

**FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS' FORUM
ACTION SHEET
15 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Held at St Michael's Church Hall, The Riding, Off Golders Green Road, Golders Green, NW11

*Chairman: Councillor Dean Cohen

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Graham Old (Apologies for absence)

(*denotes Councillor present)

	Subject:	Response:	Action by :
1.	<p>Petition for the reinstatement of the bus stop in Cricklewood Lane Mr Heavey – Lead Petitioner The petition, which contained 200 signatures was reported to the Forum.</p> <p>The lead petitioner addressed the Forum. He explained that children from two secondary schools, the elderly and disabled had all been adversely affected and requested that the bus stop be resited nearer to the alleyway where it used to be 25 years ago.</p> <p>He explained that the removal of 5 free parking spaces would allow buses to stop without danger to the public. Mr Heavey also raised his concerns regarding the zebra crossing that had been put outside the Virgin Health Club.</p>	<p>Further to officers meeting with residents and Councillors on site a request was sent to London Buses and the Police to review their position on re-providing a bus stop in the area. As a result of the request, on Tuesday 7th September officers met on site with both parties. This was the fourth time parties had met with a view to establishing whether this issue is resolvable, all options were discussed including those put forward by residents however due to the concerns previously identified and explained to those present at the meeting, unfortunately a suitable location could not be agreed.</p> <p>Councillor Monroe Palmer explained that councillors had been working with officers on this but there had been resistance from London Buses. He had asked for a question to be put to Mayor Johnson at the GLA on the matter.</p> <p>The petition and comments made at the Forum will be fed back to relevant officers and to the Cabinet Member for Environment who is also a member of the GLA.</p>	<p>Mervyn Bartlett Transport and Regeneration Manager</p>
2.	<p>Former Galtymore Site – Junction Cricklewood Broadway and Depot Approach, NW2</p> <p>I am very concerned that the huge development site (formerly the Galtymore) on the junction of Cricklewood Broadway and Depot Approach has become an eyesore and is used as a rubbish dump. The site dominates this part of Cricklewood Broadway.</p>	<p>The Council's Planning Enforcement Team and Environmental Health service have in the past tried to improve the situation at 194 Cricklewood Lane. Unfortunately, the Council officers have been unable to</p>	

<p>Several local residents' groups are working together to try to improve the Broadway and this site, along with the Travel Lodge site, are not properly maintained and do nothing whatsoever to enhance the area.</p> <p>The hoarding surrounding the Galtymore site does not reach the pavement (I think the bottom panels may have been removed) so bags of rubbish, bottles, etc are being pushed into the site from the pavement on Cricklewood Broadway and can be seen as you walk along the pavement.</p> <p>There is a roll of razor wire lying discarded on the site, at the end nearest the car wash in Depot Approach. I believe this could have been left there by the Car Wash which has razor wire around its yard. Surely razor wire cannot simply be dumped in the open?</p> <p>The Galtymore was demolished years ago - perhaps as long ago as 10 years. To my knowledge, no planning application has been made for this site. I assume that whoever owns the site must be required to maintain it to a reasonable standard and not allow it to be used for rubbish dumping.</p> <p>I would be very grateful if you would contact the owners of the site and ask them to clean up the site, replace or extend the hoarding so that rubbish cannot be pushed onto the site. It is also time the hoardings were cleaned up and painted.</p> <p>The Travel Lodge site should have new gates fitted and the hoardings should be painted. Rubbish should also be removed. Has the land registry been checked to ascertain who the owners of the site are?</p> <p>Jessica Howey Railway Cottages Residents' Association</p>	<p>trace the owners who are reputed to be 'involved' with the old 'Galtymore Dance Hall but enquiries led them to Dublin where the holding Company is registered.</p> <p>Applications have been made in the past by 'Maiden' advertising for large billboard advertising hoardings in 2002 and 2004 (1 x 48 sheet and 1 x 96 sheet) which were refused and dismissed on appeal. Several advertising hoardings were put up illegally by a further company in early 2008 but were removed on the Council's insistence soon thereafter.</p> <p>There are no recent planning applications relating to the site in whole or in part.</p> <p>There is currently no activity on site. Council officers will continue to try and establish who the owners of the site are but until this is known it will prove difficult to take action that seeks to have the land cleared of all waste and debris and properly secured.</p> <p>The Travel Lodge site was given consent for a new 96 bed hotel in March 2010 for which we are informed by Travel Lodge that work will commence shortly and the site will be appropriately secured as a building site.</p> <p>Officers will try again to establish the owners of the site and if this fails, environmental health have noted that they will consider undertaking works in default and putting a charge on the land but this could take some time.</p> <p>Hoardings that have been erected without planning permission will be reported to the Planning Enforcement Team for action.</p>	<p>Karina Sissman F&GG Area Planning Manager/ Andy Milne Environmental Health</p>
<p>2a. NorthWestTWO Residents' Association wishes to endorse the comments made by Jessica Howey of the Railway Cottages Residents' Association regarding the issues on the Barnet side of Cricklewood Broadway.</p> <p>We are a neighbouring residents' association on the Brent side of Cricklewood Broadway and joined the recent meeting and</p>		

