South of the Borough Neighbourhood Committee

8 OCTOBER 2015

7.30pm– 11:20 pm

Chessington North & Hook Ward
Councillor Andrew Day
Councillor Margaret Thompson
Councillor Clive Chase

Chessington South Ward
Councillor Rachel Reid (Chair)
Councillor Patricia Bamford
*Councillor Shiraz Mirza

Tolworth & Hook Rise Ward
Councillor Lorraine Rolfe (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Thay Thayalan
Councillor Tom Davies

Community Advisers: Simon Jakeman and *Paul Pickhaver

* Absent

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Shiraz Mirza and Paul Pickhaver, community adviser.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on items for decision at the meeting.

[In relation to the Gosbury Hill consultation, Councillor Lorraine Rolfe indicated that she is a patient at one of the practices at Gosbury Hill and Councillors Andrew Day (as Chair of the Health Overview Panel) and Rachel Reid (as a member of the Health Overview Panel) indicated that the Gosbury Hill consultation was an issue which has been discussed at the Panel.]

34. CHANGES TO GOSBURY HILL GP LED HEALTH CENTRE

Mr Tony May and Dr Vincent Grippaudo of the Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group (KCCG) attended the meeting to give a brief presentation on the KCCG/NHS Kingston consultation on proposals to relocate some services from Gosbury Hill Health Centre to Surbiton Health Centre. The consultation runs from 15 September to 10 November.

A briefing paper was included in the agenda at Annex 1 to Appendix A. Further details about the consultation and how to respond can be found on Kingston Clinical
The GP-led health service at Gosbury Hill has been in place since 2010. The service offers urgent or routine same-day GP appointments, subject to availability. These appointments can be accessed by patients registered with the GP-led health centre service, with another GP Practice or not registered at all. Appointments are available 7 days a week 8am-8pm. The appointment-only approach has led to the service being used far less than planned. The evidence from other walk-in services in the country is that moving the service to a more central location and changing the service from an appointment-only service to a walk-in service would increase uptake.

The pattern of attendance for urgent care services at the Gosbury Hill clinic shows that people from across Kingston are using the service and the proposed relocation to the Surbiton Health Centre is being proposed because the Surbiton Health Centre is considered to have better transport links (with Surbiton railway station and bus routes 281, 406 and 418 nearby) so the new location will increase access to the service. 6,436 urgent-care patients used the Gosbury Hill service in the period July 2014-July 2015 and this is considered to be an under-use of the resource. The intention is that by relocating the resources as a walk-in service at Surbiton, this provision will be available to take some pressure off Kingston Hospital A&E. Urgent and emergency care services are facing increasing pressures linked to an ageing population and record numbers of people are attending hospital A&E departments, which are intended for conditions that are life-threatening or present an immediate risk to long term health.

The GP list for registered patients at the practice remains around 2000 which is not financially viable and these patients could re-register with the two other practices sharing the same premises in the health centre or with one of the two other GP practices within 0.5 miles of Gosbury Hill.

The Committee and members of the public commented as follows on the proposals - for the comments to be referred back to the KCCG as part of their consultation:

- Concerns were expressed about the lack of public transport from South of the Borough to the Surbiton Health Centre and NHS England/KCCG were requested to lobby TfL to support the requests which RBK has already made for a bus route which will take residents to the Surbiton Health Centre, possibly on a route which incorporates Tolworth Hospital and Kingston Hospital also
- Concern was expressed about the reduction of hours (equivalent to a reduction from 84 to 36 hours per week) – it was noted that NHS England has set the budget for this and a justification is being given that, as the doctor and nurse would operate a ‘drop-in centre’ at Surbiton, more patients would be able to be seen in the time.
- Concern was expressed that there had been a waste of public money as £365,000 had been spent on setting up a ‘walk-in centre’ at Gosbury Hill, with two treatment rooms, which had then ceased to operate as a walk in centre, and now it is not clear for what purpose those two treatment rooms are going to be used
1800 patients will need to re-register – a request was made that help is given to the vulnerable elderly to re-register

Concern was expressed that there was insufficient hard copy consultation literature in the local area, for example in the local notice-boards, nor had there been any door-to-door leaflet drops in the vicinity. A comment was made that staff in Gosbury Hill clinic did not appear to know what the consultation proposals were – though it was indicated that the practice managers had been thoroughly informed

There has been local opposition from the beginning to the walk-in centre being located at Gosbury Hill, as it had not been considered by opponents as a suitable location, and therefore the proposal now to relocate the service away from Gosbury Hill was supported.

