found at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/raynesparkcommunityforum.htm>

In response to questions Councillor Judge said that no road surfacing had taken place specifically for the Ride London event but all roads were investigated and then priorities set for those most in need of repair. Councillor Judge said that weekly street sweeping remained the Council's policy but with limited resources problem areas would be prioritised. At the same time the Council would be extending the pilot litter enforcement contract with Kingdom Environmental Protection Services.

New Malden to Raynes Park Link

Bryn Lockwood and Maddy Gunn from Sustrans introduced plans for a new cycle link between New Malden and Raynes Park. Sustrans is working with Royal Borough of Kingston to deliver their 'mini-Holland' cycling infrastructure scheme. One of the projects is a link alongside the railway line that would offer a quiet way for cyclists and pedestrians. The land is currently owned by Thames Water so any project would need to accommodate their pipe work. The project will also need to consider the impact on the biodiversity of the land. The project is at an early stage with no designs for the route beyond West Barnes Land yet considered. Sustrans has held a number of public meetings and there would be more community engagement after the General Election.

In response to questions Bryn and Maddy explained that in their experience shared lanes between cyclists and pedestrians created better behaviour than segregated approaches as long as the lanes were wide enough. Lighting to improve safety would be important but would need to be bat friendly.

Local Transport Plans for CrossRail & Possible Upgrade to South West Trains.

Stephen Hammond, MP for Wimbledon, updated the meeting on changes to the South West Trains franchise and Crossrail 2. The extension of South West Trains franchise will include eight car services at weekends; some ten car trains at peak hours by 2017; and an upgrade to Waterloo station as the old Eurostar platforms come into use. Whilst some improvements to Raynes Park station have been secured more is needed and Mr Hammond is working with others to pressurise Network Rail.

The Crossrail 2 consultation on safeguarding received only 18 responses from Merton and TfL have been asked to look into this. Mr Hammond has been pushing for the inclusion of Raynes Park and Motspur Park stations to become step-free access as part of the programme. Without Crossrail 2 step-free access at Motspur

Park is unlikely. The project will also need to address the impact on the level crossing at Motspur Park.

K5 Bus from Morden to Ham

Councillor Brian Lewis-Lavender asked residents to consider signing a petition to call for the increase in frequency of this service from hourly to every 30minutes.

Activity Clubs for People Over 55

Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender informed the meeting about a number of activity clubs taking place in the area. As well as an established clubs at Motspur Park and the Pavillion, a new club is now meeting at Raynes Park Library from 11.30am to 1pm on Thursdays. A fourth club will be starting at Trinity URC on Fridays from 17 April. Please contact Gilli for more information.

Open Forum

A resident raised concerns about the outsourcing of parks maintenance services. It would be important to monitor the performance of any new provider.

Hustings for the coming General Elections would be taking place on 31 March at 7pm in the Methodist Church on Worple Road.

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

Tuesday 30 June 2015

Thursday 1 October 2015

Tuesday 1 December 2015

Thursday 3 March 2016