

## **St. Stephen's Conservation Area Residents' Association**

### **Short Notes of Ward Walk 22.11.23 (Final version)**

#### **About the meeting**

Over the course of the three parts of the meeting described below 11 members of the community attended the meeting (2 from Neighbourhood Watch outside St. Stephen's Conservation Area).

Councillor Chaudhary and Councillor Rehman attended the first part of the meeting and the ward walk

Council Officers attending the last part of the meeting and ward walk had the following responsibilities: Community Development Officer, Ward Improvement Officer, Parking Operations Manager, Hounslow Highways, Violence Reduction Officer, Hounslow Highways Contracts Manager, Traffic & Transport Officer.

#### **Residents raised issues that were**

- brought up in the Community meeting of 21 October – (26 people in attendance)
- written into the electronic invitation to add issues for the ward walk and
- other current issues

#### **The three parts to the meeting were**

- Residents briefed Councillor Chaudhary and Councillor Rehman about issues to be raised with Council Officers, the Councillors then went to another part of the ward walk while
- Residents agreed priorities to be raised on the Ward Walk
- Residents and Councillor Chaudhary outlined for Local Authority Officers brief headlines of topics to be covered before walking around Parkside Road (part), the alleyway to the station, Argyle Road, The Avenue and St. Stephens Road (part) to show the Councillors and Officers live examples of the issue raised.

#### **Aim of meeting for residents**

Residents wanted to point out that **many residents are willing to do their bit to support the Conservation Area status**

**Residents wanted to raise issues so that Councillors and Council Officers could see first-hand how the Council can help with things residents do not have control over to maintain and enhance safety and the environment** in the Conservation Area which can also help deter **behaviour detrimental to the area.**

The meeting was **cordial and very useful**. Residents felt they had been listened to. Council officers were able to tell residents more about their work, the policies they worked to and the legal restrictions on actions they could take. **Councillors and Officers were thanked.**

**It was agreed that there would be a meeting in the new year to follow up what had been raised during the ward walk.**

## Priorities

### 1. SAFETY

a) **Cameras** are needed on a long-term basis in hot spots with clear signage

(i) to deter **drug dealing**

(ii) to prevent **muggings, robberies and attacks**

(iii) to prevent crime such as dumping/abandoning cars and **fly tipping**

(iv) to prevent **theft from cars and packages from doorsteps**

(v) to deter **antisocial behaviour and assaults and muggings.**

**Request :How can we achieve cameras being installed to cover these hotspots more permanently?** See Footnote 1 at end of these Notes.

b) **Lighting** – good light is needed for personal safety and to prevent tripping on raised roots of trees and sometimes uneven paving stones. **Some residents do not feel safe walking down the road at night due to uneven lighting**, shadows cast by trees and parked cars and uneven footpath.

**Lighting levels need to be set correctly.** Lighting levels are uneven, some areas are too dark, some lights shine too brightly into some residents' bedrooms. **People who must go to work early feel unsafe and some walk down the middle of the road – which is also unsafe.)**

Some suggestions and requests were

- Can there be a lighting assessment with a view to evening up lighting?
  - Can we have a different type of heritage lighting that fits better with the age of much of the conservation area?
  - Can consideration be given to changing the type of light so that it has a wider spread and makes the footpath and road more clearly visible and some kind of shading to residents' bedrooms and shading the top of the lights to lessen light pollution?
  - Can any changes in the lighting be subject to local consultation?
- (i) **Trees need more regular pruning** so they do not obstruct light shining on the footpath and road.
- (ii) **More even lighting can also help prevent anti-social behaviour, flytipping and theft from cars.**

### c) Footpath leaf cleaning

When it is wet in autumn leaves become slippery and **some residents have fallen and been injured due to slippery leaves.**

Recently there was a **deep clean of St. Stephens Road and Parkside Road.** It was done well by the Council. However, it took place during leaf fall so that **by the next day the hazard from leaves returned.**

**Request: Is it possible to reschedule the annual deep clean until after leaf fall is completed?**

This year both sides of the road were deep cleaned on the same day. **When one side of the road is cleaned at a time it makes it easier for residents to find alternative parking** for their cars during the cleaning period.

**Request: Please can the Council revert to this system**

At present the depth of leaf fall obscures the pavement unevenness (referred to above).

**Request: Is it possible to have more frequent clearance of leaves during leaf fall?**

**d) Specific footpath hazards to pedestrians**

**(i) Argyle Road at corner with The Avenue**

The footpath narrows and hedge protrudes over the footpath, cars can park partly on the footpath due to a narrow road.