35. LOCAL POLICE UPDATE

Police Sergeant Peter Forder and Police Constable Andy Elton and Police Community Support Officer, Simon Briggs, of the Chessington South Police team attended the meeting to give a brief update on the work of the team which is now based at the Hook Parade office. During the discussion, the following matters were discussed:

- the reduction in crimes of burglary, assaults, theft and assault with injury in the area
- the increasing use of IT and social media to engage with local people
- local residents’ concern about the likely implications of the level of cuts being made on the Metropolitan Police service which may lead to the loss of PCSOs who are valued for their work in engaging with the community
- the request for the Police to give more publicity for the Ward Panel meetings, drop-in surgeries, Virtual Ward Panel and use of GPS ‘tracking’ of police officers on the street and to advertise in the Chessington Chat and Surrey Comet the contact point in the Hook Parade base
- anyone interested in setting up a ‘Neighbourhood Watch’ should contact PCSO Simon Briggs
- the increase in scams and online fraud and how the Metropolitan Police are responding to this with increased resourcing

The Chair thanked the officers for attending

36. IMPROVING THE WAY WE CONSULT AND ENGAGE WITH RESIDENTS

The Committee considered a report which updated Members and residents on the work that has taken place, and is planned, in order to improve the way Kingston Council engages and consults with residents, partners and service users.

Kingston Council has a clearly stated desire to improve the quality of engagement and consultation activities across the organisation. An audit of current consultation activities carried out across the Council has revealed a number of issues that need to be resolved. Measures taken in recent months have already made significant improvements to the way the Council consults and engages, but it has not resolved all the issues; many of which are symptomatic of deep-rooted organisational culture
and processes. An intensive ‘package of interventions’ (including new Best Practice Guidelines) has been developed that will be rolled out in phases starting with the two service areas that produce the highest volume of consultations in the organisation: Parking and Highways and Planning and Transportation. This package of interventions will help service areas make significant improvements to the way they consult and engage with local people.

Jo Shannon from the Communications team presented the report to the meeting and demonstrated how residents can use the online consultation portal works and how this can assist officers to improve their consultation processes.

Resolved that

1. the progress in improving the way Kingston Council engages and consults with residents, partners and service users, and the activities planned over the next 12 months are noted; and

2. the following views and comments of the Committee and meeting are considered as part of the finalisation of proposals to be reported to the next meeting of the Residents Committee:

- it would be helpful for the Council’s Communications team to work with partner agencies in Kingston (eg KCCG and NHS England) to share good practice on consultation and engagement eg for synergy, economy and increased responsiveness to residents
- use residents (of all ages) to test functions and services on the Council’s website and feedback their comments for improvement – especially for the Search function
- provide more inbuilt Wizard programmes on the Council’s website to facilitate online processes
- the Committee would wish for ‘Neighbourhood Committees’ to be included in the list of methods of engagement at Q10 of the Best Practice Guidance (also relevant to the list in the Quick Method Selector at Annex 3 of the report) – many residents and Residents Association representatives value being able to come face to face with councillor and officers and raise issues directly with them – there is a concern that if the role of Neighbourhood Committees is reduced, there will be more decision-making ‘at the Guildhall’ which can appear to be not so responsive to the views of residents in the South of the Borough
- the needs of those residents who don’t have access to ICT or ability to use it must be remembered when developing engagement and consultation processes
- recognise that there are officers with a great deal of successful experience in running consultations and engagement in the different services
- requested a progress report to be brought back to Neighbourhood Committees

Voting – agreed unanimously
37. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

From 8.15pm to 8:45 pm the Committee dealt with questions and other matters raised by residents. A summary of the questions and answers is attached as Annex 1 but does not form part of the Minutes of the meeting.

38. PETITIONS

No petitions were presented.

39. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2015 are agreed as a correct record.

40. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGER'S REPORT

The Neighbourhood Manager, Barry Allen, gave a presentation on various issues of interest in the Neighbourhood. The presentation included updates on:

- The Big London Energy Switch
- Local maintenance companies invited to contact new Facilities Management contractor (Engie) at business@kingston.gov.uk
- Mental Health Month and World Mental Health Day
- Fit as a Fiddle free courses for over 50s – contact 020 8942 8256 or grace.shorthouse@staywell services.org.uk
- Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings

41. NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

At the beginning of each four year municipal term it is customary for each Neighbourhood Committee to review its working arrangements. Given that there were significant governance changes agreed by Council in July 2015, when Council agreed a revised focus for Neighbourhood Committees and amended Terms of Reference, the Neighbourhood Committee were given the opportunity to review and amend their working arrangements for the remainder of the municipal term. The Committee: confirmed that they would retain their existing arrangements for public participation (ie 30 minute public question and answer session, contributions during the debate at the discretion of the Chair, opportunity to present petitions, appointment of two Advisory members) ; noted the new provisions for Community Forum meetings and agreed that the Neighbourhood Committee chair would chair the first meeting of the Community Forum.

