**Chessington District Residents’ Association**

**AGENDA**

**For the meeting to be held on 6th February 2018**

At St Paul’s Centre, Hook Road – 8pm

1. CHESSINGTON DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NOTICES
2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
3. VISITING MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
4. MAJOR NEW ISSUES ONLY
5. MATTERS ARISING AND MINOR ISSUES
6. HEALTH ISSUES
7. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES
8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS
9. PLANNING NEWS

10. POLICE REPORT 11.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**MINUTES**

Of the meeting held on the 2ndJanuary 2018

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairman – Colin Punch, Vice Chairman – Mike Hoare, Treasurer - Diane Brannan, Francis Brannan, Brian Ekins, Graham Hedley, Sue Towner,Dick Ware.

**VISITORS PRESENT**

Councillor Andrew Day, Councillor Margaret Thompson.

 **APOLOGIES**

John Botterill, Colin Dance, Jenny Lewington, Rob Robb, Colin Suckling, Peter Shakeshaft, Sheila Watkins.

**1.CHESSINGTON DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NOTICES**

There were none.

**2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**3.VISITING MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

There were none.

**4**. **SUMMARY OF MAJOR ISSUES**

There were no Major new issues

**5. MATTERS ARISING AND MINOR ISSUES**

**( a )**  **Elmcroft Drive Crash Barrier –**In recent months Mike Hoare has been updating us on this saga.

At this meeting Mike told us that TfL had now festooned the whole area with pointless signs. He will forward papers to our MP as he believes their behaviour is illegal.

Another member from Elmcroft Drive said that a new No Entry sign had been placed at the end of the pedestrian crossing outside Ace Pharmacy. This could potentially be dangerous. If a pedestrian has their head down they could walk straight into it. He says the sign has been put there for drivers and thoughts of pedestrians have been put secondary. He has offered to write to TfL for us. We are pleased to accept his offer as the more people to complain the better.

**( b ) Surbiton Crescent Restrictions** – One of our committee members advised us that the Surrey Comet had written that the Surbiton Crescent traffic restrictions made £4.5million,, in the first year, from road users inadvertently driving through the road restrictions. Mike Hoare again said that it is illegal for the Council to close roads in both directions. He will write to our MP about this as well.

As we have previously written, in our opinion, the badly laid out bus lane at the junction of Cox Lane and Oakcroft Road is a similar unfair money earning scheme for the Council.

**6. HEALTH ISSUES**

There were none.

**7. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES**

There were none.

1. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**( c ) 17/10415 - 358, Hook Road -** Erection of part single storey, part two storey side and rear extensions, side dormer window, external staircase and car parking to rear in connection with change of use from single family dwelling into 1x 3 bed flat at ground level and 1x 2 bed flat at first floor level – permission granted.

1. **PLANNNG NEWS**

**( d ) Meyer Homes application for 950 homes on the old Government Office site at Tolworth –** Dick Ware reported on the application that was heard at the Development Control (DCC) meeting on the 6th of December.

‘The background to this is that there was a pre-decision DCC meeting held in June 2017. This type of meeting is similar to the actual decision meeting but without any formal decision being taken. It is meant to be a meeting where difficulties and objections in the planning application can be identified and discussed.

Notification that the decision making meeting would take place on the 6th of December was given with less than two weeks’ notice. The final planning officer’s report was some 100 pages of detailed information analysis and comment and was considerably different in content and size to the officer’s report for the earlier pre-decision meeting. This obviously leaves objectors at a disadvantage to prepare a coherent factual case on a £350m complicated development such as this and to compress comments on a 100 page very technical document into five minutes of comments is a near mission impossible task.

The meeting started with the planning officer’s summary and his recommendation for acceptance and then proceeded to the applicants five minutes of comment on how lucky the residents of Tolworth were to have such a wonderfully conceived development. There were two councillors who each gave their five minute addresses. The local resident objections were covered by myself and Bridget Walker who had a total of five minutes between us.

