



NOTES
OF

KINGSBURY & KENTON



A R E A C O N S U L T A T I V E F O R U M

HELD AT **Kingsbury High School** ON **Tuesday,** AT **7.00 pm**
Princes Avenue, NW9 9JR **2 February 2010**

Chair of the Meeting Councillor Kanta Mistry **Lead Manager for the Area** Christine Collins

Preliminary comments

The Chair opened the meeting by formally welcoming everybody to the meeting. She also welcomed Councillors J Moher, R Moher and Malik to the meeting. She introduced Christine Collins, who was the new Lead Manager for the Kingsbury and Kenton area, and the officers who would be speaking at the forum. Finally, she welcomed officers from the Barnhill, Fryent and Queensbury local Safer Neighbourhoods teams who were present and informed the forum that they would be available for residents to speak to in the interactive break.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Crane, John Keble, Sandra Kabir, Mr M Rooney and John Parry (Head Teacher, Uxendon Primary School).

Announcements

The Chair informed the forum that Acting Inspector Greg Wakefield would be providing the policing update rather than Inspector Mark Williams.

The Chair read out a position statement by Mark Easton, Chief Executive of NHS Brent, on Stag Lane Clinic dated 2nd February 2010. She added that a copy of this statement was available for residents at the back of the meeting room. The Chair noted that that Dr Shah had informed her that, despite what was written in the statement, the Family Planning Service was still operating out of Stag Lane Clinic.

The Chair added that there was also an information sheet available for residents on the effect of the snow on pavements and roads and an information sheet which provided residents with a planning update.

Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were received.

A concern regarding the accuracy of the recording of the discussion on the new civic centre, which had taken place at the Forum meeting held on 5th November 2008, was again raised and another request to amend the notes was made. In response to this request, Christine Collins explained the constitutional arrangements of the Area Forums. Following this, she stated that whilst the notes of the meeting, which were being disputed, would not be amended, the concerns of those present regarding this issue had been noted.

It was noted by a resident that a concern was in fact raised regarding the safety of pedestrians in Fryent Way, not the Mall as stated on page 4 of the notes. It was also noted that the JFS should not be referred to as the Jewish Free School but as JFS.

Matters arising

Rail Replacement Bus Service, Wembley Park to Kingsbury

The Chair informed the forum that she had received confirmation from Jim Lawman (Public Transport Officer, Brent Council) that the rail replacement bus service now went straight through Fryent Way.

Territorial Support Group (TSG) - Arrests

In response to a request for an update on the arrests made during the dawn raid on a number of addresses on 7 October 2009 by the Metropolitan Police in conjunction with the Territorial Support Group, the Chair explained that Acting Inspector Greg Wakefield would provide this information during the policing update.

P R E S E N T A T I O N 1



S U B J E C T

Home Fire Safety

P R E S E N T E D B Y

Sean Bennett

Borough Commander, London
Fire Brigade

R E F E R E N C E M A T E R I A L

PowerPoint presentation

The Chair introduced Sean Bennett, Borough Commander, who provided the forum with a presentation on the importance of home fire safety. Sean Bennett began his presentation by explaining that there were three key parts to ensuring fire safety, which were prevention, protection and education.

Sean Bennett advised the forum on some of the practical steps which could be taken to prevent fires occurring in the home. He explained that due to the cold weather, residents often used portable heaters in the home. He warned that residents needed to be careful where they placed such appliances and recommended that they be placed against the wall to ensure that they do not get knocked over. He stressed the importance of ensuring that plugs were correctly wired and that sockets were not overloaded. He also advised residents to not place plugs under the carpet as it could cause damp to enter the plug. He also stressed the need to check electric blankets on an annual basis and advised that they could get damaged whilst being stored away for the summer. Candles, he explained, could also be a fire hazard. He stressed that candles should be placed on heat-resistant surfaces, in proper candle holders and should be kept away from clothes, hair, open windows and curtains.

Sean Bennett provided the forum with a case study of a man who died as a result of a fire, started accidentally, in his home. The case study highlighted the dangers of drinking and smoking in the home and how tragic accidents such as this one could be avoided. He concluded his presentation by informing the forum that the London Fire Brigade was available to provide residents with advice on how to keep their homes safe and that free home fire safety visits were available on request from residents.

Q U E S T I O N S &

D I S C U S S I O N

In response to a question regarding the overloading of sockets, Sean Bennett explained that whatever is plugged in should not exceed 13Amp and that the general rule was one plug for one socket. In response to a question regarding wiring in the home, he stressed the importance of ensuring that wiring was checked and added that regulations on wiring had changed recently. He noted that the state of the wiring would be noticed as part of a home fire safety visit. It was asked as to how many years it would take for wiring to become dangerous. In response, Sean Bennett noted that this would greatly depend on the usage of the wires, but that on average he believed it could be usable for about 25 years.

