



St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum

Newsletter February 2017

The start of 2017 has brought news on several long-running planning sagas in our area.

Westway advertising tower

For a few months following the demolition of the tower built in 2008, we could all enjoy our southern skyline without the blight of large illuminated adverts on the tower at Westway Sports Centre

Now the replacement tower is emerging. This was granted planning permission by RBKC in 2015 as a compromise outcome that will maintain an income stream for the Westway Trust.

When completed, the new tower is supposed to look like this, shrouded from our sight and with no light pollution. Let us hope this proves to the case.



High Court case on StQW Plan still awaited

One saga yet to be concluded is the JR is the Legard/ Metropolis legal challenge to RBKC seeking to quash our neighbourhood plan. A High Court date has yet to be fixed. In the meantime the Council continues to use the planning policies introduced via the StQW Plan.

Meanwhile, the landowners/developers have cleared vegetation on the land at Nursery Lane, laid hardcore, and cut back the willows as far as the Council's Arboricultural Team will permit.

The site has been marketed as a 'storage depot' for horticultural/garden nursery use. This assumes that the type of use and activity levels established over decades by Clifton Nurseries will be permitted by RBKC. There is no planning consent for use as a 'storage depot' as such, and putting a sign on the gate does not create such consent. We will stay in close touch with the RBKC Enforcement Team.



Kensington Memorial Park - the Council drops plans for an all-weather floodlit football pitch

The Council has announced that it will not be installing an all-weather pitch, but instead refurbishing the existing grass pitch and improving the drainage. This follows an active campaign by local residents and St Helens Residents Association.

Two phases of consultation were carried out by RBKC, in the form of a survey asking for views on 'improvements' to the park. The results of the first survey showed strong opposition. The Council extended the survey area for a second round. This showed a similar result.

The whole exercise has been going on for a year. Three sets of different wording in the Council's 2016-25 Parks Strategy, last March, May and July, created confusion as to what was proposed and what had been decided.

The outcome of the second consultation has now been reported on the RBKC website at this [link](#).

We very much welcome this outcome. Had the Council held an initial discussion a year ago at one of the open meetings of StQW/SHRA, much Council time and expense might have been saved.

In letters to the Council, we pointed out the potential planning obstacles, and the fact that £150,000 of S106 funds was already allocated to refurbish the grass pitch, last November.

It is unsurprising that consultation results show that local residents do not want to lose a large slice of Memorial Park to a fenced off football area, run as a commercial enterprise and creating noise and light pollution. It is good that Council Cabinet members have listened to views of residents and ward councillors.

Options for redevelopment of Silchester East and West

The Council has published a whole series of options for a major 'estate regeneration' programme of the area to the north and south of Bramley Road.

These range from refurbishment of the existing housing at Silchester West to a comprehensive redevelopment of a wider area, including existing shops and housing on the north side of Bramley Road. This would involve compulsory purchase of housing owned by Octavia HA, Notting Hill Housing Trust and the ACAA building. We will publish more details of the options in our next newsletter.

See also at <http://www.silchesterestate.org.uk/>