The new remit for Neighbourhood Committees agreed at July Council is attached at Annex 1 to the report - the main changes are as follows:

- the removal of responsibilities for the Youth Service and Libraries
the restriction of powers over highways and traffic management schemes to those affecting single roads only. Neighbourhood Committees can continue to consider and propose schemes of wider application but these must be referred for approval to the new Residents Committee.

- revisions to the neighbourhoods grants scheme due to come into effect for the 2016/17 financial year. Neighbourhood Grants will cease and will be replaced with Ward Funds, this will enable individual Members, through the relevant Neighbourhood Manager, to consider bids and award funds to community initiatives within their Ward or Neighbourhood.

- amendments to the Planning delegations henceforth applications will be submitted to Neighbourhood Committees

- for determination if the scheme is for no more than 10 units of accommodation and

  (a) either there are a minimum of 10 valid objections and the Chair has requested that the application be reported to Committee, or
  (b) or all relevant ward Members request that the application be submitted to Committee or
  (c) or at the request of the Chair and with the agreement of the Head of Planning and the Chair of the Development Control Committee.

- for consultation if the scheme is a major planning applications and the Head of Planning and Transport, in consultation with the Chairs of Development Control and the relevant Neighbourhood Committee, considers it appropriate.

- specific direction to place a greater focus on community consultation, engagement and leadership, empowering the local communities and building capacity and resilience within them.

- encouragement to promote and support local health and public health provision, cultural, artistic and sporting initiatives and community assurance and cohesion. (Responsibilities for the provision of policies and services within these areas remain with the relevant Strategic Committee.)

- the number of dates set aside for Neighbourhood Committees in the calendar of meetings has been reduced from ten to eight, with three of these reserved for Community forums (about which further information was provided in paragraph 9 of the report).

The Committee noted that it had been agreed as part of the changes at the July Council that information and update items will now in most cases be reported through an Information Pack for Members (which will also be published on the website). The Neighbourhood Committee requested to continue to receive most of their information items particularly the traffic schemes updates and Community Plan updates.
Resolved that

1. the arrangements for public participation set out above (ref paragraphs 6-10 of the report) are agreed;

2. the theme and outline for the first Community Forum meeting (attached at Annex 2 to the report) are agreed - the Neighbourhood Committee will review how these arrangements have worked at its next meeting on 2 December; and

3. licensing matters be dealt with at the Neighbourhood Committee meeting wherever possible, but when necessary a Licensing Sub Committee be established to deal with particular cases which arise.

Voting – unanimous

42. NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR THE FUTURE

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the changes agreed at Council in July in response to the Leader’s report (‘Renewing Kingston’s Democracy Putting the Resident into Power’).

Improving community engagement is at the forefront of the Council’s policies. The Leader of the Council presented a report to Council on 14 July 2015 setting out proposals to improve the way the Council works so as to improve and expand engagement with residents. The report included a number of recommendations for Neighbourhoods. The Leader was clear that the structure of committee meetings is not conducive to achieving future engagement, and the Council needs to listen, interact and engage with people where they are, on their terms and in the ways that are now open to us all. People want more of a say on how services are run and how decisions are taken. This is not just about methods of consultation but about how the Council seeks to engage with residents and let them have a voice in what it does. Community leadership is the key requisite if the Neighbourhoods and their communities are to thrive.

A proposed Community Engagement Plan is attached at Annex 1 to the report for the Neighbourhood to develop to support Neighbourhood Members as community leaders and to increase community engagement.

In relation to the Community Forum meetings, it was noted that one option was to hold these events during the daytime to make them accessible to a different group of residents; however, it would cause practical difficulties for those Neighbourhood Committee members who work during the daytime.

Resolved that

1. the role of Neighbourhoods set out in the Leader’s Report ‘Renewing Kingston’s Democracy Putting the Resident into Power’ is noted; (and it is noted that the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council abstained on this item at the July Council meeting because they considered that the changes should have been subject to public consultation); and
2. The proposed Community Engagement Plan for the Neighbourhood (attached at Annex 1 of the report) is approved, subject to review at a future date, and subject to the following additions:

- develop arrangements with the local Police and other agencies to share engagement events and opportunities eg ward forums, street visits, Residents Association meetings and the Youth Panel at Chessington Community College etc

- ask the community at the Community Forum meetings how they wish to engage with the Council.

