

Kensal Triangle Residents Association

Minutes Monday 12th April 2010.

Present: see attendance list

Chair: Hugh Davenport

Minutes: Rob Grover

1. Minutes of Previous meeting: Agreed. No Matters Arising
2. High Speed Rail (HS2)

Glenda Jackson was invited to address the meeting.

Glenda thanked the Association for inviting her to hear the residents concerns about the proposed route for the tunnel for the HS2. She went on to say that she understood that there compensation was not normally provide for properties on the line of the tunnel as they should not be affected. She also mentioned that the line of the tunnel was not yet fixed and that Frank Dobson was seriously lobbying for a different route as the current route requires the demolition of two tower blocks in Camden.

She thought the Department for Transport (DfT) should be able to provide further information and would forward on anything she found out. Glenda commented that the DfT learnt a lot from the delays associated with fixing the route for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) and that they were committed to speedy decision-making to clarify the route and minimize planning blight.

Rob introduced the issue of householders being sent letters by a firm of compensation specialists called Thomson Broadbent. The firm is suggesting that there are significant financial benefits to home-owners if the Rail Company were to purchase their homes. They are offering to represent house-owners in any claims for compensation, in return for a fee equivalent to 2% of the house value if sold to HS2. Rob commented that he had no reason to doubt the company but he could see no reason to rush into any agreement.

Alex Freed introduced herself as the Green Party candidate for Brent Council and a local resident. She asked Glenda whether the government would do a u-turn if there was a lot local opposition to the route.. Would residents be faced with raising funds for a judicial review if the government pushed it through. Glenda responded that that was the whole point of the consultation - the government would have to respond to objections.

Rob pointed out that the HS2 website indicates that there is a current consultation on an 'interim hardship compensation scheme' and then another consultation on the route in the autumn. The 'interim compensation scheme' would be replaced by a statutory scheme when the route is finalized in summer 2011. Noted that Avril had circulated Rob's email with links to the relevant HS2 and DfT web pages there are thousands of pages on the website and that

Avril suggested that we should invite a representative from DfT or HS2 to a meeting to provide answers.

It was also noted that the map of the proposed route indicates an access shaft for the tunnel on Kilburn Lane at the rear of the Moberley Centre. It was noted that this would be a sizeable shaft, not just a manhole in the roadway. Much concern expressed about the disruption that would be caused if Kilburn Lane were blocked for many months, and the impact of lorries carrying away the soil.

Glenda Jackson responded to the discussion that there had been a big row over the delays in defining the CTRL route and she was sure that this would be a lot quicker. In response to a question she said that most compensation claims were sorted out by agreement but that no one should think they could make a fortune out of it.

2. Ladbroke Grove Junction - Traffic Lights to include Pedestrian phasing.
Proposed and agreed that this issue be brought forward so that Glenda could hear the concerns of residents.

- ☒ There is currently no pedestrian phasing on the lights of this junction that is used by many resident including families going to and from schools in n Kensington.
- ☒ Jay explained the long saga that resulted in the Westminster Council bidding to TfL for £500k.
- ☒ TfL responded with only £55k that would provide larger traffic islands.
- ☒ Glenda asked about the accident records and was told that there had been many vehicular accidents but not so many personal ones.
- ☒ Glenda asked that she be sent details of the case to date and promised to look into the matter.

4. **Safer Neighbourhoods Report:** Indi Johal reported that:

- ☒ Smart Water kits being piloted in Buller Rd .
- ☒ Noted that the water could also be bought on-line for £100
- ☒ The team are keen to help residents set up Neighbourhood Watch groups.

Concern expressed about the number of early morning police raids on a family on Pember Rd and the rude and intimidating behaviour of the armed officers. The Chair intervened to point out that such concerns should be addressed to the Borough Commander, not the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Resident asked if the police compared the style of graffiti across the area as a distinctive tag had recently appeared quite widely. Avril suggested that residents tack pictures of graffiti as soon as it appears and send to Brent. Cllr Simon Green asked that he also be kept informed as he chased up this issue several times.

There would be a meeting on Safer Neighbourhoods on Wednesday 14th at 7pm at Queen ' s Park police station.

7. **Highways and Byways:**

- ☒ **Harrow Rd pavements:** Great concern expressed at the state of the pavements after the installation of conduits for fibre-optic cables. Cllr Simon Green agreed to arrange a visit from Brent Environment Dept next week.

PO Collection Office

- ☒ A PO collection office has opened on the corner of Wellington Rd and Harrow Rd, but only for residents in W10 and W11. Members thought it was ridiculous that they still had to go to Harlesden when this new facility was in the Triangle. Cllr Green reported that he had written to the Chair of the Post Office proposing that the residents of the Triangle be able to collect their post from the new office.

8. **Street Care and Cleaning:**

- ☒ **CCTV:** It was asked if we could get CCTV at the junction of Kilburn Lane and Chamberlayne Rd (& Buller and Ilbert St). Cllr Dimoldenberg from Westminster was keen on using CCTV to deter crime but Brent Council say they have no funding available

9. **Utilities and**

Waste Collection:

- ☒ **Dust Bins:** KTRA member Will W has set up a Google address for details (pictures) of bins that have been left obstructing paths after emptying. The site is set up so that it promptly forwards the pictures to Selvin Rodney at Brent. The meeting was told that the staff clearing the bins on the Harrow Rd had been put on probation for 6 weeks as a result of complaints

Cemetery Wall:

- ☒ The meeting was told that English Heritage had made an offer to the General Cemetery Company £200k for phase 1 of the work, but that this requires match funding. They are still considering whether to provide a further £375k to complete the repairs

Street Trees

- Council Officers say that the pollarding of the trees on Harrow Rd has been delayed due to the bad weather in the early part of the year Gary Rimmer said the task is still due to be done.
- Great concern that trees on Halstow (?) being ring barked possibly by dogs. Agreed that the trees need cages to protect them. But some recent damage has been patched up with Gaffer tape that might save the tree.

11. AOB

- KTRA Street Party:** Ruth offered to co-ordinate. Her offer was accepted with thanks.
- Next Meeting: Monday 10th MAY** (2nd Monday due to Bank Holiday) Chair Will Waddington. Minutes: Gail Gibson.