

West Croydon Community Forum

Notes of Open meeting on

Tues 9 October 2012

Praise House, 145-151 London Road, CR0 2RG

6.25pm-8pm

ATTENDANCE:	APOLOGIES:
<p>Bhupendra Solanki Bushra Ahmed Cathy Aitchison Chandra Babu Clive Locke (Chair) Damian Luke Ganapathy Kasinathan Jonathan Bob-amara (Minutes) K Jeyanthan Kelly I'yare Liza Castellino Mahbub Bhatti Sanjay Shah Mark Justice Nick Weatherley Raj Ramaraj Cllr Stuart Collins</p> <p>New members: John Clingan – South Croydon Comm Assoc Ike Boakye – Last Stop Mini Market Wayne Jones – IYSS, Croydon Council Julia Locke - Resident Andrew Bensley – Enterprise Rent-a-car Kieshair Gibbs – Enterprise Rent-a-car Osman Yusuf – Steam and Press Ltd</p>	<p>Aisha Bryant Amanda Guest-collins Andy Stranack Brid O'dwyer Helen Iveson JenniferColeen Speid John Cheetham Julie Agbowu Kake Pugh Klasiena Habibi Liz Tuffey Luke Farrell Margot Rohan Maureen Owers Nicole Beckford Palma Black Pat Clouder Patrick Ratnaraja Paul Macey Praful Bhatt Spencer Williams Steve Phaure Valentine Atsu</p>

NOTES	ACTION
<p>1. WELCOME</p> <p>Clive Locke as the newly elected Chair of the WCCF Chaired. In the absence of a Secretary, Jonathon Bob-Amara volunteered to minute the meeting with support from Bhupendra.</p> <p>Chair gave an opening address noting West Croydon does not deserve the negative publicity it has received since the August 2011 riots and that the WCCF is committed to turn</p>	

<p>this around. Chair thanked everyone for attending and to Praise House for hosting the meeting.</p>	
<p>2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 11-9-12</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting agreed with the following amendments:</p> <p>p.1 Add Chandra Babu to the attendance list</p> <p>p.1 Correct spelling of Jonathon to Jonathan</p> <p>p.3 'Festival Group' should read 'Carnival Group'</p> <p>p.4. Big Local Trust. Change 'initial fund of £20,000' to 'initial fund of £18,000 with £2000 for the writing of the Local Plan'</p>	<p>Bhupendra</p>
<p>3. MATTERS ARISING FROM 11-9-12</p> <p>CCTV: Cllr Collins confirmed that he had had discussions with the Council about the use of CCTV cameras being used to record parking offences. He confirmed that after discussions with the Council and Police, parking tickets will only be issued on red route areas.</p> <p>Some traders felt aggrieved that the inappropriate use of CCTV cameras to target shoppers was driving customers away from shopping on London Road. The high cost of parking was also raised.</p> <p>Cllr Collins advised traders to continue observing the issue and provide him directly with examples where the system was not working as it should do.</p> <p>Agreed that it may be worth having a separate meeting outside of the WCCF open meeting just to discuss parking issues with the Council officials.</p> <p>ACTION: WCCF and Cllr Collins to arrange a public meeting to look specifically at parking issues.</p>	<p>Steering Grp Cllr Collins</p>
<p>4. BIG LOCAL TRUST</p> <p>Cathy gave a quick update. A local partnership group for Broad Green ward had been recently set up. However more members were needed, in particularly residents of Broad Green ward.</p> <p>If anyone is interested to find out more or join the group to decide how the £1million+ for the area should be spent, please contact Bhupendra.solanki@cvalive.org.uk</p>	<p>ALL</p>

