



# St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum

Newsletter December 2016

## Outcome of StQW/SHRA Annual General Meeting

Our AGM on November 24th re-elected the management committees of the neighbourhood forum and St Helens Residents Association for a further year.

As explained at the meeting, the work of the StQW Forum is largely completed. A neighbourhood plan for this area has been prepared, and was supported by a 92% majority vote in February 2013. Its policies are in effect.

For 2017/18 it will be the St Helens Residents Assoc which will be the busier of the two bodies. We plan to cover other issues than planning, including the impact of the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan for North-West London, and growing public disquiet on London's Air Quality standards.

Meanwhile the StQW Neighbourhood Plan has been shortlisted for a London Planning Award, in the category of Best Community Led Project. The final result will be announced at the end of February.

Residents associations in and around the Old Oak area are working to get a further neighbourhood area designated. This will cover a large part of the area where the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation is now the local planning authority. The planned HS2 and Crossrail station will not be completed until 2026, but developers are already coming forward with proposals in the surrounding area.

There are schemes prepared by developers for residential towers on three sites along Scrubs Lane. The OPDC has been supportive in pre-application discussions. St Helens RA is arguing that this is over-development. First decisions likely in February 2017.

## Nextdoor – an online social network for the neighbourhood

Mark Gattleson from Nextdoor came and gave a presentation on this social networking application, at our recent meeting at St Helens Church hall. For more information, go to <https://nextdoor.co.uk/about-us/>

Nextdoor is already big in the United States, and is now being introduced in London. It is formed around 'neighbourhoods' and the StQW boundary is being used to define the 'St Quintin' Nextdoor area. There is a Ladbroke Nextdoor 'neighbourhood' and one at East Acton as well.

The idea is to provide a social network with security and privacy features. Joining Nextdoor involves a check that you are a real person at your real address, unlike many other online networks. It is then easy to share information, request advice on a good plumber or dentist, track down a missing pet, or send out a local alert. StQW/SHRA has joined, and we will use the network as an extra form of communication with local residents and businesses.

104 out of 1,700 households in the St Quintin Nextdoor neighbourhood have joined so far. As with Facebook and LinkedIn, the business model is ultimately based on targeted advertising. But for now there is no advertising on the UK site and the service is free. You can leave the network whenever you wish, if you find it is not for you.

## Playground Studio opens its bar/café in Latimer Road

This new local venue will be offering breakfast, lunch, light evening meals and weekend brunch, and is licensed. After a soft opening, prior to Xmas, it will be fully functioning from January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The street has long lacked anywhere for local residents to have a cup of coffee or to meet up. This is a great start to bringing some life back to Latimer Road.

Peter Tate's building at Unit 8 Latimer Road has been a rehearsal space for some years, previously called the Playground Studio. The next stage is creating a fully fledged 150 seat theatre in this part of North Kensington with a combination of plays, classical music concerts and a cinema club.