<p>walkabout when these problems were highlighted. Together with the Railway Cottages Residents' Association we are represented on the newly formed Cricklewood Improvement Group who are holding a walkabout of Cricklewood Broadway on Saturday 16 October at 10 am with local residents, councillors and representatives from the 3 boroughs that straddle the Broadway.</p> <p>We have funded and installed flowering hanging baskets and kerbside troughs on the Brent side of the Broadway and are working with licensing, streetcare and transport as well as TFL to improve this neglected gateway to London but all our efforts are rather undermined by the eyesore of these two sites across the road.</p> <p>Regards Marie Hancock NorthWestTWO Residents' Association</p>		
<p>2b. As a resident of Cricklewood I am appalled at the horrible eyesore on the former Galtymore site and it's surroundings. Whenever I go into Cricklewood Center, I get the feeling I'm living in slum, some derelict forgotten part of London that time forgot. Whilst one side of the Broadway is trying to improve with regulated waste removal and flower troughs, I can't help think Barnet does not care. Surely you are not trying to ignore this part of Cricklewood but I have not seen any move to improve except when residents get really fed up and have to force councillors to come to the area and see for themselves. I think personally it's appalling to witness along with my children, men drinking and urinating in public for all to see by B&Q.</p> <p>Is all this acceptable? Who knows, you are either used to this in your neighbourhood or oblivious to how this affects local residents and your constituents.</p> <p>Are there any plans to improve the area or is it going to stay derelict? Is this an exercise testing how long Cricklewood residents can live in this slum like existence without lifting a finger?</p> <p>Carol Reeman NorthWestTWO</p>	<p>Response to the concerns raised re alcohol-related ASB & Public Disorder in Cricklewood (B&Q site on the Broadway):</p> <p>The Galtymore/B&Q site in Cricklewood has had historical issues with street drinking, exacerbated by a growing problem with Eastern European males drinking in the area. Over the last 18 months we have worked with the Barka organisation to engage street drinkers in treatment services and to provide a re-connection service for those wishing to return home and to access detox/rehab facilities in Poland (70+ re-connected from across Barnet). Treatment services remain voluntary and the council's Priority Intervention Team has also worked closely with police colleagues to address the issue from an enforcement perspective. In June 2010 the area was made subject to a Designated Public Place Order as a means of increasing the range of enforcement options available to police/SNTs.</p> <p>There will be partnership operations between the</p>	<p>No further action</p>

council's Priority Intervention Team, Licensing Team and the Police SNTs in addressing the issues of sales of alcohol, antisocial behaviour and street drinking in the Cricklewood area. Childs Hill SNT has advised that enforcement of the DPPO is a primary focus and this includes confiscation of any alcohol being publicly consumed in the area and directions to leave issued to those committing acts of anti social behaviour and public disorder.

Michael Kelly
DAAT Manager, Environment & Operations Directorate

3. The allowance rises that Conservative councillors voted for themselves in July have been greeted with widespread outrage by residents of the borough, and unprecedented criticism by senior Conservative politicians in the government. Despite such widespread condemnation, and the partial retraction by the Leader of some of the proposed rises, I understand that eight Tory councillors who chair Committees are still going to receive massive increases in their allowances, as follows:

Current post holder	Committee	Prev	New	Incr %
Cllr A Tambourides	Licencing Committee	£9,974	£15,333	54%
Cllr Alison Cornelius	Health OSC	£9,974	£15,333	54%
Cllr Wendy Prentice	Planning Environment	£9,974	£15,333	54%
Cllr Hugh Rayner	Bus Management OSC Sub	£9,974	£15,333	54%
Cllr Darrel Yawitch	Budget Perf OSC	£9,974	£15,333	54%
Cllr Brian Gordon	Policy Performance OS	£9,974	£15,333	54%
Cllr Joan Scannell	General Functions	£9,974	£15,333	54%
Cllr John Marshall	Pension Fund	£9,974	£15,333	54%

a.Can you confirm that these allowances rise figures are correct?
 b.How many times a year do each of these committees meet?

Confirmed

Committee	Number of scheduled meetings in 2010/11
Licensing Committee	2
Health OSC	5
Planning Environment	12
Bus Management OSC	8
Budget & Performance OSC	9
Policy & Performance OSC	2
General Functions	5
Pension Fund	4

c.We hear almost every day of the enormous level of cuts that must be made to local services,the frozen pay of ordinary council workers, and the risk of redundancy to so many others, and we know that many residents of this borough will be struggling to survive in the current precarious economic climate. I therefore ask the Conservative councillor members of this Forum to explain to the residents and voters of Finchley and Golders Green how they can defend the staggeringly high allowance rise given to their privileged colleagues?

