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**WINCHMORE HILL WARD FORUM - 19.1.2016**

## **MINIUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WINCHMORE HILL WARD FORUM HELD ON TUESDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2016**

Present: Cllr. Dinah Barry (chair), Cllr. Ertan Hurer

Apologies: Cllr. Elaine Hayward, Cllr. Bambos Charalambous (arriving late from an earlier meeting), Andy Barker (FLDRA),

Notes: DB

### **1. REPORT FROM LOCAL POLICE**

*PC Denise Thorpe gave a report covering the last three months.*

- Burglaries and car crime: theft of and from vehicles, is lower than for the same period last year.
- Most burglaries are taking place between five and six o'clock when residents are still out at work and it is dark.
- PC Thorpe has been taking measures to help us to be more secure:
  - delivering notices to houses if they have been left in darkness, making it evident that no one is home,
  - delivering notices advising people who have UPVC doors how to lock them securely,
  - checking motor vehicles to ensure that valuables are not left on display,
  - Checking car doors are locked - they often aren't. In one road PC Thorpe found three unlocked cars. Residents should make sure that their automatic locking systems are actually working!

### **2. LOCAL RAILWAY AND TRAIN SERVICE**

*Graham Smith, Infrastructure Maintenance Delivery Manager at Network Rail (NR)*

*answered questions and listened to concerns.*

- He is looking to improve the trackside planting near Palmers Green. Trackside clearance is needed for safety but he will make sure it is more sensitively managed in future,
- He is looking into the possibility of some planting to screen the track near the skew bridge in Hoppers Road,
- He is meeting with Cllr. Barry, a representative from Govia and council officers at Winchmore Hill Station to discuss how the safety of Platform 1, where the waiting room restricts access, can be improved.
- The information on display boards is automated and can be overridden manually if there is a problem. Graham is aware that they are not always accurate and that it is especially frustrating that trains continue to show as running when they have been cancelled. He will look into this and see how it can be improved.
- Graham will look into the matter of a bricked-up window at Winchmore Hill station.
- The work to install ticket barriers at both Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill stations being carried out by Govia.

*Katherine Cox, Stakeholder Manager, Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) provided a written report - attached.*

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If any one wants to send any further questions to either Graham or Katherine, please contact Cllr. Barry

### *Update on Crossrail 2*

Until October the council had always been told that this new network would have a station at Alexandra Palace where people traveling from Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and other stations on the Hertford Loop would be able to connect with it. We then discovered that an alternative route had been proposed that would see Crossrail 2 having no connection to the Hertford Loop.

This information was in an attachment to a lengthy email which did not mention this change. As soon as we were aware of this Both the Labour and the Conservative groups on the council. took every opportunity available to lobby for Alexandra Palace.

The consultation has now closed and the report is expected this spring.

### **3. FIRS FARM PARK UPDATE**

*Friends of the park gave an update on the work that is being done there.*

- The aim of the Friends is to transform this once neglected space into somewhere beautiful where people come to relax, enjoy and learn about nature, exercise and have fun.
- Massive earth works have been carried out to form the first watercourse that will alleviate flooding and provide a variety of habitats to increase biodiversity in the area.
- Water is now flowing along the water course, the plants that were planted earlier have become established and are flourishing, dragonflies, frogs and newts are already in residence.
- A second watercourse has just received planning permission.
- More wildlife habitats are planned: bat and bird boxes and insect hotels
- Paths have been laid, bulbs planted and features repaired to enable people to enjoy walking through the spinney.
- Future plans include pond dipping platforms, seating and benching, information boards, more pathways and a proper education centre.
- The Friends group has raised money by applying for awards: The Mayor of London's Big Green Poll got them off to a good start when they won £175 000 last summer. They have also been given donations by local shops and run events to raise funds; details on their web site: <http://www.firsfarmn21.org>
- A booklet about the history of the park will also be available soon.
- We hope even more people will be inspired to visit the park when the new entrance is ready in March. There is to be a grand opening event one weekend this summer.
- All this work was started by the Friends of the Park who are volunteers with help from the council and Thames 21. If you would like to join or find out more you do so through their web site

### **4. VEHICLE CROSSOVERS (VXOS)/ DROPPED KERBS**

- It is an offence to drive over the pavement to park on a private property without a legally constructed vehicle crossover and the council is currently inspecting all the roads in the borough as part of its illegal vehicle crossover enforcement project.
- There are new guidance notes for people who want to construct a parking area and VXO.

