

Minutes of KTRA Meeting - Tuesday 2 February 2016

Chair: Jay Venn

Minutes: Gail Gibson-Smith

Present: Councillor James Denselow

1. KTRA – introduction to how we work. Our meetings can be chaired by any volunteering resident and we invite everyone to get involved in all aspects of the KTRA. There is no committee, anyone can highlight issues/problems/events, etc, take on an issue/project and the KTRA can advise on how to get help, who to contact and how to reach out to other residents. Please refer to **item 2** Moving forward.

2. KTRA – Moving forward (item 2 was discussed at end of meeting to include any latecomers)

The KTRA is democratic and for all to be involved with but the same small handful people are the only residents getting involved with organisation, plus dealing with events, contacts and issues. Thanks to those who do get involved but we do need to get more people onboard. We are asking for volunteers to become 'champions' of certain areas and to become a point of contact and build a rapport with the relevant Brent department/Councillor to help get issues sorted and channel issues to the right person. A strong liaison will definitely help get things done for all. The areas we need a champion for in the Triangle are as follows:

- Pavements (obstructions, street furniture, repair)
- Traffic (parking, disruption, etc) – **Andy Bradfield has volunteered**
- Planning (we all keep an eye out for planning issues) this champion to liaise with Brent Planning/Councillors
- Policing (attend quarterly ward panel meetings in Queens Park, be point of contact for issues) – **Jack Swindon has volunteered**
- Anti Social Behaviour (be liaison with the Safer Neighbourhood Team - SNT)
- Utilities – (water, power, etc)
- Trees/Planting – **Garry Smith has volunteered**
- Environmental (rubbish, dumping, Houses of Multiple Occupancy - HMOs)
- Carnival issues - **Andy Bradfield has volunteered**
- Social organizing (there are no funds for this, except fliers) – **Tracy Brent & Hannah Anderson volunteered**
- Kensal Green Cemetery (what is going on and possibly attend monthly meetings) – **Julie Prebble has volunteered**

3. Harrow Road Crossing

- Our campaign for a safer crossing at the junction of Harrow Road and Ladbroke Grove has been ongoing for 10 years. It needs the go ahead from 3 boroughs (Brent, Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea), plus TFL. Jay Venn has been leading this campaign and she recently met with K&C MP Victoria Borwick to help push K&C towards their agreement to get things done (the other 2 boroughs and TFL have already agreed to push forward). The week before this meeting K&C actually signalled their agreement, we're unsure what persuaded them but it is good news. The timetable now is as follows: Westminster has studied the junction and should have traffic modeling done by March with a new scheme to start in May. MP Victoria Borwick is very keen to help on this issue and has made several enquiries to help push things along and hopes to convene an early meeting in March with all the relevant parties.
- Meanwhile, we are canvassing schools and parents for their views on a safer crossing. Emails have gone out and fliers will be sent to local schools whose children use the junction. We need more response ASAP on this issue. Jay will contact Bales College (near the junction) for their response. Please put the word out to any parents to feedback on their experiences getting their children to school via the junction – contact to info@ktra.co.uk and mention Jay. Local resident Adam xxxx has volunteered to canvas and count people using the junction on a weekday morning.
- All our ward councilors and MPs from all 3 boroughs are behind us on this campaign.

4. Planning

Development of 750-756 Harrow Road (Bags of Love)

- This development looked to be getting the go ahead from Brent Planning after developers had managed to get KTRA's approval of the scheme after suggested amends and revisions, plus liaison with affected residents. However, Brent Planning has now said "no" to the development and we are not sure why. The planning did not go to the Committee. We have no idea what is to happen at this site but welcome residents to report back if they hear anything.

Regent Street

- The 5th floor extension was given the go ahead by Brent Planning (late 2015), despite overwhelming opposition from local residents and some businesses. Very disappointing decision - we now wait to see when the work will begin and will keep an eye out for any road closures/disruption due to the building work.

Bales College

- Have applied for planning permission to add buildings on their 'campus'. There will be an open day to show the plans, date unknown.

5. Chamberlayne Road Traffic Issues

- The water works was delayed for 2 weeks because proper pre-warning signs had not been posted, however, the first phase completed 2 weeks ahead so works are back on schedule. The works will continue until June, in phases and will complete at Sidmouth Road. Please find some information for bus routes on the KTRA website.
- The Moberly rebuild starts in March, so there will be more disruption to traffic along Chamberlayne Road. KTRA will try and get information but so far the Brent website is 2 weeks out of date and we rely on that for information to pass onto residents. Buses will be diverted during works.
- Double yellow lines put on Chamberlayne Road late last year (over the bridge near Travis Perkins), have caused problems. Businesses have complained at a meeting led by Harry True. These lines will revert back to single yellow soonest.

6. Kensal Green Cemetery Wall

- Cemetery Wall – work will shortly be in progress on the 2nd phase of rebuilding the wall bays. The first phase of 5 bays took a long time (as some corrections needed) but another 10 bays are to be built. The Cemetery company will then put up chain link fencing to cover the rest until they can raise more funds to continue the wall. Residents say they have noticed people sleeping rough in the cemetery because they have easy access and Cllr James Denselow will report this to the police to investigate.

7. Crime – Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) could not attend but we have the following to report:

- 3 thefts in the Triangle – 1 car (which has since been recovered) and 2 motor scooters.
- 1 burglary in Pember Road.
- Thefts from cars – often sat navs, loose change, etc. Please don't leave any temptation for burglars in your vehicles – even sat nav marks on windscreens can attract attention.
- Cllr James Denselow says there should be a minimum of 1 PCO per ward after the next mayoral elections. Also that the Kilburn police station has a possible buyer – a small police 'pod' will be built there in the car park when the station closes.
- There is a police ward panel meeting on 15 March if any resident wants to volunteer to attend. Please email KTRA for more information.
- Residents at the meeting mentioned that the bike bay on Bayford Road is hardly used and is a waste of car parking space. Cllr James Denselow will follow up on this issue, but says it can be a slow bureaucratic process.
- New residents – not crime but concerned about Queens Park Tyres occupying the street and pavements with their work and clients vehicles on weekdays. They block the emergency access and residents can't park, plus there's constant noise from this trade. Complaints also made about the car workshop on Warfield Road working outside on the highway and obstructing the pavement. Cllr James Denselow will look into these issues.

10: AOB

- Cllr James Denselow says there will be a Council tax rise of 4% (after 6 years of no increase). There were £80 million cuts in Brent last year, so the rise is necessary.
- Resident complained about street cleaning, especially along Kilburn Lane/Chamberlayne Road. The same street cleaner for over 3 years is doing a sloppy job and has been complained about. Street cleaning is Cllr Eleanor Southward's domain and complaints have been sent to her but still nothing has been done.
- Tree roots on pavements are a serious trip hazard in some parts of the Triangle. Plane trees are the culprits as they grow very large and need to be kept in check by the Council.

Next meeting: TBA but in April – watch for emails and the KTRA website for the date and venue.