



# St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum

Newsletter October 2017

## StQW Neighbourhood Plan - High Court challenge concluded but judgment awaited.

The judicial review case of Legard v Kensington & Chelsea Council finally concluded on October 12th. What had been scheduled as a hearing to last less than 2 days turned into 5 days in front of Mr Justice Dove.

The Council was defending its decision from December 2015 to progress the StQW Draft Neighbourhood Plan to its successful referendum in February 2016. Cases of judicial review can take a long time to come to court. The machinery of justice grinds slow, with over 3,000 pages of documents involved in this case.

The land at Nursery Lane (off Highlever Road) is designated as Local Green Space in our plan. This decision was endorsed by the Council following recommendations from the independent examiner of the neighbourhood plan and a public hearing.

We will now have to wait a few more weeks for a Court judgment on the application from the Legard family (owners of the land) to quash the Council's 2015 decisions on the neighbourhood plan. The neighbourhood forum was an 'interested party' in the case, and our Counsel (Stephanie Hall from Francis Taylor Buildings) has been hugely helpful in taking on extra days in Court, and much more work, for a very modest additional fee.

Legal battles on neighbourhood plans continue across England. Nearly all such challenges come from land-owners and housing developers with sites that have not been supported by local people. The main point of neighbourhood plans is to allow local people to choose which sites in their local area are best suited for new housing, as is the case with the StQW Neighbourhood Plan. Let us hope that we get a final verdict soon.

## North Pole Road – busier than ever

Kensington Aldridge Academy is now operating from its new Portakabin buildings (built in 9 weeks) on the 'parade ground' on Wormwood Scrubs. This is planned as a one year solution to the school's accommodation needs, after the Grenfell fire.

With the KAA 6th form now also based next to Burlington Danes Academy, North Pole Road is seeing a larger presence of school pupils after school. At the end of the day KAA students are supervised across Scrubs Lane, down Mitre Way, and then down Bracewell Road with school wardens along the route. Both KAA and Burlington Danes have strong behaviour codes, on and offsite. Contact details are on the school websites, should any problems arise.

## Electric vehicle charging points coming our way

After carrying out some trials and in response to residents, the Council is installing 50 new on-street charging points for electric vehicles across the Borough, using existing lamp columns by Pay and Display bays (and some new bollards) for overnight charging.

Users will need to sign up to Ubitricity, pay a £9.99 monthly subscription and purchase a £199 'smart' cable. Ubitricity will bill users at 16p per KWh and the council £1 per charge. There will initially be 2 charging points in Kingsbridge Avenue, 1 in Wallingford Avenue, and 1 in Oxford Gardens. Anyone interested in further locations should email [Shirley.Long@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:Shirley.Long@rbkc.gov.uk) as the Council will install a further 250 subject to demand.

## Update from the Town Hall

The repercussions from the Grenfell Fire continue to be felt at the Town Hall. This will be the case for a long time to come.

The Council has set up a Grenfell Recovery Scrutiny Committee. This covers *the approach and decisions taken by the Council since the fire, and the ongoing Recovery Programme*. It will not cover the issues being addressed by the [Grenfell Tower Inquiry](#) chaired by Sir Martin Moore-Bick.

The Scrutiny Committee has elected as its chair Cllr Robert Thompson, one of our local councillors for Dalgarno ward. The Committee's membership includes four co-opted members from the local community. Appointments to these positions are being discussed with local groups and it has been agreed that these co-opted members will have voting rights.

The Committee's first meeting was held at the Notting Hill Methodist Church in Lancaster Road and not at the Town Hall. Meetings will be held twice as often as for other Council Scrutiny Committees, and will receive updates on all aspects of the Recovery Programme.

This includes progress on rehousing Grenfell survivors. While this has been slower than some might have hoped, this reflects efforts by those eligible for rehousing and all other agencies to find the right permanent solution for each household.

The Council has committed £40m to housing solutions found by local housing associations and providers and is also purchasing suitable properties in the Borough. The impact on the Council's financial position (and its £300m of 'usable reserves') will be very substantial.