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- No work should begin on construction until the application has been approved by the council.
- Following the award of a new contract, the costs of constructing a VXO have been reduced. The council does not make any profit from constructing VXOs so this saving is directly passed on to residents.
- One resident said that the notes were very hard to understand and the cost too high.
- Parking areas can damage the appearance of a street.
- Constructing a VXO removes an on-street parking space even when it is not in use.
- On street parking helps to control traffic speeds.
- A summary of the guidance about VXOs was available for residents (attached).

### 5. CYCLE ENFIELD

The board meeting for the A105 is being held on Thursday after this forum.

The following points were made:

- David Burrowes has said that following his referendum, the Mayor of London will tell the council to delay further work in order to carry out further consultation.\*
- This referendum did not include Bowes ward, only one vote was offered to those households that were consulted and the 'pro-Cycle Enfield' side had bold headers raising points against the scheme; the 'against' side had no such headers.
- The Council's consultation was about improving the scheme through resident' local knowledge - it was not a vote.
- One resident complained that the consultation was biased.
- The council has been shortlisted for an award for this consultation by the Local Government Chronicle.
- Several residents said that the submission to the council from their residents' association had been written without reference to the members.
- If we do nothing, our roads will soon be gridlocked and there will be nothing in place to alleviate this.
- Obesity is a major problem in Enfield: our reception year children have the third highest rate of obesity in London and six out of 10 adults is overweight or obese. It is estimated that the improvement in people's health as a result of being more active will save nearly £50 million from reduced mortality alone.
- Cycle Enfield also includes: Quietways and Greenways, Quieter Neighbourhoods and a cheap. Cycle Hire and Loan scheme as well as a range of activities to enable people to learn to cycle or to try bicycles that will enable them to enjoy cycling regardless of disability, health condition or

*\* The council has since received letters from the Mayor which suggests that whilst some more consultation could be carried out any decisions are in the hands of the council.*

### 6. RESIDENTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO:

*Sign up for an Enfield Connected account. An account will:*

- make it easier for you to request many of our services online
- track the progress of reports, requests and applications
- save you time by pre-filling forms with the details you give us
- Entitle you to a range of discounts from businesses across the borough
- help you find out what's happening in Enfield

*Take part in the consultation on the council **Budget** (closes 29 January)  
Paper*

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copies were available

- Since 2010 we have saved £118 million.
- We have to save £17 million this year.
- Further cuts mean we have to save £50 million in the next five years.
- This is more than we currently spend on cleaning our streets, collecting the bins and lighting our streets.
- Annual government funding for vital services has been cut by an average of £700 for every household in the borough.

*Take part in the consultation on the **New Local Plan** (closes 12 February)*

### **7. NEXT MEETING**

20 April 2016

7.30pm - 9.30pm

Friends Meeting house 59, Church Hill, N21 1LE



**REPORT:**  
**Katherine Cox, Stakeholder Manager**  
**Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR)**

*This is Katherine's initial report to which I have added further information she provide in response to questions.*

*Dinah Barry, 19 January 2016*

**Performance**

Period 9 (15 November – 12 December) 76% Public Performance Measure (PPM) against a target of 85%

The route was affected by a series of infrastructure issues including signalling problems at Alexandra Palace on 3 December and Welwyn Garden City on 26 November (although not on the Hertford Loop, this had knock-on effects on trains on that line), additionally a train broke down at Drayton Park on 20 November resulting in delays. We are working closely with Network Rail to improve the routine maintenance of the track and signalling systems on the route to improve reliability and performance.

