

ROEHAMPTON PARTNERSHIP

Notes of a meeting of the Roehampton Partnership held at
Roehampton Club, Garden Room, Roehampton Lane SW15,
on Monday, 18th March 2013

PRESENT

Rev. J. McKinney (Chairman)	Holy Trinity Church
Mr. M. Newey	Roehampton Club
Mrs. S. Price	Roehampton Resident
Fr. D. Gummett	St. Joseph's R.C. Church
Councillor P. Carpenter	Wandsworth Borough Council

OBSERVERS

Miss Hogan	Roehampton Resident
Mr. J. Horrocks	Putney Society & Roehampton Forum

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms G. Alwani-Starr	University of Roehampton
Mr. S. Diamond	Deputy Economic Development Officer – WBC
Mr. D. Edwards	Housing Department – WBC
Mr. J. Moore	Economic Development Office – WBC
Mr. N. Smales	Economic Development Officer – WBC
Ms O. Okere	Committee Secretary – WBC

(The Chairman having sent apologies for lateness, Councillor Carpenter chaired the start of the meeting)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Knowles, Mr. D. Lunt (Roehampton Resident), Mr. T. Morris (Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce); and Ms B. Willerton (Wandsworth Older People's Network).

2. WELCOME

Councillor Carpenter welcomed Mrs. Price to her first meeting of the Partnership having been selected as one of two resident representatives by the Central Area Housing Panel.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

On item 2, the Chairman having asked if members needed to disclose any pecuniary interests, none was declared.

4. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (PAPER "A")

On item 3, it was

Agreed – That the notes of the previous meeting held on 17th September 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to an amendment being made under matters arising, Parking (Danebury Avenue) and reference to "... providing parking bays on Danebury Avenue ..." should read as "providing a dropdown kerb on Danebury Avenue".

5. MATTERS ARISING

On item 4, the following matters were raised:-

(a) A3 Roundabout – Mr. Diamond informed the Partnership that having been in contact with the Council's Highway Services he could confirm that Transport for London (TfL) is evaluating potential options to improve the pedestrian facilities at the A3 roundabout near ASDA. Mr. Diamond added that a survey of residents is currently being undertaken by TfL, and the result is scheduled to be reported to the June Strategic Planning and Transportation Committee. It was also confirmed that the Council had received a petition from Putney Vale residents about the poor pedestrian facilities on the A3 roundabout.

(b) Parking (Danebury Avenue) – Mr. Edwards confirmed that the work on Danebury Avenue to provide a dropped kerb outside the library was now completed.

(c) Queen Mary Hospital – Councillor Carpenter asked whether the request to place an advert, informing local people about the Patient Group, had been placed in the Council's Brightside magazine. In response, Mr. Diamond said that he was not aware it had happened but he would check and report back to the Partnership.

ACTION – Mr. Diamond

It was agreed that item 6 be dealt with next

6. ROEHAMPTON CLUB

On item 6, the Chairman thanked Mr. Newey, Roehampton Club, for hosting the Partnership meeting for the evening.

Mr. Newey then gave a brief overview of the history of Roehampton Club. Members of the Partnership heard that the club is member owned with over 5,000 members of which 1,400 are juniors (age 4-17), and with a two year waiting list. It is one of the biggest multi-sport clubs in the UK with social facilities. Its focus is on four main sports namely tennis, croquet, golf and squash with tennis being the most

popular sport with members. The aim of the club is to get local people more involved in playing tennis and to use this as an avenue to find another tennis champion to help close gap that exists between Andrew Murray and the rest of the British players. In order to bring this to fruition an application has been made to Wandsworth Council asking for permission to build an indoor tennis court. However, permission has only been granted for an indoor bubble and this would be open in November. On completion it will open for an hour a day for community use. Mr. Newey said that it was important to allow young local school children in to use the facility and the Club will work together with the Lawn Tennis Association to find potential grand slam winners.

