



NOTES
OF

W E M B L E Y

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

HELD AT Patidar House **ON** Tuesday **AT** 7.00 pm
22 London Road **3 November**
Wembley HA9 7EX **2009**

Chair of the Meeting Councillor Alan Mendoza **Lead Manager for the Area** Chris Walker

Introductions

The Chair welcomed residents to the meeting. The following Councillors were also present: Cllr James Allie (Alperton Ward); Cllr Mrs Joyce Bacchus (Tokyngton Ward); Cllr Muhammed Butt (Tokyngton Ward); Cllr Peter Corcoran (Tokyngton Ward); Cllr Atiq Malik (Queensbury Ward); Cllr Chandubhai Patel (Sudbury Ward); Cllr Robert Wharton (Sudbury Ward); and Cllr Daniel Bessong (Wembley Central Ward).



S O A P B O X E S

The following residents were each given up to three minutes to address the Forum.

N A M E

S U B J E C T

Mr John

Lamp posts and trees, and police patrols

Mr John requested that the branches of some trees, particularly outside 102 / 107 London Road, be cut back, as they currently blocked the light from street lights, which made the pavement very dark in the mornings and evenings. He then asked why police officers tended to patrol the local area alone, rather than in pairs.

N A M E

S U B J E C T

Mr D. Fisher

Blocked drains

Mr Fisher explained that road drains in the local area remained blocked with rubbish, despite the fact that he had mentioned this issue at a previous Forum meeting. He gave Chris Walker copies of photographs of the drains, and Chris Walker agreed to raise the matter with StreetCare.

N A M E	S U B J E C T
Harold Gurvick	Brent Council vacancies in "Brent Magazine"

Mr Gurvick expressed his view that Brent Council should stop advertising to fill vacancies in "Brent Magazine" during the current financial situation to save council tax payers' money. He added that new appointments should only be made from existing Council staff.

N A M E	S U B J E C T
Tony Sturgess	Drains, flooding risk, lighting in Harrow Road

Mr Sturgess reported that drains on Harrow Road remained blocked, a subject which he had mentioned over the previous five years at various Forums. He went on to explain that a wall which ran alongside a waterway leading into the River Brent in the area of Stonebridge Park underground station had collapsed, leading to a risk of flooding in heavy rain. Lastly, Mr Sturgess noted that street lighting on Harrow Road was not functioning effectively since roadworks in the area had been started.

N A M E	S U B J E C T
Mr P. E. Jeffries	Lifts at Wembley Central underground station

Mr Jeffries explained that there was inadequate lift provision to and from the platforms at Wembley Central underground station, in contrast to Wembley Park station, which had several lifts. He asked whether the Council could help to rectify this problem. He went on to inform residents about the fact that many local drains were blocked, for example outside Copeland School, and he expressed concern that this could lead to a risk of tuberculosis being spread.

N A M E	S U B J E C T
Mr Gordon	Pan-London Children's Contracting Project

Mr Gordon expressed his view that residents did not have enough input into the setting of the agenda for Forum meetings. He then went on to explain that a building used by the Pan-London Children's Contracting Project in Preston Ward had been causing problems for local residents. Ambulances and police cars had regularly been called and loud music was played, and these factors had made the building a nuisance for local residents. He expressed frustration that the building had been classified as being for residential use.

Mr Gordon then explained that, in several cases, planning permission had been granted for residents to install a window at the back of their properties, only for them to build an extra storey. He added that, although Chris Walker had explained that the Council had no powers to prevent such activities, the Council was failing to follow its own Building Enforcement Policy published in 2002.

N A M E	S U B J E C T
Joyce Colvey	Parking in London Road and Rupert Avenue

Mrs Colvey noted that the issue of parking in London Road had been mentioned at the previous meeting, and she asked whether it would be possible for the Council to restrict parking to one side of the road on both London Road and Rupert Avenue to allow a smoother flow of traffic, including the emergency services. She added that it could take up to half an hour to drive from one end of London Road to the other.

U P D A T E S & F E E D B A C K**S U B J E C T**

Feedback from last meeting

P R E S E N T E D B Y

Chris Walker

(Lead Manager, Wembley ACF)

Chris Walker reported that a feedback sheet on the nine Soapbox items presented at the previous meeting was available for residents to take away with them. He then explained that the last meeting had seen four information items and one presentation.