A resident commented that they were of the opinion that it seemed that the Fire Brigades Union was unsatisfied with many of the decisions that were being made regarding how the fire brigade was being run. In response, Sean Bennett explained that without knowing the specific issues which were being referred to, it was difficult for him to comment, but that the London Fire Brigade worked closely with the Fire Brigades Union through consultation.

In response to a comment regarding the use of community halls, Sean Bennett explained that the fire brigade would ask the user to do a risk assessment based on their event and would ask the user to ensure that they had additional control measures put in place if required. It was asked, by a gentleman who ran a home for 8 residents, as to how often he would need to check the wiring of the fire alarm system. In response, Sean Bennett explained that the alarm should be tested every week and that the wiring should be checked at least once a year. He explained that he did not know the system being referred to, so he suggested that the gentleman checks the literature which came with the system. He added that it was usual for an Annual Service Agreement to be set up.

P R E S E N T A T I O N 2



S U B J E C T

Brent Council Website

P R E S E N T E D B Y

Angela Jariwala

Web Content Manager, Brent Council

R E F E R E N C E M A T E R I A L

PowerPoint presentation

The Chair introduced Angela Jariwala, Web Content Manager, who provided the forum with a presentation on the use of the Brent Council website. Angela began her presentation by informing the forum that the Council had been busy updating the website over the last few months to make it more customer oriented and user friendly. She took the forum through some of the steps taken to standardise the website. Angela Jariwala explained that the website was able to run over multiple platforms, such as from a blackberry or iPhone. She added that the Brent Council website was in the 'Socitm' 2009 top 20 of council websites. She informed the forum that Brent Council would also be launching a new website specifically for young people in March 2010.

Angela Jariwala explained that every page on the website was divided into three columns. By using the Council's website homepage, she explained that the left hand column was a vertical navigation trail. This she stated used the standard local government service categories which were arranged in three levels. The right hand column she explained provided the user with a series of links relevant to the page. She stated that there would usually be a "Do it online" box containing links to appropriate forms or transactions for that service, together with facilities to email the page address to a friend and report broken links. She added that often there would be a "Related Links" box which contained links to related pages or external websites.

Angela Jariwala then introduced the use of My Brent to the forum, which allowed users of the website to personalise their use of the Brent website. The example she provided the forum, was that a user could type in their address details and find out where their nearest recycling centre was. She also showed the forum how to use the 'A-Z of Council Services' search tool. She concluded her presentation by explaining that Brent Council would continue to make improvements to the website to make it even more customer orientated.

Q U E S T I O N &

D I S C U S S I O N

Following a comment from a resident regarding the importance of ensuring that the Brent Magazine continues to be printed as well as being available to down load online, Angela Jariwala reassured the forum that there were no plans to stop printing the Brent Magazine. It was noted by a resident that the Brent Magazine should contain more detailed instructions on how to access further information on the Brent Council website, as some of the people who would want to access the information may not be very experienced at using a computer. In response to a comment regarding the linking of partner organisations on the Brent Council website, Angela Jariwala stated that there were links to partner organisations on the Brent Council website. Christine Collins added that, on the Neighbourhood Working webpage on the Council's website, for example, there were links to the safer neighbourhood working teams on the Metropolitan Police website. Angela Jariwala also reminded the forum that on the Council's website there was a link to Brent's community network website called BRAIN.

In response to a query, Angela Jariwala explained that Google Enterprise was a newer version of Google. It was asked whether another package could be used instead of Google due to the fact that Google retains its user's information. In response, Angela Jariwala stated that the Council considered Google to be the most effective and best package available. A resident commented that it was often difficult to get censored information on the website such as information on Dollis Hill House and the future of Cricklewood Library. Angela Jariwala stated that issues were often put on the web page as latest news and press releases. Angela Jariwala reminded the forum that committee agendas and minutes were available to download from the Council's website and that residents could register to receive email-alerts. In response to a query about how residents could provide feedback to the Council regarding their views on the website, Angela Jariwala explained that they could do this by either going through the 'contact us' link or by clicking on the 'feedback on this page' link, which is on the right hand side of each webpage. Users, she added, could also provide feedback by selecting the 'web development blog' link. The Chair reminded the forum that computers were available for residents to use in Brent's libraries.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Dunwell to the forum.

P R E S E N T A T I O N 3



S U B J E C T

Policing Update

P R E S E N T E D B Y

(Acting) Inspector Greg Wakefield
Metropolitan Police

The Chair introduced Acting Inspector Greg Wakefield (Metropolitan Police) who was present at the forum to provide a policing update. In response to the question asked during matters arising, Acting Inspector Wakefield explained that the majority of those arrested during the dawn raid on a number of addresses on 7 October 2009 had been charged with drug offences. Acting Inspector Wakefield informed the forum that the Fryent, Kenton and Queensbury Safer Neighbourhood Teams were now based at Kingsbury Police Office, Unit 19 Barningham Way, Kingsbury, NW9 8AU.