Voting – unanimous

43. YOUR MONEY YOU DECIDE COMMUNITY BUDGETING SCHEME RESULTS

The Committee considered the bids for funding from the Neighbourhood’s Community Budgeting Scheme “Your Money You Decide” (YMYD) and the results of the public voting on these bids.

In July 2015 the Committee had allocated £30,000 from the Neighbourhood Improvement Budget for the Your Money You Decide scheme. Community and voluntary groups, residents associations and Council departments were then invited to submit bids for a share of up to £2,000 of a £10,000 budget in each of the 3 electoral wards. The details of the successful bids are outlined in Annex 1 of the report.

Two voting events were held when residents were given the opportunity to vote for their priority order for the bids. The results of this ballot were circulated (as late material ‘Annex 2’ for the report) at the Neighbourhood Committee meeting and the Committee endorsed the order of priority arising from the voting events. The Committee allowed the inclusion of the bid from the Surbiton South Explorer Scouts in the list of those to whom YMYD funds would be allocated, even though the Scouts had not sent a representative to the voting event.

The Committee thanked the Neighbourhood Manager, Barry Allen, and Business Support Officer, Sarah Wright, for their work to support the YMYD scheme.

Resolved that funds be allocated from the Neighbourhood Improvement budget for the successful bids as identified in Annex 2 attached to the Minutes.

Voting - unanimous
The Committee considered the allocation of funding from its underspent 2014/15 budget and from its 2015/16 discretionary funding. The amount of unallocated funds available to the Committee to spend in this financial year is £79,142.

At the last meeting Members suggested projects (set out in Annex 1 to the report) to which they were minded to allocate funds and requested estimated costs be provided. Estimates were provided for all of the schemes except two for which no costings were available:

- the recycling pods from South of the Borough had already been disposed of and therefore the cost of replacing them would be too high; the Chair will discuss this further with the Chair of the Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee as that Committee had not agreed to the removal of the recycling pods from its Neighbourhood.
- a price for implementing a parking scheme at Angus Close would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

In addition, new schemes and bids were suggested at the meeting including:

- late bids for funding submitted for Hook and Chessington library - as attached at Annex 3 to these Minutes
- improvements to Playscape in King George’s Field and replacement bootscrapers
- a scheme to resolve a parking problem on Wilcox Close
- a scheme requested last year for more parking to be provided on Gilders Road by changes to the roundabout and chevron and dropping the kerb
- improvement to the horse paths and horse gate in Chessington.

The Committee also noted the new format of its budget (attached at Annex 2 of the report) following the changes to Neighbourhood Committee remits at the Council meeting on 14 July 2015.

**Resolved** that

1. the Committee’s discretionary funding for 2015/16 and underspend from 2014/15 are allocated to the following projects (estimated costings):

   i. hanging baskets in the three Wards of the Neighbourhood at: Bridge Road (£1,180), North Parade (£630), Fullers Way North (£2,600), Tolworth Broadway (£1,560), Copt Gilders (£780), and Chessington South Station (£1,300) – total: £8,050.

   ii. Cricketers Close - Carriageway resurfacing and footway repair - £20,000

   iii. Hook and Chessington library items as listed in Annex 3 of the Minutes - £4,626

   iv. bootscrapers for King George’s Field and for one of the following parks: King Edwards Field, Churchfields or Malden Rushett playground - £1,000.
2. estimated costs are submitted to the 2 December meeting for improvements to Playscape in King George’s Field and for the following parking schemes: Angus Close, Gilders Road and Wilcox Close; and

3. the Neighbourhood Manager investigate what budget would be appropriate to use to repair the horse gate in Chessington if it is RBK responsibility.

Voting - unanimous

45. NEIGHBOURHOOD GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS  Appendix G

The South of the Borough Neighbourhood Committee has a grants budget of £4,500 for 2015/16. For the remainder of the 2015/16 financial year, Neighbourhood Committees can award grants up to £750 towards the costs of projects or activities run by voluntary organisations in the area.

[From 1 April 2016 Neighbourhood Grants will be replaced by a Neighbourhood Ward Councillors Fund. Details on this fund and how it will work are currently being developed and further information will be provided in due course.]

Resolved that Neighbourhood grants are allocated as follows:

(a) Chessington Cricket Club £750  
(b) Lower Mole Countryside Trust £324

Voting - unanimous

46. STREET NAMING: SITE OF 392 LEATHERHEAD ROAD  Appendix H
CHESSINGTON, KT9 2NN

The Committee considered a street name for a private access road to a site at 392 Leatherhead Road, Chessington, KT9 2NN which is being developed with 5 new houses.

