



# St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum

Newsletter March 2014

## Consultation session on Latimer Road – what we learned

The drop-in session held in Latimer Road on February 6th attracted 40 people to come and talk about ideas for the regeneration of the street.

There was much agreement that Latimer Road needs to see some changes. Most of the ideas and views discussed were shared equally by residents, employees working in the street, and by the several building owners who called in at the session

Everyone was keen to see some cafes and places to eat in the street. Most were surprised to hear that current RBKC planning policies do not allow facilities such as a health centre, gym, crèche, or any educational use. There was widespread support for a more flexible approach to permitted uses, which would help to fill vacant floorspace and bring more footfall to the street.

The current lack of people on the street makes it feel less safe especially in the hours of darkness. The proposed new pedestrian and cycle underpass between Wood Lane and Latimer Road is seen as an important way of bringing life back to the street, but there is still no firm date for when this will be built.

Comments at the consultation session, and responses to the StQW consultation survey, show that people see Latimer Road is one of the few areas in our neighbourhood where some more housing could be added. There is demand for 'affordable housing' (i.e. social housing, for rent or equity share). And also for some open market housing for first-time buyers and older people wishing to 'downsize' while staying in this area.



*All thoughts and views are welcome at the email address below. Let us know what you think.*

On show at the session were some illustrations of how the 1980s industrial units might be adapted to add two floors of housing, with the ground floor/mezzanine remaining in use for a wider range of commercial activities. Building heights for those living opposite would be an issue for some. But for parts of the street the new Imperial West buildings will anyway dominate the skyline.

Many thanks to all of you who took the trouble to send back responses to the StQW survey (as delivered last month to all households in the area). The survey form remains online at [www.stqw.org](http://www.stqw.org).

We have had over 100 returns to date. This gives us a good evidence base for the content of the neighbourhood plan. Work on the first draft of the plan is now underway. **An open meeting will be held on March 27th at 8pm in St Helens Church hall to take stock on ideas and proposals so far.**

For our drop-in session in Latimer Road, Peter Tate kindly let us use his performing arts studio The Playground, at Unit 8 Latimer Road.

How many local people are aware of this large and flexible space, which is available for hire (and used regularly as rehearsal space?)

See at this [link](#). Peter is looking at several ideas for future use of the space, such as a pop-up cinema, as part of local efforts to bring more activity to Latimer Road.

## New station on the West London Line

Ward councillor Judith Blakeman recently showed RBKC Cabinet member Tim Coleridge our suggested site for a new station on the London Overground network – beneath the Westway roundabout at the southern end of Latimer Road.

The council already has a policy of lobbying for a new station at North Pole, and this alternative location is now attracting wider support. We are continuing to try to persuade Transport for London of its merits.



Suggested site for Overground station at Westway (looking north, at site of proposed underpass at Imperial West)