

Kensal Triangle Residents Association

Meeting 19th August 2014

Kensal Rise Baptist Tabernacle, Buller Road

7.30pm

Present; as list

In attendance

Councillors James Densilow. Neil Nerva, Eleanor Southwood

Sergeant Richard Rossington

Chair Ruth Ward

Minutes; Jay Venn. *NB, it was not possible to record the names of every speaker, as many did not give names to the Chair when speaking*

Local Policing Safer Neighbourhoods Report.

Our local Officer, Sergeant Richard Rossington reported that the area has been mostly quiet. He also reported that he is moving on to another posting, and the Graham Day is retiring. KTRA gave him our warm thanks for good work in the area, which was seconded by the three local councillors.

Brent Community Safety has a new ASB and Crime Manager, Justin H.

Buller Road

The meeting considered the problems of Buller Road at length. Jo, a resident, and others reported that there have been a number of burglaries in the last 3-4 months, and snatch and grab raids. The perpetrators get away by running or cycling through the alley into Compton Road, where the police cannot quickly follow. Crimes tend to happen in the afternoon, and it has been some people's experience that even if they call for help, there is no response from neighbours, and that police response time is very slow. The alley is overgrown with hedging plants, and very dark. It is often full of rubbish, and there have been cases of used hypodermic needles being dumped. There is also a much-used fly tipping point at the base of the tree opposite the end of the alley in Compton Road. Buller Road is also used for people parking cars to visit Paradise.

Various solutions were considered and discussed, with the Councillors and the Community Safety manager giving such answers as they were able to furnish.

Can CCTV be installed?

CCTV installation is possible, but there is as yet no timescale for it. Camera budgets are restricted, and it may take time to become available. Signage relating to CCTV often acted as a deterrent by itself, and might be a possibility.

Could the alley be closed? A gate with a pass key for residents?

The alley is a public road, so there would have to be a lengthy and probably unsuccessful legal enquiry to attempt to close it: the police did try to get a temporary closure when there was a big problem with stolen motorcycles, but were unable to get legal approval to do so.

The alley is used by a lot of people for access to and from Kilburn Lane, one lady mentioned that as a person with disabilities, closing the alley would severely restrict her movements. Closure or pass key access were agreed not to be viable options.

Other possibilities?

Justin mentioned that an initiative to tag property with Smart water has worked very well in Harlesden, and is worth considering. The police have no Smartwater supplies at the moment, but a kit can be bought and shared by several households

Setting up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area could also prove to be effective.

Can it be cleaned?

The councillors will look to getting the alley cleaned and tidied up. They mentioned the Council's new app to report fly tipping, both for this area, and any other - the app will send any photo straight to the council for immediate attention. It does work, and reporting repeated incidents will create 'hotspots' which will help the Council target problem areas more efficiently. (more generally, Chamberlayne Road is getting timed rubbish collections twice a day, which is helping prevent a build up of rubbish - all to the good) Both the contractors, Veolia, and Community Payback teams can be utilised to help clear up problem areas.

Better cleaning maintenance and lighting would all help. Councillors agreed to look into this, and to the general observation that wheelie bins were left strewn about after emptying. Many of the crimes committed were carried out in daylight, but it was generally felt that better night illumination would be of great benefit. The street cleaning contract has also been changed, rather than operating to a frequency, streets are supposedly maintained to a standard - generally resulting in fewer cleaning visits. Call 020 8939 5050 to report any problems.

It was felt by most of the meeting that the problem of cars being parked while their owners visited Paradise was not confined to Buller Road; in fact the inhabitants of Pember, Wellington and Compton in particular got parking related to all three local pubs.

Queens Park Day

This will be the 14th September. KTRA have a presence very year; it is a good opportunity to talk to people and catch up with neighbours.
Compton Road

Social Concern

A lady reported concerns about an elderly lady in Compton Road; councillors will check that she is known to the appropriate services. Her name and address were given, but are not recorded here, for preserving her privacy.

Landers Monumental Masons

This little building is threatened with demolition and replacement with flats. It may be Victorian? Nobody quite knows It is actually in RBK&C, but as all the residents on

that side of the Harrow Road are dead ones, we will have to do something, if we feel strongly about it.

Should we try and save it? A vote was taken

For Action 22 Against 0 Abstentions 1

The councillors reminded the meeting that they are not allowed to hold up application processes - they HAVE to process applications as they come in, within a time frame

AOB

Ladbroke Road Crossing

It looks like pedestrian phasing at the lights is going to happen - watch this space.

Paper Visitor Parking permits

Will these continue? Yes?

Artisan Mews

This is a big problem,; one landlord has bought several properties in the Mews, and has subdivided them illegally, letting them to DSS claimants. There are massive problems with overcrowding and drugs. It seems that the Council is doing nothing; the landlord advertises in the Brent Magazine. He has also bought a big property at 842 Harrow Road, and persistently puts in planning applications for work that looks like it will be a hostel

The Council are going for an Enforcement notice at Harrow Road, and in the Artisan Quarter, to try and solve the problem.

Film Night

6th September, weather willing, there will be a film at the Kensal Cinema! (corner of Bayford Road - bring a blanket!)

Street Cleaning on Kilburn Lane Is poor - there is a lot of grease and fat from food shops

Speeding on Wakeman Rod

Can there be speed bumps?

Carnival

There will be loos on Warfield and up near the station, and steam cleaning will happen afterwards. Carnival is spreading - it really affects Chamberlayne Road too, it is difficult to get it accepted.

Could we have access to parking elsewhere in the borough during Carnival?

Basements

The craze for digging out basements appears to be reaching Pember Road - the Council does not have a policy on basement approval or otherwise, making changes to policies is very slow.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm, with many thanks to Buller Road Baptist Tabernacle members for their welcome and hospitality.