The fire service and the Royal Mail had been consulted on proposed new street names to ensure that residential properties can be located easily.

The developer put forward 3 names in liaison with the Kingston Local History Officer: Rushlight Mews, Crossfield Mews and Cross Hill Mews in order of preference. The preferred name refers to the location of Malden Rushett - ‘Rushett’ means ‘a field of rushes/ grassland’ and a rushlight is a ‘type of candle made with rushes’.

Resolved that the new access road at the site on 392 Leatherhead Road, Chessington is named Rushlight Mews which is the name preferred by the developer.

Voting – unanimous
At its meeting on 15 July 2015 the Neighbourhood Committee had received an initial report on a proposal for a shared cycle/footway on the east side of Jubilee Way. The Committee had approved the scope of the works set out in the report, and identified a number of additional points that were to be considered as part of the initial investigations. The Committee had drawn attention to the potential development taking place in and around Jubilee Way, the potential increase in demand for local facilities, and the need to provide improved infrastructure to encourage the switch to more sustainable modes of transport. A key element of the initial investigation will be to establish the condition of the vegetation along the eastern edge, as concerns were expressed about potential loss to the vegetation along Jubilee Way and the need for greenery along this route was confirmed. The detailed design for the section of the route at the Cox Lane/Jubilee Way transition has been highlighted as a safety issue, and the Committee’s community adviser, Simon Jakeman (a frequent cyclist on this route) will be involved in the feasibility work for the scheme.

The Committee considered a progress report on development of outline proposals for a cycle route along Jubilee Way and proposals for a consultation/approval process.

In response to queries from a member of the public about the value for money of the scheme and potential conflict with pedestrians, it was pointed out that the preponderance of HGV traffic on Jubilee Way makes it unattractive to cyclists so an improved route would provide a useful facility and there is currently a relatively low level of pedestrian activity in this section of Jubilee Way.

Officers will be liaising with stakeholder groups such as Kingston Cycle Campaign and Cox Lane Business Forum. The Committee considered whether there were any directly affected residential or business properties, and it was pointed out that there is a resident at the King George’s Field Bowling Club. It was also requested that the Kingston Biodiversity Network are consulted on the proposals. Officers will prepare a draft scheme in consultation with Ward members (and the above parties), to be reported back to Neighbourhood Committee for approval.

Resolved that the environmental impacts of the scheme continue to be investigated and the cycle scheme for the southern section of the Jubilee Way be developed in accordance with the consultation arrangements as set out above.

Voting - unanimous
Committee to appoint a Ward Councillor to serve on the Tolworth Hospital redevelopment working group.

Tolworth Hospital is one of the SW London and St George Mental Health Trust's main sites and has provided local mental health services since 1994. The Trust has been working on plans to improve the site and has secured outline planning permission for the development of new hospital accommodation there. This redevelopment will make Tolworth Hospital a modern centre of excellence, supporting the delivery of expert mental healthcare in the best possible facilities. The outline planning application for the site was approved by Kingston Council in March 2015.

The plans to develop the facilities at Tolworth Hospital were supported by the 2014 public consultation on the future location of inpatient mental health services in southwest London, which approved the two-site option to develop inpatient centres of excellence at Tolworth and Springfield Hospitals.

Based on current timelines, construction of Tolworth Hospital's new facilities is not expected to begin until Autumn/Winter 2017/18. Work is underway on the detailed designs for the new mental health accommodation, involving patients, staff, and partners to ensure that the new facilities are of the highest possible standard and meet our services' needs. The Trust is committed to working with the local community throughout this process.

The Tolworth Community Engagement Steering Group will ensure local stakeholder views on the plans for Tolworth are fed in to the Mental Health Trust in order to maximise the benefits of the scheme for the community as a whole. Local ward councillors and members of Healthwatch, community groups, the Trust's shadow council of governors and staff are involved as stakeholder representatives in this group. A separate steering group is also being established to focus specifically on transport and access issues relating to the regeneration work.

Resolved that Councillor Lorraine Rolfe is appointed as a Tolworth and Hook Rise Ward councillor onto Community Engagement Steering Group, and if two members can be nominated, Councillor Margaret Thompson, is also nominated or is appointed as a substitute member for when Councillor Rolfe cannot attend.