The next phase was questions asked by the Councillors on the Development Control Committee. It was only those Councillors who were allowed to ask questions. However, not many questions were asked and all, with one exception, was asked by the Liberal Councillors.

The meeting then took an unexpected twist. Unexpected, that is by everyone with the possible exception of the Conservative Councillors who proposed the motion. A deferment was proposed by Conservative Councillor Eric Humphrey. His reasoning was to take some time to study and reflect on the recently issued new London Plan. This is a long running planning application. In the period since the pre-decision meeting the Mayor of London has published a revised London Plan. This matter had, before this meeting took place, been raised by the planning officers who considered the revised plan would have little impact or affect on the decision that was to be made at the DCC decision making meeting. The Chairman also said that he would like to use the deferment time to try to achieve a greater percentage of affordable housing within the development, Meyer Homes having recently increased the percentage from 13.18% to 25.02% (Kingston Councils stated requirement is 50%).

A vote was taken and six Conservative Councillors voted for the motion. Four Liberal Democrat Councillors voted against the motion and one Conservative Councillor abstained. So the deferment was agreed. It can be appealed against by the applicant who gave the strong impression that is what they propose to do. If such an appeal is made then it will be decided by an Inspector appointed by the Bristol Planning Inspectorate and not by our elected Councillors.

In this area there have been two recent large, over dense planning applications during the past two years. They have both been much opposed by local residents One is this 950 unit scheme and the other was for almost 400 units to be built at the Tolworth Tower site. This is located on the opposite side of the Tolworth roundabout, approximately two hundred yards away. The Tolworth Tower development was passed in January 2016 by six votes for,( all Conservative), and five against, (other political parties mainly Liberal Democrat).

Regrettably again, as with the 950 unit Meyer Homes scheme we seem to have another large development which will have a profoundly detrimental impact on the Tolworth area being decided on political dictates rather than being judged on planning merit.

Both of these developments are in the South of the Borough where the predominant representation of the electorate is Liberal Democrat. In the North of the Borough it is wholly Conservative. Kingston is obliged to provide a great deal of new housing over the next 10-15 years. We cannot help but feel that the planning outcome of many developments, which in the past would have been dismissed out of hand as being unsuitable and inappropriate, even when judged on London Plan rules, are now being passed or seriously considered for approval.

One has to question whether what is going on is a manipulation with the objective that if the Borough is going to be forced to have all this new housing, then the more that is built in the South of the Borough the less will be built in the North. In the past our residents association has contacted senior Councillors in the administration to suggest a possible location to build a significant number of houses in the North of the Borough. We received no response.

We hope this scheme is finally decided by the Development Control Committee of elected Councillors who act in good faith on the facts relating to the development. We hope that the deferment has been made for the reason stated, and not as passing the buck, maybe until after the local elections’.

**10.POLICE REPORT**

Our local Police team were unable to attend and sent their apologies.

A Police report was made by a CDRA member who attended the December MOPAC meeting. This has been circulated directly to our membership.

**11.ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**( e ) Councillors Discretionary Budgets -** The Councillors each receive an annual £2,000 discretionary budget to spend on their chosen cause.

You will remember that both Councillors Margaret Thompson and Andrew Day had agreed to spend their 2017 budget on a defibrillator to be located outside the Hook Centre. Councillor Margaret Thompson and CDRA Membership Secretary and Treasurer Diane Brannan had been working together on this project. However, Margaret has now kindly taken over full control. She is working with the Council and has also applied to the British Heart Foundation (BHT) for funding. She believes that with her £2,000 budget and the money from the BHT there will be enough to complete the project. Andrews money will no longer be required.

