

**RENEWAL AND RECREATION
POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

BECKENHAM TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30 pm on 9 March 2017

Present:

Councillor Michael Tickner (Chairman)
Councillor Ian Dunn
Councillor Sarah Phillips

Marsha Berg, (Beckenham Business Association)
Colin Hughes, (Langley Park Residents' Association)
Dr John Parker, (The Beckenham Society)
Marie Pender, (West Beckenham Residents Association)
Janice Pilgrim, (Kent Association for the Blind)
David Wood, (The Beckenham Society)
Dan Ellis (FM Conway)
Derek Sampson (FM Conway)
Helen McConnell (FM Conway)
Kevin Munnely, (LBB Head of Renewal and Regeneration)
Stephen Oliver, (LBB Senior Planning Officer)
Martin Pinnell, (LBB Head of Town Centre Management)
Garry Warner, (LBB Head of Highways Traffic Management)
Stephen Wood, (Committee Secretary)

Also present:

Terry Stanley, (Beckenham Resident)
Nick Goy, (Beckenham Resident)
Gillian Morphy (Beckenham Resident)
Jean Parker (Beckenham Resident)
Geraldine Manuel (Beckenham Resident)
Helen Simon (Visiting Resident)
Mike Cheetham (Beckenham Resident)

108	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	Apologies were received from Jackie Groundsell, Cllr Michael Rutherford, Cllr Stephen Wells, Tina Slater, Cllr Vanessa Allen, Gail Low, Nick Turpin, Alice Marsh, and Cliff Watkins.
109	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JANUARY 2017
	The minutes of the meeting held on 12 th January 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

110	MATTERS ARISING
	<p>CSD 17040</p> <p>The Group noted the Matters Arising report and the fact that most of the matters were being addressed on the agenda.</p> <p>The Chairman referred to Minute 103 which referred to the ongoing issue concerning what sort of flowers or tree should be sited at the War Memorial. There had been some concern that taller flowers could interfere with the sight lines of drivers circumnavigating the roundabout. Mr Oliver mentioned that it may be possible to plant an oak tree. Cllr Philips commented that she could not recall hearing anything from the traffic managers on this matter. It was mentioned that Chloe-Jane Ross had suggested planting a chestnut tree; this was no longer possible as Bromley was suffering from an outbreak of sweet chestnut disease.</p> <p>Marie Pender stated that the Memorial wall was in a mess, and Mr Parker commented that the Memorial required adequate protection. He continued by suggesting that some form of landscaping be undertaken, but this should not hide the memorial. The landscaping would need to be visible, but should not interfere with sight lines. He was opposed to the planting of a tree on the Memorial as he felt that this would dominate. He expressed the view that the protection need not be a wall—the protection could be bollards or posts strengthened with steel pins.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that if the construction of a new wall around the Memorial was undertaken, it would need to fit in with the existing features and design of the current wall. Mr Goy asked why the Group were discussing the Memorial and the wall as he had been under the impression that these matters had been resolved previously. It was noted that both the Memorial and the wall were listed and located in a Conservation Area.</p> <p>Marie Pender asked if a ‘Welcome to Beckenham’ sign could be erected in Art Deco style.</p> <p>The Chairman referenced Minute 106 on the Matters Arising report which sought clarification of any plans to site crossing points (with a pedestrian refuge) in Rectory Road. Mr Warner stated that crossing points already existed in Rectory Road and what was required going forward was for the matter to be monitored. There were no current plans to site new crossing points in Rectory Road. If these were required later, then an application to this effect could be made to TfL.</p> <p>Mr Goy mentioned that he was aware of the crossing point in Rectory Road that was nearest to Beckenham Junction, and that this</p>

