

Kensal Triangle Residents Association



Monthly Meeting

February 7th 2011, 7.30pm Upstairs Room, William IV

Chair – Jay Venn, Minutes – Gail Gibson

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. **Apologies** : Andy Bradfield, Ruth Ward, Will Waddington, Harry True, Martin Ward, Dave Halbury, Cllr James Denselow

3. Minutes Of Previous Meeting

3.1 Accuracy

3.2 Matters Arising - none

4. Policing - Safer Neighbourhood Team Report

4.1 Crime Figures - 1 residential burglary on Wakeman Road reported but no car crime in January. Ward Panel meeting was held in January and this reported crime figures are down by 30%.

A resident reported at tonight's meeting that there was a car incident - someone stole a vehicle and bashed parked cars in Rainham Road. SNT said this was a road accident report not a crime.

4.2 Dangerous water leak continues at the Total Garage on Harrow Road - causing accidents. SNT will look at this and see who is responsible, Thames Water or the garage.

4.3 The SNT team looks safe from any cuts for the foreseeable future.

5. Closure of Kensal Rise Library

This seems to be more or less a done deal, despite an excellent campaign to save the library. There is a national campaign idea to offset cuts is for people to work as community groups independently. Lots of action and campaigning going on but is it enough to save the libraries? £3 million has been allocated for a 'super' library in Willesden despite local cuts. Brent is committed to the building contract but it was suggested that maybe they could cut back on staff/books to help wider community libraries being axed. Cllr Michael Adeyeye suggests keep campaigning to see if there is a way to save it, although Brent needs £800,000 to save its small libraries. Apparently Brent bought the freehold of Kensal Rise library, last year from Oxford University, why did they do this if closure was planned? KTRA proposed we send our support for Kensal Rise library and to formulate a letter discussed at tonight's meeting - unanimous support for this, no abstentions: **"The KTRA condemn and oppose the closure of Kensal Rise Library and call upon our elected representatives to find a way to provide the means to save this valued local facility"**.

Jude's letter will also ask Brent Council to cut back/scale down on civic centre to help save community libraries: **"KTRA ask Brent Council to review their plans to fund the cost of building a new library section for the Civic Centre and propose a scale back development, over a 2 year period, in order to reallocate this funding to support existing libraries in the borough currently threatened with closure"**.

Meanwhile to help, we can all vote on Brent's website and use physical action by taking books out on loan on a regular basis.

6. Street Care & Cleansing

6.1 Brent Waste & Recycling Strategy - nothing to report at tonight's meeting.

7. Highways & Byways

7.1 Ladbrooke Grove / Harrow Road Crossing - update from Jay Venn. Small progress - Avril Mackintosh and Jay went to Houses of Parliament with MP Glenda Jackson, for a meeting with the heads of transport

from Brent, Westminster and Kensington. In the short term, Westminster is responsible for 2 thirds of the junction and has agreed money for minor upgrades: wider centre islands for safer pedestrian crossing and colouring of tarmac. Ladbroke Grove / Harrow Road crossing is the only junction without a controlled pedestrian crossing on the entire Harrow Road stretch! TFL say they need to do their own survey to see how it will affect all traffic to upgrade this junction. Meanwhile, KTRA will keep the pressure up.

7.2 HS2 Rail Tunnel - Peter Watmough reporting to the meeting: positive relevant things have been announced - another new tunnel link has to be built from HS1 to HS2 planned from Kings Cross to Old Oak Common, so the HS2 line is now planned to go alongside existing railway lines and the ventilation/emergency shaft has been relocated from Buller Road to Queens Park (next to the station). We need to keep watching developments and keep pressure on. Also suggested we need to double check the HS2 tunnel is more than 25m underground, recommended for minimum for no noise/vibration. Peter will try and get someone official from TFL to come and talk about HS2 and for any reassurances. The depth of the planned tunnel varies from 25 to 40 metres so it would be interesting to establish why the variance. A resident suggested we need a sub-committee for HS2, as this issue is ongoing and complicated. Glenda Jackson could be asked to get involved as she is an ex transport minister, as well as our MP.

8. Planning & Development

8.1 Cemetery Wall - most of the wall along the Harrow Road has been taken down for rebuilding. Since the wall has come down, residents have noticed a high pitched noise - it could be from the gas cylinders near Sainsburys, or railway maintenance. Can everyone report back if they know what the noise is to see if we can attempt to sort it.

8.2 Harrow Road Post Office Collection Office - nothing to report.

8.3 A grade II listed building on Harrow Road - letter to KTRA has notified that this building's garage has been turned into a flat and could be against planning/safety regulations. KTRA opposed to illegal, multi-occupancy flats and will investigate further.

8.4 Compton Road Car Club - suggested there are better spaces outside the car park (near factory), end of Wakeman Road and opposite the back of the Total garage. Not all Compton Road residents are happy to lose 2 resident car parking bays to a car club scheme, although none at tonight's meeting to discuss. KTRA in favour of the scheme but can we get space allocation moved - Jay to write a letter.

9. KTRA Membership & Organisation - nothing to report.

10. Utilities

10.1 Halstow Road - following on from dog-scratching tree damage last year, one tree has been replaced, although one damaged tree still there. The new tree needs protecting otherwise there could be repeat incidents.

10.2 Kensal Green station - despite new grass turfing, some turf is missing and speculation as to whether it has been stolen or badly damaged by vehicles.

10.3 Resident Mollie reported that a £1,000 grant can be allocated by Brent for food growing and suggests we use it to try and plant up a green space in the Triangle. She will find out more for next meeting.

11. Notice Board & Website Updates

11.1 Four Bridges - Ruth Ward - postponed until next meeting.

12. Any Other Business

13. Date and Chair of Next Meeting - Monday March 7.

Jessie - minutes and Hannah - chair.