Voting – unanimous

49. INFORMATION SECTION

RESOLVED that the following items be noted:

1. Potential forthcoming business
2. Housing voids update
3. Planning Appeals update
4. Traffic Schemes Updates
   (a) RBK schemes
   (b) TIL schemes
5. Community Plan update
Concerns were raised about the following:

- Marking of lines on zebra crossing on Leatherhead Road – requested one year ago
- There had been no communication with affected residents about the resurfacing of the Hook Road northbound carriageway which involved works until midnight
- There has been day-burning street lighting on Hook Road which has been reported to TfL but not rectified
- The signage on the Bridge Road service road has not been replaced yet
- The problem of speeding on Hook Rise South is still not being properly responded to in the TfL updates – the concerns of residents are about dangerous speeding and lorries now, not about implications of future works
- Parking on Leas Close by contractors’ lorries
- The countdown system showing how long it will be before the lights change should be introduced for crossings on Hook Road particularly at St Paul’s School and Firs Court

Signed………………………………………………………Date………………

Chair
Public Questions

1. King George’s Fields

Mrs Vicki Harris asked the following questions about Kings George’s Playing Fields. The Neighbourhood Manager, Barry Allen, read out replies provided by the Parks and Open Spaces Officer, Rob Waite:

(1) Litter picking. What is specified in the contract for litter picking? Quadron turn up most weekday mornings, empty the bins and sometimes pick up obvious bits of litter. There doesn't appear to be any litter clearing undertaken over the weekends when the place is full of footballers on both days. Just last weekend there was a dead fox lying at the side of the field for 3 days.

Reply

Litter is 5 days a week by the Mon-Fri crew and then its on the litter round for both days at the weekend. Its generally done at the same time as CC and PBFL are on site at the weekend and as a rule CC and PBFL have agreed to pick up their own rubbish after their bookings slots.

(2) Boot scrapers. Quite a few of the boot scrapers are broken, falling apart and with no brushes.

Reply

£500 for new brushes

(3) Trees. A tree survey was carried out a couple of years ago but nothing seems to have been done. Are there any plans for pruning any of the trees or removing dead ones?

Reply

Tree survey report has been provided attached. Works are required and have been quoted for. Health and safety works take priority and tree officers have flagged up other sites with urgent works required before undertaking works at King George’s.

(4) Wildflower area. Tens of thousands of pounds were spent on this area to create a pleasant place for people to sit. Today it looks like an overgrown wilderness. The benches that were installed were stolen, weeds cover the area where the benches were, a few spring flowers struggle through the weeds each year. Is something ever going to be done to make this area the pleasant seating area that was this committee’s desire?

Reply

Wildflower seeds were sown again this year but area is just in too much shade to be fully conductive for wildflower planting. Our horticultural development officer is looking at external funding options for improved facilities within the park and this is an area that should be included. What that will be is open to suggestion, but may need to move away now from wildflower at this location.
(5) Playscape. Again, a great deal of money was spent on this innovative play area. A lot of the wooden elements in this area are rotting and need replacing. Fencing around the skate bowl is being broken and needs repairing. Even with this, it is still a well used area but it needs some tender loving care at the moment, as broken fencing and rotting wood is just left lying around. Can some attention be paid to this to clean up Playscape so it doesn't look so unloved? A lot of litter around the edges of Playscape also adds to the feeling of neglect.

Reply
Rob Waite replies that he totally agrees this needs some attention, and will have a good tidy up within the next month. Many of the wooden stepping logs and seats have, or are, rotting and playground contractors ARD have order for removal of those items. We will need to look at more sustainable and robust material to replace these.

(6) Why was no football pitch maintenance carried out this year? There are still goal mouths with holes and depressions that were clearly not filled in and grass seeded during the summer.

Reply
100 tonnes of top dressing were laid on the Field using five 20 tonne eight-wheel trucks. These renovations were done around May/June due to the usual PBFL and CC football tournaments which were held at the site after the regular football season finished. This had pushed back renovations at this site to being one of the last in the Borough.

Mr Jim Taylor on behalf of the Chessington and District Residents Association raised the following questions:

2. Cumulative impact of development proposals

At the recent ‘conversation’ meeting with the leader of the Council we heard that the three proposed major developments in the Tolworth Broadway and Tolworth roundabout area must be considered individually. They were the proposals to build a large number of housing units on the Toby Jug and Government offices site, the conversion of Tolworth Tower to flats, and rebuilding the eastern side of Tolworth Broadway into four high rise tower blocks of flats. Of course we understand that each individual project must be closely examined. However, the implication of the Council Leader’s statement is that the cumulative impact of the three planning proposals will be ignored. This approach fails to respect the policies given in the Council’s Core Strategy that protects the environment, as well as the existing character and housing density of this urban area. Have the Council abandoned the Core Strategy in favour of developers being allowed to build what they like where they like?

Reply
The following written reply provided by the Neighbourhood Development Control lead officer, Barry Lomax, was read out:
Each planning application should be considered on its own merits. There are occasions where other existing or approved development may be relevant in determining whether significant effects are likely as a consequence of a proposed development.

