

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ST QUINTIN AND WOODLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AND ST HELENS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

24TH NOVEMBER 2016

1. Nextdoor - introduction to this social networking site

1.1 Mark Gettleson from Nextdoor explained the background to this online private social network. Well established in the US, the site was now being made available in London. Membership was based around local neighbourhoods, and the Nextdoor 'St Quintin' area matched that of the StQW boundary.

1.2 Members access required evidence of a real person at a real address, unlike other sites such as Facebook or Instagram. Messages were also mediated to prevent abuse.

1.3 Members of the audience asked questions about security of the site and the procedure for joining. It was noted that while the site carried no advertising at this time, the business model meant that it would do so eventually. It was straightforward to withdraw from the site at any time.

2. Elections for SHRA and StrQW Committee members

2.1 The following were re-elected for a further year

St Helens Residents Association management committee

Chair Henry Peterson

Vice Chair Ruth Hillary

Treasurer Maggie Tyler

Secretary Tania Martin

Other management committee members: Nigel Whitbread, Jenny Harborne, Catherine Mannheim, Ben Joseph, William Cooper, David Marshall, Fiona Withey, Jimmy Makromallis.

StQW Neighbourhood Forum management committee

Andre Michaud (Bracewell Rd)

William Cooper (Eynham Road)

Richard Ehrman (Latimer Road building owner)

Jenny Harborne (Highlever Road)

Tania Martin (Highlever Road)

Henry Peterson (Chair) (Highlever Road)

Nigel Whitbread (Wallingford Avenue)

Fiona Withey (Kelfield Gardens)

Andrew Hanson (Highlever Road)

David Marshall (Finstock Road)

Steve Divall (St Helens Church)

3. Memorial Park - latest on plan for an all-weather pitch

3.1 Noted that the result of the first round of RBKC consultation had shown that 68% of respondents were opposed to an all-weather floodlit pitch. The Council was now extending the consultation until 30th November and expanding the consultation area.

3.2 The meeting noted that three different forms of wording has been used in three versions of the RBKC Parks Strategy published since March 2016, causing confusion as to what was proposed. Statements made by the Council Leader suggested that an all-weather pitch was a firm proposal.

3.3. It was the unanimous view of the meeting that Memorial Park was inappropriate for an all-weather pitch, which would be fenced off and deprive other park users of much of the park. The sum of £150,000 had been allocated via the S106 agreement on Argyll Place for the refurbishment and restored drainage of the existing grass pitch. The Chair agreed to write to the Council setting out the association's strong view that this was the preferred way forward, and identifying the planning obstacles to an all-weather floodlit pitch.

4. NHS Plans affecting our neighbourhood - Sustainability and Transformation Plan

4.1 A number of members had attended a presentation from West London CCG at St Helens Church Oct 12th. This had been long on jargon and short on clear information. No answer could be given the questions on the future of the site of the St Quintin Health Centre. Proposals for the downgrading of Charing Cross to a 'Local Hospital' continued to cause much local concern. It was noted that:

- the STP identifies need for 'savings' of £1.3bn by 2020/21
- Social care funding 'gap' of £145m by 2020/21
- Doubts if savings plans are realistic given lack of joined up health and social care

5. Air Quality in our neighbourhood

5.1 Increasing evidence of the harm and lung damage caused by NO₂ particulates meant that air quality issues were rising rapidly up the London agenda. Noted that:

- since 2010 the UK has been in breach of the EU objective for NO₂, particularly across central London
- lifetime exposure to current levels of air pollution in RBKC will reduce the lifespan of all residents by an average of nearly 16 months
- In RBKC since 2005 CO₂ emissions have fallen at a lower rate than in other local authorities in London
- Council has an Air Quality and Climate Change Action Plan 2016–2021. A London-wide issue.

5.2. It was agreed to have a more detailed presentation on the issue at a future meeting

6. Update on local planning issues

6.1. The meeting reviewed CGI images of the proposed redevelopment of '**Portobello Village**', a proposed by the Westway Trust. it was agreed that the latest proposals were an improvement on the previous version.

6.2 Images were also shown of the proposed new building for the **North Kensington Library**. The design was felt to be bland and similar to many office and commercial buildings appearing in London.

6.3 Initial plans were noted for a mixed use development involving a residential tower at '**Mitre Yard**' adjacent to the current Powerday/EMR access road. It was not clear how this location could be successfully developed before the existing waste sites are relocated.

6.4 The meeting was reminded of the proposed design for the southern 22 storey tower at '**North Kensington Gate**'. This would be very visible from the canal and from Little Wormwood Scrubs. Applications for the this two part development were under consideration by the OPDC, and members were reminded to submit comments before the consultation deadline.

6.5 The existing **Westway advertising tower** had been decommissioned. The permitted new tower, with a slimmer design and 'cowl' to prevent light pollution would be constructed in the New Year.

6.6. No further news on the Legard/Metropolis Property legal challenge to the RBKC December 2015 decision to advance the StQW plan to its referendum. The High Court case was waiting pending a decision on a neighbourhood plan case at Lewes in Sussex. Meanwhile works had been commissioned by London Realty to clear vegetation and lay hardcore on the land at Nursery Lane.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.30 pm