The Club also has a health club providing amongst other things a gym and an indoor and out door pool. In conclusion, Mr. Newey said that the Club is thriving and it reinvests its money to improve its facilities. Mr. Newey added that he joined the Partnership to assist in making Roehampton a better place to live in. He acknowledged that whilst the Club was a major employer in Roehampton it could do even more in terms of interacting with the local community, and the Club is trying to achieve this through its current work with the University of Roehampton.

There followed discussion on what link, if any, the Club had with community arts. In response, Mr. Newey confirmed that art is a popular activity in the Club, and to open it up to the wider community initial contact had been made with the Wandsworth Arts Manager which he will follow up.

(The Chairman, having arrived, resumed the chair of the meeting)

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

On Item 5, that the Partnership approved the following programme for future agendas:-

Agreed –

- Crime in Roehampton/Putney Vale
- Initiatives by Roehampton University in the Community
- Standing items:-
 - (a) Update on Roehampton Centre Regeneration

8. CRIME IN ROEHAMPTON AND PUTNEY (PAPER “B”)

On item 7, the Committee Secretary informed members that Mr. Jolly, Assistant Community Safety Officer – Wandsworth Environmental and Community Services, who was due to speak on this item was absent. In his absence, Councillor Carpenter said he could speak on the paper.

Councillor Carpenter gave a brief summary of the statistics which had been circulated with the agenda. It showed that Roehampton was top in the borough for rape, criminal damage to dwellings and drug trafficking crimes but was average overall on the total number of the type of crimes committed within the borough. Councillor Carpenter said this average result was due in part to the number of Safer

Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) officers that form a cluster on the estates. As such, there has been concern that the reduction of SNTs would mean that officers available are unable to act as a deterrent on the estates. Councillor Carpenter concluded by stating that whilst the information provided was informative and useful, he warned that statistics do not provide all the answers.

Some members reported on what they saw as an increase in the crime rate relating to snatching of possessions in Roehampton. In response to whether this was the case on the University campus, Ms Alwani-Starr said that the University itself was safe and incidents of crime on the campus were relatively low.

Following discussions, it was agreed that it would be helpful for better understanding of the statistics, if maps showing the location of the crimes could be provided in future updates together with the presence of the Council or Metropolitan Police Officer to answer questions.

ACTION – OO

[Post-meeting – Mr. Jolly apologised for his absence which was due to a clash with other work commitments]

9. REVIEW OF THE PARTNERSHIP'S CONSTITUTION (PAPER "C")

On item 8, Mr. Smales, Economic Development Officer, reported that work had commenced on the renewal agenda for Roehampton. There has been activity supporting social and physical regeneration with the team to develop a Master Plan for the regeneration area currently being procured.

The Partnership, said Mr. Smales, is seen as having an important advisory oversight role for the regeneration. As such it is important that its objectives be updated and consideration given to its membership to ensure that it is fit for purpose and able to carry out its role efficiently. Furthermore, given progress on the regeneration consideration should be given to increasing the frequency of meetings back to a quarterly cycle.

Mr. Smales outlined what he considered to be the four main objectives for the Partnership as set out in the Paper set out before the Partnership. As regards membership of the Partnership, Mr. Smales said it ought to be made up of a focused and purposeful group that can provide the most effective way of meeting the amended objectives. The new membership would lead to an increase in the number of councillors and include a Cabinet Member representation so as to provide effective guidance and leadership. Mr. Smales asked members to consider the proposed structure and to forward any further thoughts on the matter to him by 29th March 2013.

The Committee Secretary informed the Partnership that Mrs. Willerton, representing the Older Peoples Network, had in her absence wanted to know if older people would be represented on the Partnership as they do not appear under the new structure proposed. In response, Mr. Smales said that the proposed membership structure was neither intended to be prescriptive nor exclusive. He was

aware that Older Peoples Network also sits on the Roehampton Forum which is representative of a number of different organisations. As such, any representative of the Forum on the Partnership would be representing the views of its members.