3. Infrastructure and population projections

We are sure that you understand that Kingston’s current local infrastructure will not cope with a significant population growth. In an already highly developed urban environment, where local infrastructure has had no significant improvement for many years, even decades, what comes first? Is it the enhancement of the infrastructure or the building of major housing developments? Has the Council formulated a set of population growth numbers that have been correlated to an infrastructure development plan? If so, can this please be made public?

Reply

The following written reply provided by the Neighbourhood Development Control lead officer, Barry Lomax, was read out:

Housing and infrastructure are not mutually exclusive - There is a strategic need for housing in the Borough, which can only be delivered with the necessary infrastructure to support it. The Council’s Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) identifies gaps in infrastructure to serve the Borough’s existing population and sets out future infrastructure needs as a result of developments arising from the Core Strategy.

In summary, the IDP:

- states that new development within the Borough needs to be supported by a level and type of infrastructure appropriate to meet the needs of existing and future residents.
- uses population projections to help the Council and other infrastructure providers to plan for future needs, especially where services are specific to certain age groups and in different parts of the Borough help to assess the extent of need for services in different areas.
- formed part of the evidence to support the Core Strategy - an updated IDP will be produced as part of preparation of a new Local Plan for the Borough and will use updated population projections to identify an needs.

4. Developer financial contributions for pre development discussions

At a recent Kingston Society meeting the architect of the Tesco Tolworth development said that his team had been working closely with Kingston’s planning officers during the previous two years. He said the planning officers had actively participated in the planning process, and gave specific details. How much time did
our planning officers spend working on this project with Tesco in the last two years, and how much has this cost the Council? We understand that developers do make a financial contribution. Can we please have both figures? We are also very interested in the similar sets of figures for the first and third Tesco proposals. We understand that you might prefer to reply in writing.

Reply

The following written reply provided by the Neighbourhood Development Control lead officer, Barry Lomax, was read out:

Pre-application engagement by prospective applicants offers significant potential to improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system and improve the quality of planning applications. To this end there have been four planning applications lodged by Tesco for the redevelopment of the Former Government Offices site all of which have been subject to pre-application discussions.

06/10260/OUT, 09/10030/OUT, 12/10141/FUL and 15/10074/FUL

The first two applications were received before the Council operated a pre-application charging service. Under the Council’s adopted Pre-Application Advice Service, the third and fourth proposals have been categorised as Category A due to their size and complexity. A bespoke fee has therefore been charged based on the complexity of the proposal. The Council has not recorded the individual time spent on the pre-application discussions by Officers.

5. Copt Gilders bus stop – access for wheelchair users

Mr I Hogben requested a progress update on the request for a built-out kerb at the bus stop outside Apollo Court in Gilders Road so that buses can deploy their wheelchair ramps to provide easier accessibility for wheelchair users to board buses there. Ian Price, Neighbourhood Lead Traffic Engineer, replied that he would raise this issue with TfL when he meets them in late October.

6. 106 Gilders Road dropped kerb

A resident requested a section of dropped kerb outside 106 Gilders Road for ease of accessibility for wheelchair users and prams. Currently they can cross 90% of the way from the eastern kerb (corner of Gilders Road/Filby Road), but cannot get up onto the far (western) pavement once they’ve crossed the northbound carriageway; Mr Price said he would look into this matter.

7. Recycling boxes

Residents reported that they had requested recycling boxes, recycling bags and food waste receptacle d several times over a number of weeks and these had still not yet been provided. Councillor Rachel Reid indicated that she would raise this matter on the resident’s behalf with the Council’s Waste and Recycling team.
8. **Filby Road flooding**

Mr Hogben reported that the problem which he had previously reported of flooding being caused by a hole under Filby Road was still not resolved and water had been gushing out of this after storms. Ian Price said that he would report this again to Afe Tesfay to investigate.