Resident suggested that perhaps the Chairmen of the above Committees might feel moved to give some of their allowances back to the residents.

Theresa Killick

Aysen Giritli
Acting Democratic Services Manager

The Chairman advised the Forum that the allowances had been set by the London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel.

4. Councillors' attendance at committees and Residents' Forums

a.Is it the case that a councillor in receipt of an allowance, or other form of attendance remuneration, is still paid for his or her

Members' allowances are paid for the office they hold and are not linked to attendance at meetings.

No further action

	<p>attendance even when they do not bother to attend the meeting in question? b. Is there any way in which residents can properly scrutinise the level of work and service which councillors provide in return for these allowances? Surely in these 'challenging times' such allowances should be performance related and should not be regarded merely as a gift from the local taxpayer? Theresa Killick</p>	<p>The public can scrutinise this through attendance at public meetings, scrutiny of published reports of the Council meeting(s) and through direct questioning of the relevant Member(s). Furthermore, in July 2010 Council resolved '<i>That the recommendation of LCIP be followed for role descriptions to be developed for councillors for all their areas of work; the role descriptions to be placed on council websites; Members to report publicly on their activity through a variety of channels...and the introduction of an appraisal system for Members.</i>'</p> <p>Residents were advised that councillor's attendance at meetings are published at the end of the Municipal Year.</p>	
5.	<p>Residents' Forum Information on Website Cllr Hutton requested that the information for Residents' Forums be made easier to find on the Council's Website.</p>	<p>A general review of the Council's website is currently being undertaken and this will be fed back to those officers who are undertaking the review.</p>	<p>Aysen Girtli Acting Democratic Services Manager</p>
6.	<p>Housing Problems due to repossession Resident spoke of problems experienced by a client whose home had been repossessed and because she did not have a child under 18 years of age was having to rent a bedsit for herself and her 21 year old son.</p>	<p>There are huge demands on social housing resources. The resident was advised of two options: 1. Visit her ward councillors who may be able to assist. 2. Visit the homeless advice unit at Barnet Council.</p>	<p>No further action</p>
7.	<p>Matters Arising from Action Sheet from 26 July 2010 Forum Item 2. Traffic Congestion in Golders Green Road and Side Roads. Resident asked why there was also congestion in the Finchley Road which at times was at a standstill.</p>	<p>The main reason for the congestion is due to the amount of traffic trying to turn right at the Henlys Corner junction. Officers are aware of the situation and are working closely with Transport for London on an improvement scheme at Henlys Corner.</p> <p>Officers are also continuing to work with the police and London Buses to try and minimise the disruption that could be caused by displaced buses or coaches when the forecourt at Golders Green Station is resurfaced.</p>	<p>Mervyn Bartlett Transport & Regeneration Manager</p>

<p>Item 4. Members Allowances Resident advised the Forum that despite being told to contact their Ward Councillors either at their respective surgeries or via emails, many councillors did not reply to their emails.</p>		
<p>Item 5. Traffic Management in Ravensdale Avenue Resident advised that the response given in the updated action sheet to 'Why did it take 21 working days after being logged t receive an answer' was inaccurate as the response was actually received on 10 May 2010.</p> <p>Ravensdale Residents' Association requested a consultation meeting with Council officers to enable residents to give their understanding of how the area is used, to go through occurrences that they have systematically documented and other points that they have raised that have gone unanswered by Council officers. Following such a meeting it was hoped that a measured approach would be undertaken to increase safety for pedestrians and vehicles and save the Council money.</p> <p>Additionally, the following issues were raised: The need for tree branches being cut so that road signs could be seen. Knock on effect of driver trying to turn illegally left : 7 cars backed up so that pedestrians could not cross the road. Concerns for small children visiting Sure Start in library when high vehicles are making illegal turns.</p>	<p>The response given will be clarified.</p> <p>A meeting will be arranged with the Residents' Association to listen to their concerns and a suitable day and time will be arranged. The location will be highlighted to the area inspector.</p>	<p>Mervyn Bartlett Transport & Regeneration Manager</p>
<p>Item 10 (4) – Cricklewood Community Forum – Litter on pavement area between Millenium Green and the shop on the corner of Claremont Road. Resident advised that the litter problem had improved and was being cleared more often. However there was a problem with the shop dropping litter from their bins and it was requested that the shop owners be asked to clean the area in front of their shop and underneath the bins. Residents requested a public bin to be put in the area.</p>	<p>Officers will look into these requests and get back to the resident as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Mervyn Bartlett Transport & Regeneration Manager</p>
<p>The next meeting of the Finchley & Golders Green Area Residents' Forum will take place at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 19 October 2010 at</p>		

The Forum, which started at 6.30pm, ended at 7.35pm

Officers Present::

Jeff Lustig – Director of Corporate Governance

Karina Sissman – Finchley & Golders Green Area Planning Manager

Mervyn Bartlett – Transport & Regeneration Manager

Stephanie Chaikin – Democratic Services Officer