

## **Forum Notes - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Joint Meeting between WBRA and CCRA**

**Held at The Public Halls, Bromley Road, Beckenham**

Councillors present: Peter Fookes - Penge & Cator, Sarah Phillips - Clockhouse, Michael Tickner - Copers Cope, Peter Dean and Alan Collins - Kelsey and Eden Park

Chaired by Chloe Jane Ross of CCRA and Marie Pender of WBRA

There were about 100 members at the meeting, split approximately 50/50 between the two Associations.

Elmers End Green - Marie thanked everyone who wrote in to support the application for registration of Elmers End Green, which was eventually unsuccessful.

Bakerloo Line Extension - Chloe spoke about the questionnaire on both Associations' websites and urged members to complete the same.

Michael Tickner referred to the fact that the tunnels on the Bakerloo Line are small and this is reflected in the size of the trains and therefore the number of people that can be carried. The "underground" trains are not as frequent in the suburbs as people are used to in central London, say every 15 minutes. He also referred to the issue of having to change trains at Lewisham to travel to London Bridge, Charing Cross and Cannon Street.

Stewart Fromont spoke from pre-written notes and is against the proposal.

A show of hands indicated that the majority in attendance were against the Bakerloo Line running through to Hayes.

Peter Dean said that decisions will be made on public opinion "let voices be heard".

Comments from the floor - Cost implications! Fortunate in this area for the number of railway stations that serve London and beyond, leave it as it is. For travelling to Guys Hospital or St Thomas', it would be more difficult and tiring if

one was in ill health. More trains = more noise, more car parks (at stations). Adequate stations with car parks, no more required.

Alan Collins. Input is required by residents, a questionnaire has been prepared and will come out in the next issue of the "In Touch" newsletter. Feedback is required by the beginning of December.

Peter Dean. The Mayor's Office will ultimately have the final say, however, they do have to consult with all the Boroughs that it would pass through.

Beckenham Town Centre - Michael Tickner informed the meeting that there is a total of £3.26 million to spend on town regeneration from the Mayor and Bromley Council. £36,000 has already been spent and another £90,000 is committed. The works should be completed by about 2018. The feel of the High Street needs to be improved and made more attractive, this would/may include - new paving, seating, cycle parking.

Five major changes are being discussed. Beckenham Junction traffic lights, the junction with the traffic lights near St. George's Church, Thorntons Corner (wider pavement), Kelsey Square and the War Memorial roundabout.

Beckenham Junction station needs to be kept as a heritage station. It requires extending but not knocking down. Possibility of putting a large glass extension to the front of the existing building.

Questions from the floor:-

Is the Odeon cinema closing and being sold for development? It is a listed building. No indication that it is to be closed.

Chloe informed the meeting that Beckenham are applying to have a "purple flag", these are given for good night time economies - safety and cleanliness.

Litter - Back to Basics - sweep and clear pavements of litter and rubbish. The standard of street cleaning is not good across the Borough. All councillors asked to report back to the various committees. Contract should be put out to tender if current contractors are not carrying out the job satisfactorily. The majority of those at the meeting agreed.

There was general concern about the litter in all parts of Beckenham, the advice was to report this on "Fix My Street" rather than contact the Council. Dustmen are bad offenders at dropping litter and not clearing it up. The contract states that they are supposed to pick up and sweep up when they make a mess!

Traffic in High Street - more room for pedestrians, slow traffic down. There is a 20mph limit under consideration. Concerns were raised over extra traffic using Rectory Road.

Alleyways - a good idea to clean the alleyways in Beckenham but some concern over the cost involved in naming them.

The Studio - This is being redeveloped by City Gate Church. Why is it in such a mess? Progress is being made - but slowly.

Clockhouse Parade - A small amount of money has been made available to make some improvements.

Public Toilets in Beckenham - can Councillor Tickner do anything to save them from future closure?

Mercedes Garage in Wickham Road - concern regarding the parking of their vehicles along the road and subsequently the bus having to swing out to pass them. The Council cannot do anything about this as it is not a controlled parking area.

Enterprise - Complaint about the parking of Enterprise Vehicles in Elmers End Road. Sarah Phillips said that there is a meeting planned with local residents to discuss the concerns. This is a major issue for local residents.

Creases Ironing Business - the lady that owns these businesses appealed for help regarding the "loading bay" signs as her customers are getting parking tickets when dropping off their ironing bags. The business has suffered from this problem also. The meeting was informed that the "restrictions on loading bays are being removed".

352 and 354 bus routes - apparently these are the only two bus services that do not run on Sundays or bank holiday. The contracts for these routes are due for renewal next year and this issue will be raised at that time. A petition was circulated about the 354 bus, and petitions about this and the 352 will be on the Copers Cope website.