



## **Minutes of Five Road Forum AGM** **January 17th, 2009.**

*Due to other commitments, the meeting started with our invited speakers – Cllr David Millican (with Cllr Mark Reen), and our local PCSO, Antony Frampton. However the minutes will be presented in the usual order with our AGM first.*

### **Apologies:**

Isabelle Peacock had to leave early.

### **Minutes of last year's AGM:**

Approved.

### **Chairman's Report**

#### **Lisa Hall:**

#### **Planning and development**

The Dickens Yard and Arcadia developments have been approved in modified form, with an increased number of shop units.

An update was given on the PCT plans to move the Mattock Lane Health Centre to the Daniels site. The process slowed somewhat as the leases of the Lovelace House properties had to be adjusted to take account of the proposed change of use. The alley through from Daniels to Denmark Road was owned by Crest Nicolson but they sold it on to an individual who last week received permission to build, though it's likely the plans may change again.

An hotel is being built on the Council's former parking services site. It will have some conference facilities.

Re-construction of the Ealing cinema has started, incorporating those features worth saving. The work is expected to take two years.

#### **Street Party**

The turnout for the annual street party was good as usual. Many thanks to Isabelle Peacock, Caroline Evans and Beverly Hallam for their hard work in organising a successful and enjoyable event.

#### **Traffic issues**

Funds are available for the CPZ re-consultation. The timing of this is critical. The money has a five year life and we will need to decide as a group what CPZ hours we think are appropriate for re-consultation as we will only get one chance at this.

The pavements at the lower end of Broughton Road have been repaired by the Council with funds from Crest Nicolson.

#### **Environment and crime**

The Broughton Court entry-phone system is in place and working.

The 'Streetwatchers' scheme continues to work well, and the cumulative effect of a number of schemes has been an improvement in the street environment.

### **Other local issues**

While the residents of Lovelace House are not technically part of the FRF, the meeting agreed that they should be included in leaflet drops and street party planning.

Ideas were solicited for spending some of the money we have accrued in our bank account. Suggestions included: planting on Hastings Road; hanging baskets on lamp-posts; and a memorial for the lives lost in the wartime parachute mine at Broughton Court. It was pointed out that if the Ealing Civic Society were involved, it might be that this would have to be open to the public (this to be checked). It would also be helpful if we could find a long-standing local resident who knew more about the history of this awful event. Neil Ashton offered to try to get some more information. As for the planters and hanging baskets, Lisa is going to make contact with all those who 'sponsor' (ie. look after) the planters, and will try to identify someone who would be willing to take on the Denmark Road planter. It may be that hanging baskets could work with a similar sort of 'sponsorship'. The planter at the West end of Hastings Road needs either a bin, or something prickly in it to deter the dumping of rubbish. Lisa will ask the Council if they would fix the reflective strips on the planters where these have been damaged.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

In the absence of Mike Hallam, Harri Jenkins presented the accounts. Our balance at the beginning of 2008 was £969.23. The street party had a net cost of £93.99; and there was a one-off membership fee of £100.00 for the Save Ealing Centre campaign, leaving a balance at 31/12/07 of £775.24.

### **Street Reps Reports:**

Time being short, street rep reports were not formally given. Lisa indicated that the plan this year is for a more regular cycle of meetings of officers and reps, and there should also be more of an emphasis on reps getting out and meeting people in their street. Catherine Racadio did raise one issue, pointing out that the proposed opening hours of the new health centre at Daniels may be from 8.30am to 8.30pm, and that we ought to bear this in mind when deciding on the hours we would prefer for the CPZ re-consultation.

### **Election of Officers:**

**Lisa Hall** was elected as Chair for another year.

**Harri Jenkins** was elected as secretary.

**Mike Hallam** was voted in as treasurer.

### **Street Reps:**

Isabelle Peacock (Hartington Road), Sy Comerford (Hastings Road), Kuldeep Gharatya (Arden Road), Catherine Racadio (Broughton Road), Ken Brown (Hastings House), Neil Ashton and Renata Walus (Broughton Court), Robin Marshall (Denmark Road).

James Buchanan was thanked for his work as Hastings Road rep.

**Community Liaison Officer:** Isabelle Peacock.

**Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer:** Sy Comerford.

**Planning Liaison Officer:** no volunteers again this year, but after the meeting finished, several local residents came forward to indicate a wish to become more involved in the FRF.

**Invited Speaker: Cllr David Millican, Cabinet member for Regeneration and Transport (with Cllr Mark Reen, Cabinet member for Adults Services and Health)**

Cllr Millican started by stating that the new administration at the Town Hall had come in with three declared priorities: safer neighbourhoods, cleaner streets, and value for money. With reference to safer neighbourhoods, 50 additional PCSOs had been recruited. As far as cleaner streets were concerned, they had tried to improve recycling services with the council taking over the monitoring of the service (previously the contractor had monitored it themselves). They have also undertaken practical measures like ensuring that the street cleaners come round the day after rubbish collections. In terms of value for money, he pointed out that council tax rises had been kept below the rate of inflation.

Some new priorities had become apparent with time. These included regeneration of the town centres, and traffic congestion. There had been a lot of money invested in regeneration across the Borough, with improved paving and street lighting, and also shop front improvements. He mentioned a pilot scheme in Hanwell town centre, which the traders were happy with, and which is to be followed up in the other municipal centres in the borough. There were plans to significantly improve the area around Sainsbury's in West Ealing, and the regeneration of the Green Mane Estate. This should have a beneficial knock on effect on economic activity in West Ealing. Traffic congestion was clearly a major issue, and a difficult one to sort out (for example at the Lido junction). TfL have commissioned a survey of the entire length of the Uxbridge Road, to be completed this year, and changes might include shortening bus lanes to free up junctions, or taking traffic lights out of commission temporarily by 'bagging them up' after appropriate preliminary studies.

Cllrs Millican and Reen answered questions and comments on a number of topics, including traffic congestion (bus lanes, bus stops, pedestrian priority on traffic light sequences, and the effect of increased housing density on traffic flows), Crossrail, retail closures particularly in Ealing Broadway (and historically the lack of an overarching plan or vision for Ealing's centre – they said that a Local Development Framework was being developed for planning in the future), and the Daniels development. They confirmed that the PCT is committed to the proposal. Suggestions were made regarding the future use of the Mattock Lane site which will be vacated by the health centre, such as a primary school. They will pass this on to Cllr Ian Gibb, who holds the portfolio for Education.

**PCSO Antony Frampton**

Antony spoke and took questions on a number of crime-related issues. He stated that crime overall has fallen in the area, apart from motor vehicle-related theft. The presence of more PCs on the street had made a difference. He would like some feedback from the public on a couple of break-ins at Broughton Court. There's been a rumour going round that security of the new windows there may be an issue. He said that he would chase this up and liaise with Neil Ashton.

It was noted that in relation to congestion, lots of cars are parked illegally in this area. He would look into reports of drug dealing at the West end of Hastings Road.

He highlighted issues around security when using ATMs on the Uxbridge Road, and that there has been a scammer' going door to door, claiming to have lost his keys and needing money for a taxi. Fortunately he is off the streets at the moment.

New Neighbourhood Watch signs with contact information are up. The meeting planned for last year was unfortunately postponed.

He pointed out that security lights and burglar alarms were a deterrent to many thieves. The PCSOs will drop a note through to homes they think are at risk.

**The meeting closed at 12:30, and was followed by refreshments.**