The Sundays leading up to Christmas were challenging on the Great Northern route leading to a significantly reduced service. This was due to a temporary shortages of available drivers with the start of the holiday season. Sometimes, such as at Christmas time and annual leave periods, we do not have enough drivers to carry out both day-to-day operations and the large amount of training required. We worked hard to put in place revised timetables but journey planners may not have shown replacement trains until shortly before the day(s) affected. We kept our stakeholders up-to-date with email updates and updated our passenger information via the website, social media and customer information screens at stations. Live travel alerts were also issued by the travel updates on local radio stations.

The revised timetables that ran on those days targeted our available resource to ensure that we offered the best service we could across all our routes, albeit it much reduced, but also ensured that we had ticket acceptance with other train operators, London Underground and London Buses where we couldn't. We are disappointed that we couldn't provide the expected levels of service on those days and for other shortages that occurred on some other days in December and apologise to each of our passengers affected. We were unable to provide information on our website in some circumstances until the evening before due to our staff working until the last minute to cover shifts. Information was available via journey planner on National Rail Enquires and our website, additionally travel updates were available on local media.

Normally, like the rest of the industry, we rely to a degree on drivers working rest days but on this occasion, it has not been possible. We are running the UK's biggest driver recruitment and training programme to increase the number of drivers and reduce our reliance on rest day working so that we can deliver a more consistent service for our passengers in the longer term.

However, it takes over a year to train a driver to the high safety standards expected in the industry – that's a minimum of 240 hours in practical training and an additional 840 hours learning theory – and we cannot train the large number of drivers we need all at once so there is a rolling programme. Also, while we are recruiting and training, existing drivers retire and leave for personal reasons. Since January 2015 we have 41 more qualified drivers on Great Northern and 91 trainees.

### **New Moorgate trains**

On 22 December Siemens were announced as the preferred bidder for the contract to build the new train fleet for Moorgate services. The order will be for 25 six-car units (150 vehicles), of a variant of the Class 700 Desiro City, which is being built for the new Thameslink service. They will replace Class 313 trains built in 1976/7, and enter service by the end of 2018 on routes to and from Welwyn and Hertford, Stevenage and Letchworth.

Passenger groups and stakeholders were consulted and train features include:

- Fixed length with full width inter-vehicle gangways, creating more space for passengers on board (there are no intermediate cabs)
- Air-conditioning
- The latest in passenger information systems with real-time information
- Fully accessible and compliant with disability legislation
- Power points throughout

### **Off peak timetable change on 13 December**

From 13 December, inner suburban route trains which previously ran into King's Cross at night and at weekends now operate to Moorgate in the centre of London, via the Northern City Line stations of Drayton Park, Highbury & Islington, Essex Road and Old Street.

Late-night services will continue to operate from King's Cross as well as from Moorgate to transport home those enjoying central London's nightlife.

Not only will the change connect communities between Finsbury Park and Moorgate off-peak with the National Rail service but it will also be better for late-returning commuters along the suburban rail route from Welwyn and Hertford, Stevenage and Letchworth.

Passengers from Welwyn and Hertford, Stevenage and Letchworth will also have access to the West End using the fast, step-free, cross-platform connections with the Victoria line at Highbury & Islington where there is also access, via London Overground to the Westfield shopping centre and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park at Stratford. The nightspots of Shoreditch at Old Street and interchanges with the Northern line are also available.

There will still be services into King's Cross from the longer distance fast and semi-fast Great Northern services from stations such as Peterborough and Cambridge and anyone for King's Cross travelling on the inner suburban service should change at Highbury & Islington for the cross-platform interchange with the Victoria Line to King's Cross; National Rail tickets are interavailable between these two locations.

### **Improvement on the route**

Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill stations are now staffed from the first to last train, improving visibility of staff at the station. We are currently reviewing the provision of station signs on the Hertford Loop as we are aware some are not clearly visible in the dark and should be moved closer to light sources to increase visibility. Reviewing station shelter options at Winchmore Hill in light of recent conversations with our stakeholders, in addition we are meeting with you and Network Rail at the station next week.

## Vehicle Crossovers / Dropped Kerbs (VXOs)



It is an offence to drive over the pavement to park on a private property without a legally constructed vehicle crossover.

### Domestic Crossovers

Where possible, the council will construct a crossover outside your property at your request. Please be aware that you will be charged for this service - see below.