<p>For more information on Big Local see www.localtrust.org.uk</p>	
<p>5. CARNIVAL OF CULTURES (23-9-12)</p> <p>Cathy thanked CVA for receiving and managing the funds on behalf of the WCCF Carnival. A full finance report will be ready for the next meeting.</p> <p>The Chair reported that the feedback from the Council, the Police and Health and Safety Officer was very positive and the Carnival had run very smoothly. The only downside had been the rain.</p> <p>Coleen and her team were commended for organising a successful event.</p> <p>Suggestions for improvement for next year included, having a contingency in case of bad weather and possibly extending the road closure closer to West Croydon Station. It was suggested that the Carnival be moved to the summer in 2013.</p>	<p>Steering Grp</p>
<p>6. PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS</p> <p>Cathy updated the Forum on behalf of the Planning Sub-group. The last meeting with the Council focused on safety, security and business support for the London Road area.</p> <p>Cathy reported that the Mayor's Office on the 26/9/12 accepted and approved the bid from Croydon for the Public Realm improvements. The next stage will be the working up of more detailed plans and appointment of a design team.</p> <p>The next meeting for the WCCF to meet with the Council will be on 31/10/12 at CVA. On this evening a Council representative will be talking about plans for the old hospital site between 5 to 6pm. Then from 6-7pm there will be discussions around the proposed public realm improvements for London Road. Residents, businesses and interested groups are all welcome to attend the meeting at CVA.</p> <p>ACTION: WCCF members were asked to identify areas where display boards of the proposed plans could be put up for the public to view.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the impact the new Whitgift shopping centre may have on business in the area and how</p>	<p>ALL</p>

<p>local businesses could also benefit from the developments afoot.</p> <p>ACTION: Agreed that Westfield and/or Hammersons should be invited to a future meeting(s) of the Forum once it is clearer who is in the running for the new shopping centre.</p>	Steering Grp
<p>7. LONDON ROAD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION</p> <p>Ganesh updated the Forum on the work of the Business Association over the past 12+ months. Ganesh reported that members of the Business Association had noted a fall in crime in their shops and that security in the area had generally improved since the riots.</p> <p>One issue however was the relationship between businesses and the Police in terms of reporting crime and maintaining a level of confidentiality to protect businesses from further harassment and attacks from perpetrators. It was noted that there was a massive under-reporting of crime due to fear of reprisals and inability of the authorities to prosecute.</p> <p>ACTION: WCCF to invite Borough Commander Dave Musker to a future WCCF meeting to explore policing in the area.</p> <p>At present, the Association was focused on improving footfall, street cleansing, parking restrictions and lighting on London Road. Business rates were also an issue, as existing traders felt they should be supported more in these tough economic times to stay in business. It was remarked that business rates for Croydon were relatively high compared to other areas and a major barrier for many smaller businesses.</p> <p>There was a general feeling that a broader range of businesses should be proactively encouraged / attracted to the London Road area including banks, so as to attract town centre shoppers.</p>	Steering Grp
<p>7. WASTE AND CLEANSING</p> <p>Chair gave an update on a 'walk-about' that he had had with Malcolm Kendal (Director in Environmental Health) from Croydon Council, looking at waste and cleansing issues in the area. Mr Kendal acknowledged that there was room for improvement by Veoila and possibly how Croydon Council manage their contract. Chair had stressed that current arrangements for trade waste collection were not satisfactory for many businesses.</p>	

<p>ACTION: WCCF to encourage the Council to look at alternative waste and cleansing contractors and also to demand better services from the existing contractor. WCCF to highlight issues to local Councillors also.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that there is also some work to be undertaken to educate some local residents and businesses on waste management and in particularly recycling. Lidl car park was mentioned as a potential site for recycling bins.</p>	Steering Grp
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>There were strong feelings expressed about the proposed incinerator in Croydon and the potential impact on people living in West Croydon. Details about the South London Incinerator Campaign can be found on http://www.stoptheincinerator.co.uk/</p> <p>The date of the next meeting for those interested in the Broad Green Big Local Trust partnership will be 18-10-12, 2pm at CVA.</p>	
<p>9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>13 November 2012 at CVA Resource Centre, 82 London Road, CR0 2TB</p> <p>NOTE: date has since been changed to:</p> <p>MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2012, 6pm at CVA.</p> <p>Dates of subsequent Open WCCF Meetings: Tues 11 December 2012, 6pm at CVA Tues 15 January 2013, 6pm at CVA Tues 12 March 2013, 6pm at CVA Tues 9 April 2013, 6pm at CVA Tues 14 May 2013, 6pm at CVA.</p>	
<p>Regular news, updates and photo gallery of events in West Croydon can be found at www.westcroydonforum.wordpress.com</p>	