When Diane met with the Council and designers for the Woodgate Play Area she met with Rosie who is the Play leader for Yorda Adventures. She told her about Yorda which is located in the old youth club building in Devon Way, around the corner from the Woodgate Play Area. They are a not-for-profit community organisation that works with families of Special Needs Children in and around Kingston. They provide stimulating play projects for children and young people with severe learning disabilities.  We were ensuring that the new facilities would be suitable for disabled children. We were assured that they will be.

Following on from this meeting Diane always had it in mind that CDRA should do what they can to help Yorda. Consequently, Diane mentioned this to Andrew and they went to visit Yorda . They met with Laura who started Yorda in 2005 and Rosie who has been with them for six years and is now the Play leader.

Andrew and Diane learnt that they run three projects. Those are adventure holidays where the children are taken away for a weekend, after school play for the children of Dysart school and a holiday play scheme.

They learnt that most of the children have severe learning disabilities, speech difficulties, epilepsy and are incontinent. Yorda provide 1-1 carers for the children. Yorda have made the centre a comfortable and stimulating play area for the children. A member of Yorda drives to the Dysart School at about 3pm each weekday and drives between seven and nine children back to Yorda in the Dysart minibus where they play until about 6pm.

Andrew and Diane asked them about their expenses. They currently pay £35k to RBK for rent. It beggars belief that a charity doing such magnificent work, which many would say is the responsibility of the council, is charged any rent at all. Of course they also need to pay for utilities and wages. To fund this they receive £65k from the RBK Aiming High Fund and £30k from Dysart School for providing the after school play. The rest is made up of fund raising and donations. Obviously money is very tight and this year they hope that they will just about break even.

Ideally they would like to be able to take children from other local schools as well as Dysart. However, they depend on the use of the Dysart minibus and they do not have enough staff. They currently have a waiting list for children to use their facilities.

Andrew and Diane believe that this is an extremely worthwhile organisation. Andrew agreed to give them his discretionary budget and asked them to identify a project that they would spend the money on. They were very grateful.

Diane asked Yorda to let us know if there is anything else our residents association can do to help.

**( f ) Recycling -** There has been some changes to RBK’s recycling. From now on if you would like a third wheelie bin for glass, plastic and tin you can apply to RBK for one. The criteria are that you should currently fill at least three green boxes each fortnight and must have room for the extra wheelie bin. This probably rules out most of us but may be useful for some.

From the 5th of February you can also recycle your textiles and shoes by leaving them in a carrier bag next to your food waste caddy. If you have any small electrical items you wish to dispose of (including batteries) you can put it in a carrier bag on top of your rubbish bin on collection day. This should be no more than one small carrier bag.

 **Dates for your Diary –**

**The next Chessington District Residents Association Meeting.** Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday the 6th of February at 8pm followed by Tuesday the 6th of March at St Pauls Church Hall in Hook Road which is the small hall attached to the side of the Church.

## South of the Borough Neighbourhood Conversation Meeting – Wednesday 21st February 2018 7:30 pm, Venue – To be confirmed

## South of the Borough Neighbourhood Committee – Wednesday 14th of March. 7.30pm. Proposed Venue: Tolworth Girls School, Fullers Way North, Surbiton KT6 7LQ

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**I wish to join / renew my membership of the Chessington District Residents’ Association 2017/2018**

I agree that my details may be kept on computer to be accessed only by the committee.

Name……………………………………………………………………………………

Address………………………………………………………………………………….

Postcode…………………………………….Telephone……………………………….

Email Address…………………………………………………………………………...

Amount £3 per household, or more if you would like to make a donation.

**Please return to Francis Brannan 296 Hook Road, Chessington, KT9 1NY or**

 **Whitford News, North Parade, Chessington, KT9 1QL or**

**Diane Brannan, 38 Angus Close, Chessington, KT9 2BP**

**You can pay directly into our bank account. Please put your address in the reference. If you are a new member please scan in the completed membership form and email to chessingtondra@gmail.com**

**Bank Account Details:-Name – Chess Dist Res Ass**

**Sort Code :- 40-17-39Account No. 51022687**