	<p>did not have the facility of a dropped kerb from the pavement edge.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Matters Arising report be noted.</p>
111	POLLUTION ON RECTORY ROAD
	<p>A written update was received from the Environmental Health Officer—Hedley Pugh:</p> <p>In 2007 the Council declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) encompassing the North and North West of the Borough. To ensure Bromley continued to meet air quality obligations, the single automatic air quality monitoring station at Harwood Avenue (near Bromley Town Centre) continued to operate. In line with other Authorities, continuous monitoring was supplemented by diffusion tubes, located at nine locations, within the AQMA-- including Elmers End Road and Beckenham Road.</p> <p>Following the cut of a number of Pollution Officer Posts, there was insufficient capacity to undertake additional air quality monitoring over and above that required to meet legal obligations. Should the Traffic and Road Safety Division require additional monitoring for a given scheme this would need to be undertaken by external consultants.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the update on pollution be noted and that pollution readings from the diffusion tube at Beckenham Road be reported. The readings to include before, during and after the town centre works.</p> <p><u>Post Meeting Note:</u></p> <p>The following clarification was provided post meeting by Councillor Colin Smith:</p> <p>Concerning the statement: <i>‘Should the Traffic and Road Safety Division require additional monitoring for a given scheme this would need to be undertaken by external consultants.’</i></p> <p>Councillor Smith clarified that this was not something that Traffic and Road Safety Division would involve themselves in.</p> <p>It was a potential Environmental Health matter and nothing to do with Environmental Services.</p>
112	BUS DIVERSIONS DURING BECKENHAM HIGH STREET WORKS
	<p>Marie Pender mentioned the bus diversion information poster that</p>

	<p>West Beckenham Residents' Association had created. This had been emailed out to members of the Group, and would be displayed in various notice boards.</p>
<p>113</p>	<p>MAJOR SCHEME UPDATE</p>
	<p>Mr Munnely stated that 'Phase A' of the work had commenced and would incorporate improvement works from Beckenham Green to Thornton's Corner. The completion date for this phase was June 2nd 2017.</p> <p>Mr Goy stated that the no right turn directive from the High Street into Rectory Road, at the Beckenham Junction traffic lights, was not being enforced. Because people were ignoring the 'no right turn' sign, the junction was getting clogged up. The Group heard that FM Conway were trying hard to enforce the directive, but it seemed that enforcement was only possible when the police were on hand to assist. Fortunately, work at the junction was due to end on the weekend following the meeting, and the workmen would be moving further down the High Street, then the filter lanes would be restored.</p> <p>It was noted that the flagpole was being installed during the weekend following the meeting. The following week, the section of road between Albemarle Road and Church Avenue would be closed. The National Westminster Bank to Thornton's Corner section of the road would be closed during the week after this.</p> <p>A member enquired when the section of High Street at Kelsey Square was going to be closed off. This was going to occur during phase 3 of the works, but no Traffic Order had yet been applied for.</p> <p>When the Beckenham High Street improvements commenced at Kelsey Square, LBB were intending to introduce temporary two-way traffic flow in Burnhill Rd from Fairfield Rd to Kelsey Square and reverse the one way system on Burnhill Road running from Fairfield Rd to Kelsey Park Rd. A local resident asked why this was required and what consultation had taken place with Lidl and the Coach & Horses public house regarding their supply and refuse vehicle access requirements.</p> <p>Marie Pender alerted the meeting that Burnhill House had permission to convert to 14 flats. The businesses that occupied the House had been cleared out and the furniture removed, so it was presumed that work may be undertaken soon. When work commenced, there would be scaffolding and hoarding that was likely to restrict the width of Burnhill Road and contractors' lorries would be parking there for unloading.</p> <p>David Wood suggested holding a site meeting with Officers. A meeting was scheduled for 28th March 2017 at 5.30pm in front of the Coach & Horses pub. Helen McConnell (FM Conway) assured that</p>

	<p>regular stakeholder updates would be provided, especially to the residents of Burnhill Road.</p> <p>Mr Goy noted that the yellow signs did not provide any information on how the public should get in touch if they had any queries. Mr Oliver stated that banners with this information were going to be displayed across the High Street. Mr Goy referenced the paving being laid at Beckenham Junction and commented that they were not terracotta.</p> <p>It was noted that the Scheme provided for grey slabs at junctions and terracotta colour slabs in other footways. When the pavement slabs were initially laid, grout was used which could cause discolouration until it was jet washed off. FM Conway would jet wash sections of paving when the relevant footways had been completed. Mr Goy asked if the paving slabs had been manufactured and Mr Warner responded that this was not the case; the grey footway slabs were solid granite.</p> <p>Mr Oliver informed the Group that the two days of consultation that were held in Village Way were well attended and it was a well-appreciated and successful event.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the update be noted and that a meeting between Officers and the residents of Burnhill Road be arranged for 28th March 2017 at 5.30pm.</p>
<p>114</p>	<p>UPDATE ON EMPTY SHOPS IN BECKENHAM TOWN CENTRE</p>
	<p>The update on vacant units in Beckenham Town Centre was provided by the Head of Town Centre Management, Martin Pinnell.</p> <p>The Group were informed that in the area under survey there were 208 ground floor commercial units. The current vacancy rate for Beckenham Town Centre was 6.25%. This was consistent with recent data provide by the Local Data Company (LDC) which showed that the retail vacancy rate was 7.7%, and the leisure vacancy rate was only 1.7%.</p> <p>These figures compared favourably with national average figures. The national overall vacancy rate was 11%, retail vacancy rate was 12.1% and leisure vacancy rate was 8.1%.</p> <p>The vacancy rate figures for Beckenham were the lowest that they had been for six or seven years. It was noted that some units needed to be tidied up, and to this end there was a need to engage landlords.</p> <p>The Group were informed that FM Conway would be producing 'Business as Usual' signs. Mr Warner added that two large</p>