**Sometimes when cars are parked over the narrow part of the footpath pedestrians have to walk into the road to pass by** at a corner where **cars that cannot be seen are coming round the corner from The Avenue.**

Following a good consultation of residents 2 years ago there was a minimum understanding there would be

- Clearer discrete markings/signage put in place but not individual bays
- Cars to be allowed to park partly on pavement to allow Emergency vehicles to pass except for at the corner of the Avenue and Argyle
- Safety measure – vehicle speed restricted to 5 or 10 mph
- Extension of double yellow lines at this corner to where the footpath narrows (or an alternative suggestion could be if there is sufficient width of road that the markings for cars parking partly on the pavement do not allow those cars to obstruct the foot path, allowing pedestrians, sometimes with prams, to pass without having to step in the road and there is still room for emergency vehicles to pass).

**Request: Can these agreements be implemented?**

**Request: Can Hounslow Council ask the property owners to cut back their holly hedge that overhangs the footpath as it adds to the problem on this narrow stretch of footpath.**

**(ii) St. Stephens Road by the barber's shop**

**Groups of customers regularly stand outside the shop socialising and smoking.** Some people walk into the road to get past them.

**Cllr Chaudhary and Amoy Gray went into the shop on the ward walk and spoke with the barber.** (See also issue at end of notes)

**(iii) Lime Bikes have been left blocking pavements making them inaccessible to people, including some residents, with mobility issues** forcing them to use the road.

**(iv) Road safety issue**

**At the junction of St. Stephens Road and Hanworth Road** drivers turning into the road are confronted with the Lime Bike Bay on one side of the road together with a tall sided van that does not move on the other side of the road. There is only room for one lane of moving

traffic. Traffic can be coming towards the driver along the middle of the road. **As the Lime Bike bay is marked only by a dark pole with 2 stripes of fluorescent paint and is often empty it is a hazard for the motorist coming round the corner.**

**The suitability of the bays in both St. Stephens Road and Parkside Road are questioned as they are in a conservation area.** They are hardly used and there are bikes parked on the footpath in the area more regularly than in the bays.

**If the bays are to be continued after the experimental period**

**Request: can the bay in St. Stephens Road be moved to the other side of the road and/or further down the road in consultation with residents?** See footnote 2 at the end of these notes

## **2. PARKING**

### **a) Controlled Parking Zone**

**Residents are divided about the introduction of a Controlled Parking Zone.** There are **parking pressure points** in parts of the Conservation Area.

**Residents living in these parking pressure points would like to know if it is possible to introduce a CPZ (separate from the Hounslow Town Centre zone) in parts of the Conservation Area rather than only if most of the residents in the streets all the streets opt for it?**

**Do there have to be marked bays for parking in the CPZ?**

### **c) Vehicles parked for long periods of time**

**There are several cars and vans that are parked for a long time**

**Request: Can effective action be taken about the cars and the vans?** (see also issues about vans under lighting)

**(One of the vans permanently parked in a disabled bay has been moved from the disabled bay since the ward walk)**

## **3. OTHER ISSUES**

### **a) Litter**

**Residents think the general appearance of the area would be improved if there were more frequent street and alleyway cleaning.**

**Request: Is more frequent street and alleyway cleaning possible?**

### **b) Replacement trees**

**Some trees have been removed**

**Request: Can these trees be replaced?**

### **c) Additional Trees**

**Some residents would like additional trees in St Stephens Road and Parkside Road.**

**Recommendation: This should probably be a subject for local consultation among the immediate residents.**

#### **d) Boundary Walls**

**A number of boundary walls and hedges have been removed and or changes made to the width and height without planning permission in St Stephen's Road, Argyle Road and Parkside Road. These have been reported recently to enforcement.**

**Request: Please can the Council ensure that the walls are rebuilt to original height and hedges are replaced.**

#### **e) Barber shop signage**

**(i) There is signage that does not have planning permission:**

**(Note: since the ward walk the lights have been turned off at night)**

**(ii) There is flyposted advertising**

**Request: Please can these issues be enforced.**

#### **Footnotes – relevant events have happened since the ward walk**

##### **1. Since the Ward Walk five incidents were reported – 2 are serious crimes.**

On the night 1-2.11.23 ?key scratch along the left hand side of a car,

7 December a burglary by 3 males between 6.01 and 6.19 am from a house in St. Stephens Road, their car and its registration have been reported to police.

Around 10.15pm 9 December an assault on a resident who stopped a woman, who was with her 14 year old son, from being robbed on Parkside Road. There were 4 males though only 2 were visible at first. This has been reported to police

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December around 10.50 a man tried a house door with a key. The police were called and it seemed this was an incident involving someone who was quite disoriented rather than malicious. An ambulance was called to help.

During the night of Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> / Wednesday morning 13<sup>th</sup> December dangerous rubbish was fly tipped including broken glass in St. Stephens Road. This was reported on Fix my street and has now been removed

##### **2. We have learnt that the Lime bike trial has been extended another 6 month or 1 year.**

What were the criteria used to extend the Trial?

What is expected to have changed in another 6 months or year?