In some locations and in certain situations, planning or other permissions may be required so it is important to read all the information and guidance which is available on the Council web site before applying. The application form is also available to download on the website but you can get a paper-copy by emailing: [crossovers@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:crossovers@enfield.gov.uk) or phoning: 020 8379 2211. You should not start work until you have received approval.

### Some of the key points are:

#### ROAD SAFETY:

- A crossover application is unlikely to be approved if manoeuvring onto or off the highway may be hazardous, e.g. near a junction or within school entrance markings, etc.

#### WIDTH:

- You may apply for any size crossover width between the minimum 2.4m and maximum 4.8m widths. (However, we do not cut paving slabs for crossover construction.)
- The width of the access to the parking area on your property must match the width of the crossover at the property boundary.

#### NUMBER:

- Only one crossover will normally be permitted per property.

#### HARDSTANDING: drainage

- You should use a suitable material or design which will allow the rainwater to drain into the land within your boundaries.

#### HARDSTANDING: size

- The parking area should normally measure 2.4 metres wide by 4.8 metres deep. This depth will ensure most cars currently on the market do not overhang the pavement. It is the vehicle owner's responsibility to ensure their vehicle does not overhang the pavement as this may be considered in law to be wilful obstruction, an offence which may be enforced against by the Council.

#### HARDSTANDING: design

- Front gardens contribute to the greening and quality of the street scene and help to support wildlife. You should aim to retain existing greenery on your property and enhance plant cover where possible.

#### OTHER THINGS THAT WILL AFFECT AN APPLICATION:

- Existing street furniture such as lamp posts,
- Street tree, shrubs and verges; the council is likely to refuse any application which involves the loss of, or damage to, a street tree.
- Parking arrangements in your road, e.g. CPZs, on-street parking bays, disabled bays.

#### BEWARE – DO NOT COMPARE!

Existing crossovers which do not meet the current criteria will have been constructed before these criteria were adopted by the Council and do not set a precedent when assessing new applications in the same street.

**COSTS: September 2015 onwards**

<b>VEHICLE CROSSOVER</b>		
Application Fee – non-refundable (No application fee is required for works to improve a disabled person's access to a public building, or to improve their access, safety, health or comfort at their own home. You will need to provide a copy of your Blue Badge confirming this with your application.)		£166.00
The application fee includes up to three site visits; at least one is to assess your application and, if approved, a second will be to carry out a works check if required. If any more than three visits are required, these will be charged	per half hour of officer time	£30.00
Construction	per square metre	£195.00
Vehicle Crossover Planning Application Fee (where necessary).		£172.00
Provision of a vehicle crossover when constructed as part of a planned footway reconstruction scheme - (20% discount on full price shown above)	per square metre	£156.00
NB. Crossover specification to comply with scheme construction. There will be no discount where it is identified that a resident is crossing the footway illegally and contributing to damage to the pavement.		
Removal/Replanting of a Shrub Bed	per square metre	£67.00
Application to request a tree removal in accordance with the Tree Strategy		£150.00
Removal of Disabled Parking Bay NB. Should the disabled bay no longer be required due to the death of the applicant, or the applicant has moved, there is currently no charge. Otherwise the charge opposite applies.		£226.00
Removal/Remarking of a Parking Bay		£226.00
Relocation of a Traffic Sign		£144.00
Cost associated with amending a Traffic Management Order to facilitate a vehicle crossover in a CPZ		£128.00
White Line Entrance Marking / Renewal of a White Line Entrance Marking		£137.00

N.B.

- If you are registered disabled you will only be charged for construction work, not for the application if you provide a copy of the front and back of your blue badge.
- If a pavement renewal scheme is going to take place in the area, you may be able to have your cross-over constructed more cheaply.

***This is only a summary of some of the key points on this subject.***

***To be sure you have all the current information, you should look at the Council web site: [http://www.enfield.gov.uk/info/100000625/pavements/360/vehicle\\_crossovers\\_dropped\\_kerbs](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/info/100000625/pavements/360/vehicle_crossovers_dropped_kerbs) or search for 'Enfield Council' and 'dropped kerbs'.***