There followed discussion on the new objectives and membership structure and it was agreed that for the Partnership to be effective, it had to have. There also had to be transparency and Mr. Smales was asked to provide a chart showing the various groups on the Partnership, how they link in to the Partnership and the differing view/groups within the community they represent. There was concern that there might be problems in people accepting the proposed membership structure which is only made of one less member with the balance going to more councillors. As such, members asked that the paper to be submitted to the Finance and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee should state clearly the reasons for the change in balance in membership.

There was also concern about the loss of the Metropolitan Police representative under the proposed structure. Mr. Smales said, in response, that the Metropolitan Police did not attend on a regular basis in any event but they would be invited to speak on specific issues as and when required. In response to further concerns raised that the selection of the three resident members excluded non-social housing residents, Mr. Smales pointed out that the majority of works envisaged to be carried out as a result of the regeneration would affect only those residents in social housing. Mr. Smales confirmed that if it came to light that obvious groups have been missed out during the regeneration process then they could be co-opted in.

In response to a question on how people get to be invited to speak at the meeting, the Chairman said that before each meeting he meets up with Economic Development Officers to decide what goes on the agenda, and dependant on items proposed then the appropriate organisation is invited to attend the meeting.

The Chairman concluded that members were in agreement with the proposed changes. However, he would recommend that St Joseph's Church be representative of the faith group on the Partnership as it is the largest voluntary group in Roehampton, and he will seek out which organisation will be the second voluntary group. It was also agreed that the extra resident will be appointed at the next Central Area Housing Panel meeting in June.

On a similar but separate matter and in response to where the EDO was in terms of the process for regeneration, Mr. Smales informed members that it was coming to the end of the procurement period for Master Planners which commenced in November 2012. There was a shortlist of four architects and a decision will be made by the end of April. The whole process should take about nine months, and the intention is that whatever plan comes out of the process will be adopted through the planning process although he did not think that an agreed plan would be achieved until 2014. It is only after a plan is agreed that the scale of intervention required and options available will be known.

10. CENTRE OF ROEHAMPTON REGENERATION

On item 9, the Chairman asked Mr. Smales to inform the Partnership of the funding available for the regeneration before the update on the centre of Roehampton regeneration. In response, Mr. Smales said that there was currently £100 million earmarked for estate improvements in Battersea and Roehampton but that this was to provide cash flow required for the physical process. How this finance is deployed will be governed by the outcome of the Master Plan process, e.g. what buildings might have to be pulled down, the existence of any rights to buy etc. This is necessary before an agreed process and plan is reached and can be delivered. For example, where there are rights to buy in blocks that would need to be demolished, the residents affected would need to be compensated and this will be one of a number of factors that will determine the cash requirement.

Mr. Moore added that the Master Plan is about the physical regeneration of Roehampton. The focus area is the West side of the Alton Estate although consideration will also be given to the wider context. The plan will cover housing and improving existing housing, park lands, playgrounds, transport (for example discussions with Transport for London on how to make the buses more regular), to help improve accessibility for residents of the Estate

Mr. Moore set out the time scale to the Master Plan which had already commenced with the procurement of the architects. The consultation process with stakeholders will be rolled out after that. Mr. Moore acknowledged that there might be some scepticism because of previous consultations which had occurred for previous proposals that had to be shelved in 2009 following the onset of the recession. However, it will be made clear that the current consultation process will be informed by previous exercises and is being used to move the process forward. The approach will be different from the previous process undertaken. An Engagement Co-ordinator is being recruited and the successful person will be based in Roehampton so that they are easily accessible for stakeholders. This person would be responsible for the social regeneration activity aspect. Mr. Moore said he would welcome any comments from members on how best to engage with stakeholders and to forward any information/suggestions to him at roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk .

The Chairman asked that Mr. Moore submit a copy of the demographic of Roehampton at a future meeting showing how the area currently appears with how it would look following the regeneration.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

Following the increase in the business of the regeneration of Roehampton, Mr. Smales said it would now be appropriate to increase the number of meetings from two to four. As such, two additional dates in July and December were added to

the already scheduled September meeting:-

- Wednesday, 17th July 2013
- Wednesday, 25th September 2013
- Monday, 2nd December 2013

The meeting ended at 9.10p.m.