



Mill Hill Neighbourhood Forum – Committee Meeting, 22 January 2018

Minutes

Present – John Gillett (Chair), Ali Syed, Caroline Oliver, Clive Blass, Cheryl Farrow, Suzanne Brett, Bonnie Overlander, Zoe Samuelson, Val Duschinsky, Susan Connolly, Roger Tichborne, Mike Barker (minutes).

Apologies – Christina Wong, Peter Neil, Richard Logue, Paul Edwards

Minutes of November meeting – approved

New Pentavia Retail Park proposals – JG said the formal planning application had been submitted and included what we broadly expected from the last public exhibition e.g.

- An increase in the number of flats to over 700
- A redesign including a 16-storey tower at the south end of the site
- Fewer car parking spaces
- No car access to Bunn's lane.

The Forum would object again to the proposals reiterating many of the points we made about the previous application.

IBSA and Watchtower sites – JG said that the IBSA site had been sold and was likely to be a mixed development of residential properties with some business space. Discussions on the Watchtower site continued with the potential for the site to be used for a secondary school, retirement home and some residential development. We would continue to monitor and try to influence proposals to ensure a good fit with the draft neighbourhood plan.

Sweetree Farm – JG said a retrospective application had been submitted for the “farm buildings” already on the site. In reality the buildings were mainly portable offices and storage huts. The application also sought the “change of use” to “care farming”. Residents had already made over 80 objections to the proposals which were on Green Belt and the Forum agreed we would object as well, especially given the potential for further building on the site that had been signalled by the owner.

The tragic killing of Mr Patel and crime on the Broadway – Events over the previous few weeks had been shocking for everyone in Mill Hill. The killing of Mr Patel was a tragedy and his family would be forever scarred by it. The response of the Mill Hill community had been heartening both in the donations given to help Mr Patel's family and, in the sentiments expressed by so many people. But crime generally in the Broadway had increased including robberies at knife point. Roger raised the “Watford Business against Crime” scheme as something we could work with the local Mill Hill shops to see if it could be adopted here. It was agreed the Forum should work with local businesses to see what we can do make improvements. A meeting with local businesses was due to take place at the end of February.

New Draft London Plan – Mike summarised the plan following its publication in early December. The new “design lead” approach proposed in the draft would have big implications on the scaling and massing of new development, something the Forum would need to consider given Pentavia and other developments in the local area. At almost 500 pages the new draft London Plan was a daunting document to go through so Mike agreed to circulate the London plan summary done by Litchfields.

Memorial service for Mr Patel – The meeting noted that a memorial service would be held at the Sacred Heart Church on 10th February.

Mike Barker – 25 June 2018