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Raynes Park Community Forum Thursday 14 June 2018 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Hina Bokhari, with Tony Edwards from the Raynes Park Association (RPA). More than 50 residents attended, as well as 7 Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. Tony Edwards opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and introducing Councillor Bokhari as the Chair. All the councillors in attendance introduced themselves to residents.

Thames Water update

Carl Leadbeater and Craig Boorman from Thames Water provided an update on investigations and actions following flooding in the Raynes Park area, in particular on Abbots Avenue. The presentation can be found at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/community-forums/raynes-park-community-forum>

Carl and Craig explained that the recent problems have been caused by surface water getting into the foul water system when the two systems should be completely separate. The rain water is overwhelming the foul water system, otherwise there are no problems within the system, including the pump on Abbots Avenue. Investigations are continuing in order to discover where rain water is entering the foul water system, which can be a complicated issue to resolve.

In response to questions from residents Carl explained that the investigation will need to cover the whole local network as Raynes Park is at the bottom of a number of hills so the issue could be happening anywhere. Sometimes these investigations highlight quick wins which Thames Water will action, but often they can take some time. Some older houses do have a combined foul water and surface water sewer but these are no longer allowed. This will be looked into as part of the investigation.

It is important to keep road gullies clear, can be owned by Merton Council or privately so issues will be raised by the relevant owner. Councillor Bush also offered to follow up on gully issues with the Council. The investigation will also look into root egress from trees and fix if necessary.

In response to questions about planning applications Craig explained that Thames Water is not a statutory consultee but will review larger developments and check against the London Plan.

Carl said he was happy for communications from Thames Water to be targeted at households most frequently impacted. Additional help is also available in the form of sandbags and response from local staff. Thames Water will explore how best to ensure that customer service staff are aware of historic issues and are notified when weather modelling indicates flooding is likely.

Carl agreed to provide an update on the investigations at a future meeting.

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Open Forum

Raynes Park station – the perimeter fence behind Starbucks is in a poor state of repair as are the support beams under the bridge. Tony Edwards explained these issues have been raised with Network Rail (NR) but they have not been responsive. NR are now using the prospect of Crossrail 2 as an excuse not to invest in the station. Councillor Crowe explained the NR have said there is no budget for station improvements, only a small budget for addressing health and safety issues which is prioritised based on risk.

Veolia street sweepers are leaving their full green bags by bins but these are not being collected within 24 hours resulting in mess from animals getting into the bags. Kris Witherington asked residents to report bags left or damaged as fly-tipping on the Council website so that colleagues can monitor the performance of Veolia.

A resident asked about open topped bins at Wimbledon Rugby Club. FOLLOW UP note the bins in the car park are managed by idverde on behalf of Merton Council whilst the bins on the sports ground are managed by the Rugby Club as the tenant. Most litter comes from people dropping it and there is no evidence of animals accessing the bins.

Town Centre Developments and Railway Station

South side of skew arch: Tony Edwards said that the Astroturf installed has survived well so the plan is now to add seating. He is waiting to hear if funding was available or if it might be possible to make seats.

Bins on north side of skew arch: There is no update on the bins on the north side of the skew arch. Kris Witherington agreed to follow up on this.

FOLLOW UP NOTE: The Waste Services Team will be carrying out a comprehensive review of all the Neighbourhood Recycling Sites across the borough this year. The review will include consultation with local residents to each site and other stakeholders. The review will start later in the summer.

West Barnes Lane Community Infrastructure Levy – ideas were submitted for improvements but there is no timescale or figures available.

Corner on South Side of Station – Tony said they are still waiting for approval from NR to make improvements.

Crossrail 2 – Jerry Cuthbert provided an update. The review into the business plan is still to be completed so there is no movement on the scheme. In the meantime, the NR/TfL design team has approached local residents' groups to discuss the future of the level crossings on West Barnes Lane. With increased train frequency the crossings would no longer be viable so alternative options will need to be developed. Residents associations have been invited to a meeting on 26 June but this event is not open to the public. Residents can also contact Crossrail 2 directly

<http://crossrail2.co.uk/contact/>

The poor performance of South Western Railway was raised, noting that this was not discussed at the meeting with NR in March. A timetable change in December is likely to make performance even worse. Stephen Hammond MP has raised these issues with South Western Railway and would be happy to take this up again.