On the subject of the lifts at Wembley Central underground station, Mr Walker explained the London Development Agency (LDA) had planned to fund the installation of new lifts to all platforms as part of the ongoing station improvements. However, these funds were no longer available, and Brent Council was now working with Transport for London, Network Rail and the LDA to find a way to provide the lifts. Although the Council was not responsible for the maintenance of or improvements to the station, it would continue to lobby for the funding to be found, so that the lifts and then the last building works on Central Square could be completed.

A resident asked whether any progress had been made on the issue of khat (paan) spitting on the pavements in the Wembley area. Mr Walker explained that Neighbourhood Working teams were working with other agencies to try to improve publicity and tackle the problem at source, while Richard Hay (Neighbourhood Working Coordinator, Brent Council) explained that a new campaign would begin in December 2009 and continue into 2010, which should bring about visible signs of improvement. A resident replied that people should be heavily fined for spitting khat leaves out onto the pavement.

A resident asked whether the Council could ensure that people were informed about planning applications submitted by their next door neighbours. Mr Walker replied that the Council could not accept representations from neighbours regarding planning applications, and so it had to be careful not to encourage residents to submit representations. The resident asked whether applications affecting party walls could be notified to neighbours; Mr Walker replied that this was a matter for residents to settle with each other.

Another resident asked whether the fact that there were fewer accidents recorded in Wembley was as a result of the fact that traffic speeds were slowing down due to the large amount of roadworks and traffic congestion in the area. He also asked whether there were any particular accident blackspots in the borough. Mr Walker explained that the Council responded to accident data by installing or moving pedestrian crossings where accident blackspots were identified and this, along with slower traffic speeds, was reducing the number of recorded accidents.

I N F O R M A T I O N I T E M 1**S U B J E C T**

Brent Local Involvement Network (LINK)

**P R E S E N T E D
B Y**

Dr Golam Ahmed

(Management Committee,
Brent LINK)


The Chair introduced Dr Golam Ahmed (Management Committee, Brent LINK), who explained that each borough had a Local Involvement Network, which brought together groups of individuals and organisations with the providers of healthcare to discuss experiences of and planned changes to services. Any residents, as users of NHS services, were invited to attend LINK meetings and

become members of the Network, to inform healthcare providers of their experiences. Dr Ahmed added that the Network helped the community to address any neglected areas or ideas.

Dr Ahmed then explained that the Network held coffee mornings on Monday mornings at different locations in the borough and other public events, in order to find out the priorities of healthcare users. He invited residents to contact Brent LINK by telephone on 020 8965 0309, by e-mail to brentlink@hestia.org.uk or by post at Unit 56, Designworks, Park Parade, London NW10 4HT.

Q U E S T I O N S &	D I S C U S S I O N
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A resident asked how Brent LINK differed from NHS Brent. Dr Ahmed replied that Brent LINK did not represent NHS Brent, but rather it took healthcare users' views to NHS Brent. He added that Brent LINK was looking to recruit more residents so that a representative sample of healthcare users' views could be obtained. The resident then asked how to get involved, given that she worked full-time and would be unable to attend coffee mornings held on Mondays. Dr Ahmed explained that Brent LINK held several public events, and he invited the resident to speak to him in the interaction break for more details.

I N F O R M A T I O N I T E M 2		
S U B J E C T	Water and hygiene	
P R E S E N T E D B Y	Huw Thomas	(Thames Water)

The Chair introduced Huw Thomas (Thames Water) who explained that Thames Water was the largest supplier of fresh water in the London area. However, fresh water supplies to the Wembley area were provided by another company, Three Valleys Water. He added, however, that Thames Water was responsible for sewage and waste water services in the Wembley area.

Noting that some Soapbox contributors had mentioned the problem of blocked drains in the local area, Mr Thomas explained that the local authority was responsible for roadside drains, although Thames Water was responsible for the sewers under the drains.

Q U E S T I O N S &	D I S C U S S I O N
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A resident asked how much rain the sewage system could cope with before it became flooded. Mr Thomas replied that the sewers were designed to deal with the type of heavy rainfall storms which statistically occurred once every 30 years. However, he noted that Thames Water was working to reduce the number of properties at risk of flooding in its area to 3,500 – although the Office for Water Services Regulation (OFWAT) wanted this figure to be much lower.