9. **Grass verge junction of Filby Road and Thrigby Road**

Residents reported that the grass verge was in a very poor state of repair and this had been reported a long time ago.
Your Money You Decide Community Budgeting Scheme Results:

Results of public voting process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name of the Project</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Budget Remaining</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1st Tolworth Scouts Group Hall</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>£8,000</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Express CIC support services for Families affected by autism</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>£6,000</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Surbiton Royal British Legion Youth Marching Band</td>
<td>£666</td>
<td>£5,334</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Man &amp; Boy</td>
<td>£666</td>
<td>£4,668</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Broad Oaks Action Group</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£3,668</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1st Hook Scout Group</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£2,668</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kingston Borough Bands Tattoo</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£1,668</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Surbiton South Explorer Scouts</td>
<td>£350</td>
<td>£1,318</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All 8 bids can be funded from the £10,000 budget allocated for the purpose. However, Surbiton South Explorer Scouts did not attend this event which is against the published rules. A total of 47 votes were cast within Tolworth & Hook Rise Ward.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name of the Project</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Budget Remaining</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2nd Hook Scout Group</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£9,000</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Man and Boy</td>
<td>£666</td>
<td>£8,334</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Surbiton Royal British Legion Marching Band</td>
<td>£666</td>
<td>£7,668</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Oxygen</td>
<td>£634</td>
<td>£7,034</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The Phoenix Club</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£6,034</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chessington District Resident's Association</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£5,034</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chessington Sports Centre</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>£3,034</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All 7 bids can be funded from the £10,000 budget allocated for the purpose. A total of 37 votes were cast within Chessington North & Hook Ward.
Table 3. Participatory Budgeting - Chessington North & Hook  Final Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name of the Project</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Budget Remaining</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2nd Hook Scout Group</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£9,000</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1st Hook Scout Group</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£8,000</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Alzheimer's Society</td>
<td>£780</td>
<td>£7,220</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Surbiton Royal British Legion Youth Marching Band</td>
<td>£666</td>
<td>£6,554</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kingston Borough Bands Tattoo</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£5,554</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The Phoenix Club</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£4,554</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Man and Boy</td>
<td>£666</td>
<td>£3,888</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Surbiton South Explorer Scouts</td>
<td>£350</td>
<td>£3,538</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Chessington and District Residents Association</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£2,538</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hook and Chessington Library - Feel Good Night</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£1,588</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Oxygen</td>
<td>£633</td>
<td>£955</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All 11 bids can be funded from the £10,000 budget allocated for the purpose. A total of 61 votes were cast within Chessington North & Hook Ward.
### Discretionary funding for Hook & Chessington Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bid for:</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Advertisement in Chessington Chat Magazine</td>
<td>£490</td>
<td>To be used for promotion of Library’s income generating services and events, and therefore increasing the footfall of visitors to the Hook Centre and Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. IT Equipment including a projector, replacement light bulb and 2 laptops.</td>
<td>£991.89</td>
<td>For a growing programme of events and activities for guest speakers to use. This will aid in generating income for the council and increase visitors to the Service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For new laptops that have the latest version software and are able to connect to the Internet via Wifi. The Laptops would be used for a variety of activities ranging from authors/speakers that wish to use power point or connect to the internet during their presentation. The laptops would also be used by the Service Development Librarian - Learning &amp; Access, for 121 IT Tuition Training, Silver Surfers, Beginner IT Classes and ECDL. These activities and events would generate income for the Service, increase footfall and encourage digital inclusion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Panel of 3 Historical fiction authors for National Libraries Day (3xapprox £400)</td>
<td>£400</td>
<td>Social Inclusion and Promotion of Libraries: To organise an author event that both celebrates National Libraries Day and all the services that libraries have to offer while also providing an interesting and social activity for members of our community. It would also help to increase the number of visitors to the Library and encourage greater borrowing of our stock. This money would be used to cover speakers’ expenses, space hire and refreshments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Four storytellers for National Storytelling Week 30/1-6/2/2016 celebrating diversity to work with SOB schools. (4 days x £40</td>
<td>£1,600</td>
<td>Social Inclusion and Promotion of Libraries Promotion of Stock and Increase Library Issues Working with story tellers and SOB schools to celebrate stories from different cultures around the world. The children will be encouraged to tell their own stories and find their own voices. This leads into National Libraries Day and will be tied in with the libraries Universal Library Membership scheme. We want the library to be seen not as just a static space but one full of vitality and creativity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Signage Blocks for</td>
<td>£144</td>
<td>Promotion of Stock and Increase Library Issues: The Library is currently undertaking a categorisation project in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelves</td>
<td>the Adult Section. This is to make our stock more visually accessible and browser friendly for our readers. The Signage Blocks will inform readers of what books to find in each category. Therefore it will aid the promotion of our new project while also helping to increase issues of Adult stock and encourage greater borrowing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 4 packs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 6. Graphic Novels for teen collection | £1,000 | Social Inclusion and Promotion of Libraries and Promotion of Stock and Increase Library Issues:  
Graphic Novels and Manga books are a very popular medium for teenagers to embrace and/or carry on the reading habit. They attract a traditional hard to get into the library audience of young people aged 14-early twenties. |
| Purchase £1,000 of Graphic and Manga novels for Hook Library Teenage Collection | | |