	<p>electronic signs would also be used, and it would be possible to modify the messages displayed.</p> <p>It was suggested that a friendly web page may also be helpful in providing information; this could possibly be the front page of the Bromley Council website.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Beckenham High Street.co.uk website could be used as a gateway to the information on the Bromley Council website.</p> <p>The web site address is http://www.beckenhamhighstreet.co.uk/</p> <p>Through this site there was currently a gateway to information on the Bromley Council website at the following URL:</p> <p>http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200079/regeneration/981/beckenham_town_centre_improvements</p> <p>RESOLVED that the update on vacant units in Beckenham Town Centre be noted.</p>
<p>115</p>	<p>BECKENHAM GREEN CANOPY</p>
	<p>Mr Oliver stated that he had requested an updated brief from Chloe Jane-Ross concerning the Beckenham Green Canopy. As there had been no response from Ms Ross relating to this, he had not pursued the matter further.</p> <p>The Chairman responded that the R&R PDS Committee had agreed that an architectural competition be set up to find a new design. He asked who was going to organise this. Mr Munnely advised that they needed to hear back from Ms Ross, and that there was not a huge budget available for this.</p> <p>A member suggested that a temporary canopy may be worth consideration.</p>
<p>116</p>	<p>TOWN TEAM UPDATE</p>
	<p>There was no-one present from the Town Team to provide the update.</p> <p>Councillor Sarah Phillips (speaking in her role as Treasurer of The Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground) explained to the Group that concerning the matter of the Bowie Bandstand (and its renovation), a fresh application for Lottery funding had to be submitted and financial support had been received from fans of</p>

	David Bowie. So far approximately £50k had been raised, but the repairs would cost £130k.
117	BID DEVELOPMENT
	Mr Pinnell stated that a Business Improvement District meeting had taken place on March 1 st at 'Venue 28'. The meeting was attended by the Council's BID consultants, CMS. The consensus was that a BID was feasible for Beckenham. Various matters were discussed, including business rates and Brexit. The feed-back from businesses was positive, and many had put their names forward to be included on the BID Steering Group.
118	PURPLE FLAG UPDATE
	<p>Mr Pinnell informed the Group that the flag pole was ready to be sited on the weekend. The flag itself could not be raised yet as planning permission for this was required. The planning application had been submitted and it was anticipated that the flag would be ready to be raised by the end of April.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that a celebratory event take place when the flag was raised. It was noted that the budget for such a ceremony was held by the Town Centre Team.</p> <p>The wording for the associated purple flag plaque would need to be confirmed. It was confirmed that the flag would be illuminated and the Chairman enquired if the spot lamp for this had been ordered.</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>(1) the wording for the flag pole plaque be confirmed before the next meeting</p> <p>(2) the matter of the raising of the Purple Flag ceremony be added as an agenda item for the next meeting</p>
119	HERITAGE PLAQUES
	Dr Parker informed the Group that the wording for the plaques was out for consultation until the end of the month. The matter was being considered by both the Historical Association and the Rochester Diocese. It was anticipated that any suggested changes to the wording would be mainly grammatical. It was important that the information relating to various dates and facts be verified as accurate.

	Mr Oliver mentioned the plaques would be installed at the end of the works. The Group were informed that wording was required for 22 plaques and that any comments concerning the wording of the plaques should be received by the end of March.
120	ANY OTHER BUSINESS--PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED
	<p>It was mentioned that the traffic modelling process would be re-run with three crossings included.</p> <p>Mr Goy referenced what he perceived to be a negative experience resulting from the removal of a filter lane at Beckenham Junction. He asked if this experience would inform any other plans in the scheme to remove filter lanes. The Group were informed that there were no plans to remove filter lanes.</p>
121	DATE OF NEXT MEETING
	The date of the next meeting was confirmed as April 20 th 2017.

The Meeting ended at 9.00 pm