

Minutes: Cockfosters Ward Forum - 7.30pm, Monday 3rd December 2018 at Vita Pax Church Hall, 29 Bramley Road, Cockfosters, N14 4HE

Attendance: Cllr Elaine Hayward (Conservative), Cllr Edward Smith (Conservative) and Cllr. Alessandro Georgiou (Conservative)

Agenda

1. Introductions

- All three Cockfosters Ward Councillors introduced themselves to those present.

2. Crime update from the local Neighbourhood Police Team

- Unfortunately, the Police were unable to attend the meeting. Their December crime report is attached. Councillors advised that the local neighbourhood police team covered Cockfosters, Southgate and Highlands Wards and comprised a sergeant who combined this role with other duties, 2 PCs and 1 PCSO.
- In the main, criminal activity in Cockfosters concerned burglary and vehicle theft/damage. The Police advocate using robust steering locks to deter thieves.
- It was clear that residents throughout the ward felt that burglaries were on the rise and of great concern. The Police welcomed the setting up of neighbourhood watches and over 20 had been set up in the Hadley Wood Area.
- Councillors reported that the Police with volunteers had recently used speed guns to monitor vehicles in Beech Hill, Prince George Avenue, South Lodge Drive and Waggon Rd. A considerable number of vehicles had been captured driving over the speed limit and warning letters sent. If caught a second time, tickets would be issued.
- Residents of Westpole Ave were advised that if they wanted speed restriction measures in their road, they would need to submit a petition to the Council copying in their councillors. The petition would need to recommend the measures preferred, speed tables, chicanes, road narrowing, etc.
- All decisions regarding any expenditure on council roads would require the approval of Cllr. Gurney Dogan, the Cabinet member for the Environment.
- Concern was raised about people parking on double yellow lines near the junction of Reservoir Rd and Bramley Rd. Parking enforcement was the responsibility of the Council and problems should be reported via the Council website. Where parking was a problem a CPZ could be introduced

but would require the consent of the majority of the residents living in the road.

3a). The New Draft Local Plan

- Councillors advised the meeting that the Council had begun consultation on the Local Plan. This was a hugely important document that would lay down the guidelines for development in the Borough of Enfield for years to come. The process had only just started and would take several years to complete and would finally require a public enquiry.
- There were several disturbing proposals in the draft document regarding intensification of residential development around tube stations and town centres and in the Green Belt at Crews Hill. People were urged to go on the Council's website and submit their comments on the proposals. Transport for London had plans apparently to develop car parking close to tube stations.
- Concern was raised about the stalled development of the church in Westpole Avenue that had been boarded up for years because apparently the Council and McCarthy and Stone had not been able to agree a S.106 agreement. Councillors would make further enquiries.
- Unfortunately, the Council had decided some time ago that S.106 money from developments in Cockfosters and elsewhere would be spent on the scheme at Meridian Water in Upper Edmonton.
- Enfield's Local Plan had to be in conformity with the Mayor's London Plan which was still being consulted on but was at a more advanced stage. The London Plan also had some disturbing proposals about the relaxation of requirements for garden developments in suburban areas although it was robust in regard to residential development in the Green Belt. Both plans were based on the assumption that London's population would continue to grow significantly in the coming years and that a step change in the level of housing development was required.

3b). Consultation on fortnightly waste collection

- Councillors advised the meeting that the Council had embarked on a consultation regarding the possible ending of the weekly collection of household waste and garden refuse. Seven options had been put forward including keeping the existing service. Green waste collection is not a statutory service and the Council were considering charging £65 a year for those who wanted it. A further proposal was to introduce a separate weekly collection of food waste as directed by the Mayor of London.
- The main purpose of changes to the waste collection service was to reduce expenditure and to increase re-cycling.

- Residents raised several concerns about the proposed changes, e.g. a possible increase in fly tipping and littering; the need for larger wheelie bins for waste and recycling; that larger bins would be difficult for elderly residents to handle; charging for green waste would only be taken up in the west of the Borough; and that some residents might not use the food caddies and dump their food in other bins.
- Councillors urged residents to go on the Council website and participate in the consultation and make their concerns known.

3c). Public concerts in Trent Park

- There were a number of concerns raised by residents regarding the 51st state event held in Trent Park on 4th August 2018. A petition on social media about such events had raise 3,200 signatures.
- The meeting was advised that a local stakeholders' group was now in regular liaison with the Parks Department and was receiving a better flow of information than hitherto. The Council however was determined to permit larger and larger public events in Trent Park in order to raise extra revenue.
- Residents were concerned that there was a significant level of disruption, aggressive behaviour and littering from those attending the event. There were also major concerns that some of the events' organisers were not reinstating the damage caused to the park by these festivals.
- The Stakeholders' Group had recently been advised that a second major musical festival called ELROW was being planned this summer with as many as 30,000 people attending. There were major concerns that Cockfosters Tube Station did not have the capacity to disperse such a large number at the end of the event. There were also concerns about public disorder and health and safety and a lack of a sufficient police presence.
- The two festivals along with several other smaller ones require an entertainments licence and the Stakeholder Group supported by local councillors would continue to make representation to the Council and the Licensing Committee.
- All three councillors committed themselves to oppose similar large events in the future and any event that would cause disruption to those that live within the surrounding area of Trent Park.

3d). Traffic and Parking Issues

- There was an update from Councillors on action taken to alleviate traffic along the A111/Cockfosters Road. There was a commitment from Councillors that all roads surrounding Cockfosters Road would be consulted upon on how best to tackle the worsening traffic situation.

- A resident asked about the Blackhorse development. It was understood that the application was still being considered by the Mayor's Office and Transport for London.
- The existing cycle lane between Cockfosters Tube and Enfield Town was in a poor state of repair and rarely used. This would be raised with the Council.
- Residents noted that the traffic light crossings near the Chicken Shed Theatre and Cockfosters Underground station should be reviewed as they could be two factors in the significant traffic issues on Cockfosters Road.
- Councillors thought that the introduction of mini roundabouts at the junction between Westpole Avenue and other side roads and Cockfosters Road could also improve traffic flow and would be discussed with the Traffic Engineers. A plan to reverse the direction of one of the slip roads in front of Cockfosters Parade had been agreed in principle by the Highways Dept.
- A resident enquired whether it would be possible to improve the Bramley Rd Sports Field. Works were taking place to the Clock Tower and were seeming to take a long time. Could this be looked into?

Date of Next meeting

- 7.30pm, Tuesday, 19th March 2019 at the Hadley Wood Centre.