

Minutes of meeting between Railway Cottages Res Assoc and Councillors, Peter Mitchell and Lucia das Neves
Wednesday 20th June 7:30 Haringey Civic Centre

Present:

Peter Mitchell, Lucia das Neves, Frank Hanly (Chair), Tony McLoughlin (Treasurer), Lisa Sharp (Secretary), Wendy Shooter, Caroline Carson, Helen Thornhill, Michael Thornhill, Joe Fernandez, Nigel Scott, Jacquie Howley, Peter Yates, Julia Wise, Angela Maruzzi, Sally Hilton, Wayne Libonati, Matt Richards, Michelle Brister.

Apologies:

Cllr Mark Blake, Annie Faulkner, Sarah Gully, Roslyn Byfield, Mick Yates

The meeting began with Cllrs Mitchell and das Neves intruding themselves and apologising for the absence of Cllr Blake, who is unfortunately on crutches. Cllr Mitchell was pleased to hear that we had set up a Residents' Association and thought it was a very good idea & would give us more leverage when dealing with the council.

Opposition to opening up of 'Green Walkway' on conservation area behind Cumberland/Bradley/Wolseley Roads

Frank summarized our opposition to this proposal & informed the Cllrs of our petition against it, which has 156 signatures.

Cllr Mitchell explained the best time to submit this and declared a vested interest in this matter as he is a resident of Wolseley Road. He went on to explain that the proposal came about as a result of The Wood Green Area Action Plan (WGAAP) and would need to go through many rounds of consultation before anything was decided and so we need to make our objections known at each stage. There has been a lot of timeline slippage on the WGAAP due to new administration.

Many people expressed their concerns and opposition to the proposal - What is the purpose of it? Did proposers look at its usage and covenant? The school have many concerns and Tony, as a school governor, talked of safeguarding issues. Matt Richards, a new resident to Bradley Road was very concerned about how vulnerable it would make their properties. By night it would feel very unsafe. It would become a thoroughfare for people leaving Ally Pally events and would be used as a toilet.

Both Cllrs agreed with our concerns and said that they had similar thoughts to ours on this proposal and that they would be supporting our concerns.

Bus Garage/Station Road/Green Ridings House re-development

Frank spoke briefly about our concerns surrounding the proposed building work around Station Road, Green Ridings House and the Arriva bus garage. Objections centre around the high rise buildings and the density and the noise in an already very busy and congested area.

Cllr Mitchell said that these were just proposals for now and were a long way off being implemented and would again need to go through many stages of consultation. That each planning application would be judged on its merit.

Frank explained that we want to register our objections at this early stage and Wendy suggested that the Council has not got a great record on listening to people's views when consulting.

Cllr das Neves asked what we would like to see. She said that we may be more successful if we came up with alternative suggestions or community action projects.

We explained that we were a very strong community with a strong community ethos. That we rallied around the Ringslade Against Traffic (RAT) campaign and that was how the Facebook group and ultimately the Residents' Association came about.

Conversation then turned to the Ringslade Road rat run

Tony asked why, despite over 10 years of us campaigning, nothing of any great significance or effectiveness has been done. When a road was closed where two councillors lived without consultation some years back. Why can't it be done here?

Nigel suggested it was down to a lack of political will.

Frank argued that it was a myth that road closure causes traffic dispersal. He showed us a Low Traffic Neighbourhood Report that backs this up. It has been implemented in Walthamstow. Why can't we follow this model?

We shouldn't be putting cars before people. Traffic management reduces pollution and improves air quality. There are many other benefits to closing the rat run. We should be finding a solution that addresses all of our rat runs.

Council Hostel on Warberry Road

A resident of Warberry asked what could be done about the hostel at the bottom of the road.

Cllr Mitchell spoke of new proposals for landlords of HMOs and hopefully the implementation of these would alleviate some of the issues.

Cross Rail 2

Where do we stand with this now? What is the timeline?

Cllr Mitchell explained that Cross Rail 2 is still up in the air and that there is presently no timeline

Why, when the results of the consultation favoured the Ally Pally/Turnpike Lane option, is the Council favouring the Wood Green option?

Cllr das Neves asked why we were opposed to the Wood Green option as she was interested to hear our views.

We explained that it was mainly from a transport link perspective, that Wood Green was already well served and that the other option made more sense. Also that Wood Green is already over congested. Some were worried about losing green space in Downhills Park.

Parking Issues

Parking is a little easier since clampdown but Council employees with Borough Wide Permits still parking in our roads.

Cllr Mitchell explained that new regulations are going to be issued on Borough Wide Permits and that employees have been asked not to park on our roads.

Warberry Road residents pushing for inclusion in Inner Zone CPZ and double yellow lines at the top of the road.

Would Inner and Outer Zones ever be implemented?

Misuse of Blue Badges by Arriva employees.

Cllr Mitchell thought that it was likely that Warberry Road would be included in Inner Zone and discussed the double yellow lines. There is no timeline for implementing Inner and Outer zones. He explained that the Council do checks on Blue Badges when they can and do catch drivers misusing them but they don't have the resources to do this regularly.

Lisa explained that, in the past, Arriva have stated that they have no registered disabled employees, so, unless this has changed, none of them should be parking with a blue badge.

Lisa also requested information on how many overweight/length vehicles have been issued fines for driving down Watsons/Ringslade Road. Soft width restriction doesn't work as vehicles pass straight over it then get stuck at the top of Ringslade Road, causing tail backs onto High Road.

Cllr Mitchell said he would look into this.

Antisocial behaviour from neighbours

What can be done about antisocial behaviour from neighbours?

Residents of Warberry Road spoke of shouting, suspicions of domestic abuse and concerns over welfare of children.

Cllr Mitchell was aware of some issues that have been raised with him and was looking into this. Was not aware of extent. Could contact Noise Control Enforcement Team.

It was suggested by residents that maybe a diary of incidents should be kept and Social Services should be informed if welfare of child was a concern.

AOB

Cllr Mitchell announced that 'Connecting Wood Green' had been awarded a grant of £900,000 by the Greater London Assembly (GLA) and they propose to use this to renovate the Penstock Tunnel (tunnel under railway line leading to New River Village). Ideas for public art wanted/encouraged.

Cllr Mitchell also notified us that the owners of Ashley House, next to Monaghan's Tavern and currently occupied by Levenes Solicitors, are in discussion with the Council with regard to redevelopment. The proposal is for a mixed use residential and commercial property up to 20 storeys high.

Frank informed both Councillors about our street party on July 14th and invited them to come along.