Another resident commented that there had recently been a sewer blockage in South Kenton, and he asked whether Thames Water produced any leaflets on the subject of the appropriate use of drains and sewers. Mr Thomas explained that there were a number of products on the market which promoted themselves as flushable but which should not be put down sinks or toilets, noting that fats, grease and oil from domestic and trade kitchens also added to the problem. He went on to say that he could provide leaflets to the Council for distribution to residents on the subject.

A resident remarked that a wall which ran alongside a waterway leading into the River Brent in the area of Stonebridge Park underground station had collapsed, and it presented a flood risk. He

asked whether, if the water level rose in heavy rainfall, sewage would also rise. Mr Thomas explained that the sewer system had been designed to flow into rivers if it became blocked or flooded, but Thames Water wanted to build a new sewer under the River Thames to avoid overflow in rivers. He added that this sewer would cost around £1 billion to construct.

A resident asked whether the rise in the population density in Brent was contributing to problems of blockage in the sewer system. Mr Thomas explained that the sewer system did have spare capacity, and that the largest problem was inappropriate use of the sewers and drains.

The Chair thanked Mr Thomas for attending and answering residents' questions.

I N F O R M A T I O N I T E M 3		
S U B J E C T	Improving children's health	
P R E S E N T E D B Y	Faraz Yousufzal	(NHS Brent)

The Chair welcomed Faraz Yousufzal (NHS Brent) who began his presentation by explaining that, as the number of children and young people in the borough increased, services would find it increasingly difficult to cope. Therefore, the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust had begun to investigate ways in which services could be changed to match this increased demand. He explained that it was planned to extend the paediatric provision at Northwick Park Hospital building on the maternity and children's services already there. This would create a paediatric service which would benefit from having more staff, more equipment and more beds, including beds for overnight stays. In addition, a Paediatric Assessment Unit would be introduced at both Northwick Park Hospital and the Central Middlesex Hospital, open until 10pm, which would provide mostly non-urgent healthcare. However, there would no longer be any facilities for overnight paediatric care at the Central Middlesex Hospital.

Mr Yousufzal explained that plans were still in the pre-consultation stage, and at the moment the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust was looking for residents' views. He added that NHS Trusts had to consult formally with residents for a three-month period, and that the plans were designed to make the best use of resources whilst improving care for children and young people.

Q U E S T I O N S &	D I S C U S S I O N
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A resident noted that somebody living in the south of the borough would have to catch two or three buses to reach Northwick Park Hospital. Mr Yousufzal explained that this would certainly be an important consideration for the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust before presenting any plans for formal consultation. Another resident commented that it seemed that patients' choice was being restricted, rather than extended as the NHS had promised. Mr Yousufzal explained that patients would still have the right to use hospitals outside of the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust area, as before, and so their choice was not being restricted.

Another resident asked whether a child who was ill would be made to travel from the Central Middlesex Hospital to Northwick Park Hospital if s/he required an overnight stay. Mr Yousufzal explained that ambulance staff would assess the child before deciding which hospital s/he would be taken to.

The Chair thanked Mr Yousufzal for his presentation.

There was an interaction break at 8.15pm.

The Chair thanked residents for attending the meeting, and he introduced Christine Collins (Neighbourhood Working Manager, Brent Council). Ms Collins announced that the residents would now be invited to move into ward-based groups to discuss priorities for the Neighbourhood Working scheme, as follows:

- Alperton Ward: Cllr Allie
- Preston / Northwick Park Wards: Cllr Mendoza
- Tokyngton Ward: Cllrs Mrs Bacchus, Butt and Corcoran
- Sudbury Ward: Cllrs C J Patel and Wharton
- Wembley Central Ward: Cllr Bessong

Note: The results of these Neighbourhood Working discussions are attached as an appendix.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm

A MENDOZA
Chair

ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF WEMBLEY CENTRAL WARD

1. Paan spitting
2. Copland field
 - Keep it free of litter
 - Allow residents access
3. Street gambling
4. Fewer betting shops
 - To reduce robbery and crime
 - Council and police to take more steps to refuse licence applications
5. Prestige
 - Want pride back on the High Road
 - Want better quality shops
6. Urinating
 - Keen on mobile toilets or similar solution
 - Want Council to work with Wembley Stadium to tackle this