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Planning

Kris Witherington provided an update on behalf of Neil Milligan.

All England Club sports fields Grand Drive – 18/P1024.

Major application for the new club house, car park, second air dome, groundsman's maintenance buildings and courts on the sports fields off Grand Drive. 15 replies received to consultation. Officers are awaiting further information from the applicant on matters including a bat survey. Aiming to get this to late June Committee.

557 Kingston Road – Dundonald Church – 17/P0763 - proceeding towards finalising the S106 for the new church with flats above and then issuing planning permission.

559-589 Kingston Road – Manoplastics and land to the west – 16/P1208

Work has commenced on sorting out the S106. There is also a second application for 103 units (17/P2529) which is now in abeyance. The agent has said his client will review whether to withdraw the second application pending the outcome of work on the S106. The applicant has decided to appeal the second application which, following amendment, is the same as that which was endorsed by Planning Committee. Work is proceeding apace on the S106 so as to avoid the need for the appeal to progress.

South side of Wyke Road – 17/P0609 - Construction of three apartment blocks (two three storey blocks and one four storey block containing 10 x 1 bedroom flats (Amended scheme). A report will need to be prepared for Committee but given the need for some adjustments to design and the need to get comments on flood risk it is unlikely that this will be before July.

Rainbow – non material amendment applications to add/amend conditions so as to enable phased development – 18/P0258 and 18/P0259. Otherwise – no news.

35 Coombe Lane – 14/P1921 – Development under construction.

40A Lambton Road - 17/P2023 - 3 dwellings on a backland site – reduced from 4 – considerable local interest –refused by Committee in April.

3/3A Orchard Lane - 17/P3256 – 5 dwellings on backland site – approved but nothing in the form of discharge of conditions since then. No change.

61 Grand Drive – 17/P2016 – 3 dwellings – amended plans received - not a committee case.

80-86 Bushey Road - 16/P1317 Major retail/food and drink development. most unoccupied buildings now demolished. Unclear as to how the approved scheme might progress for the time being as occupied buildings like Pets at Home remain and the scheme would need to somehow work around these. Perhaps they will decant once a suitable unit becomes available in the new development.

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Updates

A reminder that the **Ride London** event will come through Raynes Park on 29 July 2018. As usual a street party will take place in the area. Residents has not received the usual leaflets about road closures, Kris Witherington agreed to follow up with the organisers.

FOLLOW UP note: the leaflets are expected to be circulated in late June/ early July and the information can be found at www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk/road-closures

Raynes Park Summer Festival

Tom Underwood introduced plans for this summer's festival. Events will take place from 29 June until 8 July, ending with 'Lark in the Park' on the final day. There will be a range of arts events and displays over the week. More information and updates are available at <http://www.myraynespark.co.uk/>

Merton Citizens – a new group has formed bringing together more than 20 local community organisation to focus on mental health, refugees and housing issues.

Friends of Cannon Hill Common are organising a free Flower Walk at 5.30pm on 15 June, with a Tree Walk planned for July and a Bat Walk at a later date. For more information email cannonhillcommon@btinternet.com.

Residents were reminded that major roadworks on Grand Drive would be begin on Monday 23 July as Southern Gas replaces old pipe work. More detail is available at <https://www.sgn.co.uk/Roadworks/Southern-projects/Morden-Approach-Road-and-Grand-Drive/>

Councillor Bokhari invited the meeting to hold a moments silence in remembrance of those who died in the Grenfell tragedy in June 2017. After this the meeting was closed.

Dates of future meetings: All at 7.15pm in the Library Hall

Tuesday 18 September 2018

Thursday 6 December 2018

Tuesday 26 March 2019

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