

St Margaret's with St Nicholas Ward Forum

Report of Activity April to July 2016

St James Medical Practice proposed move.

Move to Kilham's Way will not now take place (see letter Dr JM Galloway, attached). In response we have written to ask for patient and forum involvement in the selection of a new site and proposed some alternatives (letter attached).

Parking

Julian Litten, Brian Falconbridge and Sally Turff attended the meeting with NCC Highways, the borough and other interested parties to discuss review of the situation. Lesley Bambridge in her capacity as ward councillor as well as forum vice-chairman was also present. Report has been circulated, there have been no further moves since.

Riverfront regeneration

Urban Delivery has been appointed to carry out comprehensive consultations and to work up the scheme. Documents have been sent to other organisations and some individuals. Regrettably the forum was not among them. We have now received an apology from the borough, assurances that this was not 'a deliberate attempt to keep the forum out of circulation, as the forum is one of the main stakeholders in the area.' We have still to receive the press release and accompanying papers, however. When we do officers will make a first assessment of the scheme and forward conclusions to members. In a first instance, from press reports we are concerned that one of the three areas being considered is the Purfleet, Custom House and King Staithe Square as it would seem there very little room for manoeuvre. But we await the document.

Empty and derelict buildings

There has been no activity since the last report.

Noise nuisance

Hanse House. Consultation over the regulated entertainment license for Hanse House has now begun and is due to close on 30 August. The forum will make representations to the licensing authority when the relevant reference number has been forwarded to us. If any member has been affected by this noise further letters of support are needed. As soon as we have the reference number we will forward it on.

Worker's Club. Discussion has resulted in welcome improvements. The management committee has agreed a) to reduce the number of live music events at Bank Holiday periods from four to two b) to cease having Hard Rock events c) has made improvements with sound-proofing and d) is sending neighbours monthly events fixtures.

Much of the ward lies in the Conservation Area and contains nationally important grade 1 historic buildings. It is important to try to ensure a quality environment – especially with further riverfront development ahead.

Steering Committee.

Dick Docking has become unwell and has resigned. We thank him for his participation. Wayne Hart has also resigned because of pressure of work., we thank him for his work too, especially the website.

Quarterly Forum Meetings.

At the instigation of Jenny Perryman, (JP) who is concerned that too much forum activity is centred upon the west side of the ward, thus possibly deterring residents from other areas of the

ward from taking any interest in its activities, the committee agreed that in future meetings will be peripatetic, held in different locations in the ward in turn. Suitable venues – probably Highgate and Greyfriars Schools - will be investigated. JP also feels speakers and topics at forum meetings are far too restrictive, so this will be addressed. The first meeting away from Marriotts will be the November 9 quarterly. It is to be hoped that those members who do attend Marriotts will see the advisability of this, and will be willing to travel to other venues.

Website

The treasurer is unhappy with the payment to Wayne Hart agreed by members of the steering committee. She will make a statement at the next forum meeting.

August 6, 2016