The Inspector then went on to speak about 'operation presence' which was underway to increase the amount of contact which police officers have with residents at ward level. He stated that they were doing much to raise their profile and to speak to residents through newsletters, the website, phone, email, face to face surgeries and street briefings. The first phase of the operation, he added, was carried out in December 2009, in which over 1000 leaflets were distributed. He stated that officers spoke to residents about the importance of securing their property to deter thieves. He explained that it was extremely important to not leave ladders and tools around which could make it easier for burglars to break into the property.

The Chair noted that many alley gating schemes had been installed in the area especially Queensbury and other nearby wards. She explained that money from the Neighbourhood Working Fund was being used to part fund some alley gates such as the huge scheme in Winchester Avenue, Sandhurst Road, Girton Avenue and Princes Avenue which would be installed soon. With regards to the installation of alley gating in Brampton Road and Grosvenor Crescent, the Chair explained that it had been delayed because it went to planning. She added that it was scheduled to be done in the next few weeks. She asked residents to contact her if there was a need for alley gating in their street.

Q U E S T I O N &

D I S C U S S I O N

Following a request by Councillor Malik, an officer from the Queensbury Safer Neighbourhood Team stated that they would provide Councillor Malik with the latest crime statistics for the Queensbury Ward. A member of the Barnhill Residents Association stated that they had been receiving complaints about the policing in the area, but that since Sergeant Gor had been appointed, he and his team had been doing such a good job that residents had a lot more confidence in how crime was now being tackled in the area.

A resident enquired as to whether crime statistics by ward were available online. In response, Acting Inspector Wakefield explained that these could be found on the Metropolitan Police website. It was noted that the Metropolitan Police used a crime mapping system on their website which enabled residents to view where crime was occurring at a local neighbourhood level. It was also noted that Brent's Community Network website (BRAIN) enabled residents to view what crimes had taken place in their area and also provided a facility in which residents could sign up to receive information on the crime in their streets and areas by email. Acting Inspector Wakefield stated that residents could also join their local ward panels, where they could raise issues relating to crime in their area.



S O A P B O X E S

There were no soapbox requests.

P R E S E N T A T I O N 4



S U B J E C T

Better Services for Local Children

P R E S E N T E D B Y

David
Cheesman

Director of Strategy, North West London
Hospitals

R E F E R E N C E M A T E R I A L

PowerPoint presentation

David Cheesman explained that the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust was undergoing a programme of consultation on proposals to reorganise children's services at Central Middlesex Hospital (CMH) and Northwick Park Hospital (NPH). If adopted, the proposals would see the setting up of paediatric assessment units (PAUs) at both CMH and NPH, which would be open seven days a week from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm. These units he explained would deal with the vast majority of children's need for hospital treatment. He stated that children needing to stay in hospital overnight would be sent to NPH, and it was being proposed that a relatives' shuttle bus would run between the two hospitals. He added that CMH would retain its Accident and Emergency service for children and that an Urgent Care Centre staffed by GPs would be set up in CMH.

David Cheesman set out the benefits that the proposals would bring including greater access to a paediatrician through the PAUs, better use of hospital staff and a strengthened ward for overnight stays, closer links with GPs and community services and an improved patient experience. David Cheesman concluded his presentation by encouraging residents to take part in the consultation process. The consultation process, he stated, would run until the 4th April 2010. Copies of the consultation pack were made available to residents.

Q U E S T I O N S &

D I S C U S S I O N

In the discussion which followed, one resident raised a concern that if a shuttle service was introduced that it would then be taken away after just a couple of years. In response, David Cheesman explained that the shuttle service was not only good for patients but was also good for the hospitals. Due to the way healthcare funding now worked, he explained that it was not in the hospitals' interests to shut down the shuttle service or patients would go elsewhere. Another resident noted that the nearest hospital to where he lived, in the north of the Borough, was Edgware Hospital. The resident raised a concern that there was poor transport from where he lived, in the north of the Borough, to Northwick Park Hospital. David Cheesman asked the resident to mention this concern when completing the consultation. Councillor R Moher stated that the Health Select Committee were currently looking at the problem of transport to hospitals.

Any other business

It was noted that the Environmental Community Festival and Annual Conference was being held on Thursday 25th February 2010 between 17:00 – 18:30 at the Committee Rooms 1, 2 and 3 in

Brent Town Hall. The Chair encouraged everyone to attend, explaining that it would be an opportunity for individuals, community groups, colleges and businesses to let others know what environmental work they had been doing and to ask for help.

The Chair reported that, following the success of the last festival, a date had been set to hold the Queensbury Eco-Cultural Festival 2010 and that this date was the 27th June 2010.

Concluding comments

The Chair thanked residents and speakers for attending the meeting.

An interaction break was held between 8.00pm and 8.20pm

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

K MISTRY
Chair