

## SOUTHGATE WARD FORUM - 27.9.2016

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTHGATE WARD FORUM HELD ON TUESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

**MEMBERS:** Councillors Robert Hayward, Daniel Pearce and Edward Smith

#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cllr Edward Smith welcomed the residents and introduced the agenda and format.

#### 2. CRIME UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM

PC McGill gave an update on the Mayors' decision to increase the number of dedicated police presence to 2 PCs and 1 PCSO per ward. There will be no overall increase in police officers in London and this means the new ward-based officers will have to be drawn from neighbourhood emergency response teams or borough support units.

Southgate Police Station will remain open for the time being. Sergeant Molloy would be returning to his old role. Erica Crawford would become the new Inspector.

The local crime priorities were to reduce anti-social behaviour, burglaries and thefts of motor vehicles. Crime against the person had steadily declined over the past few months. 80% of burglaries in the area occur by breaking through the rear door by means of garden hopping. The police are planning to produce leaflets for residents.

There is a new traffic team based in Edmonton that will pick up road traffic offenses in Enfield, such as drivers speeding along the Bourne or drivers using mobile phones.

PC McGill reported crime in the area was generally decreasing apart from burglaries which showed a slight increase.

#### 3. LOCAL ISSUES

**A: Proposed boundary changes to the Enfield Southgate constituency** The Boundary Commission had recently announced proposals to abolish the current Enfield Southgate constituency. If implemented, David Burrowes MP would lose his seat before the next general election in 2020. It was proposed that Southgate Ward along with Southgate Green and Winchmore Hill would be moved into a new Finchley Southgate constituency. Counter proposals would need to be agreed and submitted to the Boundary commission before Christmas. Residents were urged to view the proposals on the Commission's website and submit their views.

Some residents felt that the changes to the constituency boundaries would end up with MPs becoming more distant from the people they were supposed to represent.

**B: Southgate Library** The existing library building next to Barnet Southgate College had been closed. Residents were very unhappy with the new library located inside the college grounds. Councillors felt that the borough's smaller satellite libraries were being run down,

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although the Council denied this.

The replacement library in the College is badly located round the back of the building with poor to no provided with a few chairs and tables. Residents reported that access from the street is difficult and library users have to sign in via the kiosk and wear a badge. Staff were reported as not helpful. Other concerns were raised over safe guarding because anyone can now access a facility that is shared with large numbers of students.

It was felt that the transfer had been poorly managed with insufficient oversight by senior officers. The Labour Administration has justified the changes to the Library Service by claiming they have to make drastic cuts.

There were no positive comments from the audience many of whom have tried to use the new library. The impression had been given that the service is deliberately poor to enable the council to close the library because of low demand.

Residents from the floor complained that Southgate is a major town centre but is generally ignored by the Council.

**C: Southgate Tube Station – Planting areas** Cllr Smith advised that he was still trying to arrange a meeting with Transport for London to discuss improvements to planting areas around Southgate Tube Station. An LBE officer who had worked previously with TfL on another project in the Borough had helpfully given him some useful contacts. Cllr Smith would continue to progress this potentially beneficial project and would keep the Forum informed.

**D: Proposed School in Groveland's Park.** Cllr Smith reported that he had attended the opening of the new temporary primary school in the grounds of Ashmole Academy. In his view, the school's grounds were large enough to accommodate a permanent primary school. A temporary structure has been erected for 80 pupils, which would alleviate some of the demand for primary school places in Southgate. A planning application for a permanent school had been submitted by the governors to Barnet Council and would be considered by the planning committee in December. It was understood there were objections from residents in surrounding streets and from Sports England who did not want anything built on the playing fields.

Concerning the construction of a new primary school in Bourneside, Groveland's Park, Historic England were not keen on the proposals put forward by the Council to date and had laid down criteria which the Council were required to meet in order to obtain consent. It was understood that a Free School (The Lime Trust), were also keen to establish a school in the park area or other areas.

#### 4. LOCAL CONCERNS

##### **A. Kervan Sofrasi Restaurant & Huckleberry Chicken take away**

Residents raised the problems of smells and rubbish from Huckleberry Chicken again and stated that matters had got worse and they had submitted a formal complaint on 21st July. Joynal Islam, the complaints officer at Enfield council, had taken up the case and met residents. A meeting had also previously been convened by David Burrowes MP to enable the residents affected to make their complaints directly to Robert Oles, Head of Licensing Enforcement. Residents had been expecting a report before the complaint went to LBE's chief executive. They considered that the Council's rules had not been adhered to. Nothing has happened and nothing has been received.

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The residents complained that parking by customers was still an issue and delivery lorries were blocking their right of way and breaching traffic regulations by parking on zig zag lines.

A 5th planning application has been submitted for the new flue at the rear of the shop. Elosie Kernan is now the officer responsible for approving the visual aesthetics of the proposal. The residents felt the new plans have gone full circle from the original plans. In their view, the current proposal breaches planning guidelines.

Finally, waste from the premises is not being removed daily and collection times are too early in the morning (4.45am).

Kervan Sorfrasi – Residents reported that the restaurant is still emitting smells and that nothing has improved. Residents are furious with the smell and pollution coming from the restaurant. Officers have not replied (Mr Islam) and have failed to deal with the issue.

The officers have restrictions on when they are willing to come and check the smell. The window of opportunity to make these checks is so small that they have become pointless.

Parking is becoming an issue parking across drive ways. The restaurant has expanded. New parking restrictions have made the matter worse.

The same problems do not seem to occur with McDonalds, KFC and Pizza Express. Residents are annoyed that officers knowing the reputation of Kervan and its other branches have allowed it to carry on unchecked. Residents claimed that two council officers who work for Enfield Council are also allegedly involved in private companies that advise these businesses. The restaurant was originally given planning permission for 300 covers with only 7 car parking places.

### **Chaseville Park Parade**

A resident reported building work at the rear of one of the shops in Chaseville Park Parade, which was being converted for occupation by Gilmartin Leys, a firm of surveyors. Her mother lived in one of the flats above and the view from her windows would be obscured because the new roof line for the offices at the back was too high. She claimed this area at the rear of the shops was creating a blind spot for drug taking.

She complained that not all the residents in the flats above had not been consulted about this change of use. The Council only asked the occupants of the flanking flats. Cllr. Smith said he would look into the matter

## **5. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

7.30 pm, Wednesday 14th December 2016.