7. Lodge Court
 - Problems with young people gaining access
8. Clean up of alley ways
9. Homeless
 - Sort out rough sleeper problem

Need to be realistic –

Improving Wembley is subject to :

- Resources
- Time
- Outside forces
- Transport for London
- Police
- Attracting visitors

ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF ALPERTON WARD

Residents not aware that Neighbourhood Working bulletin feedback sheets feed into the decisions

Concerns that new housing development will have an impact on the area (B & Q site)

- What will be the impact on school places, nursery places and health care?
- Need a community centre (S.106 agreement) with flexible space to be used by whole community
- ACF should ask Children and Families Dept to attend meeting and give presentation about BSF (Building Schools for the Future) and school places in light of the new housing development

Put more into the social content for young people ie. NEET (young people not in employment, education or training) facilities as part of new development

Alperton School to be seen as a focus for activities for young people

Council needs to use different ways of communicating with residents (ie. Digi-boards, messages in different languages, e-news, Twitter)

Use of the UNISYS site: what is the Council doing?

Council should encourage people to shop locally (ie. on Ealing Road)

- Suggestion: make Ealing Road one-way northbound, with exception of buses
- Ealing Road parking scheme: New temple at site. Parking strategy needs to be redeveloped

Residents would like ACF to enquire whether there has been encroachment by businesses onto the pavements between Stanley Avenue North and Douglas Avenue

Heather Park Open Space: issue of cars driving onto the grass. Can bollards/measures be put in to stop this?

Statutory legal notice outside hairdresser's on Carlyon Road states "Carylon Avenue": needs to be corrected

Red abandoned vehicle on Woodstock Road outside No.14. Safer Neighbourhood Team to look into this

ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF ALPERTON WARD, continued

Residents would like to know what is happening at the Carlyon Road/Ealing Road site, particularly if more housing is proposed

Uneven pavements on Ealing Road and Lyon Park Avenue need repairing

Mount Pleasant Play Area: needs to have equipment suitable for teenagers as they are currently using the

under-eights' equipment. Parks Service to see if this is feasible

Issues raised at this ACF should be listed with actions and answers in the minutes and published in a timely fashion on the internet so people have confidence to attend future meetings and put forward their views and concerns

ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF TOKYNGTON WARD

More personal alarms

People not receiving Neighbourhood Working bulletin

Dagmar Avenue: StreetCare/Highways to check pavements

Crossing at Berkhamstead Avenue on Harrow Road

North End Road: No gritting

Monks Park – walking route. Boards with bird/tree identification

Park bye-laws: Do they still exist? Vagrants sleep in park

Stadium events: Urinating

CCTV cameras in park: Do they move?

Latimer House Gates: still not functioning. Dumping and drugs. Can CCTV cameras go there?

Tree replacement: Grittleton Avenue

Cleaning front gardens: should be enforced

North End Road/Olympic Way: Overhanging trees on private property

College of North West London: Benches by Olympic Way, speak to college

"No parking" signs turned around: Olympic Way

ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF NORTHWICK PARK AND PRESTON WARDS

Carlton Avenue East – pavements

Burglary project: to address cold-calling zone (Door stoppers) – low cost

Relaunch Neighbourhood Watch

Preston Youth engagement: police seeking £40,000 funding towards installation of MUGA in Pellatt Road

Cycling on the pavement

Mobile CCTV

Pedestrian zebra crossing: Preston Road

- concerns about children crossing (recent accident involving two children)
- removal of parking bays (restriction of vans and lorries parking)

Road safety projects – illegal U-turns or parking (noted not a major concern)

ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF SUDBURY WARD

Concerns about Vale Farm Swimming Pool: water is cold, poor maintenance, poor cleaning and swimming users not following rules, such as not spitting, etc

Concerns about safety at Vale Farm: drug dealing was flagged up as well as more security

More youth activities for Hastings Close: work in progress in partnership with ASRA Housing Association

More work to encourage social cohesion across the ward

More community usage of former Wasps training ground and community hall: it is rarely used by local people

There was concern about low levels of policing during Diwali celebrations - as well concerns about traffic diversions. One option to consider longer term is a link up with Wembley Stadium and Arena - much more space and control over environment