

London Borough of Sutton

THE EXECUTIVE – 3 NOVEMBER 2009

REFERENCES FROM BEDDINGTON & WALLINGTON LOCAL COMMITTEE

Ward Location: Wallington	Executive Councillor: Colin Hall
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Extract from the Minutes of the meeting held on 8/9/09

*****/09 Wallington Integrated Transport Package**

Lee Parker, Project Manager Smarter Travel Sutton and Ben Hawkins, Principal Transport Planner sought approval to progress the Wallington Integrated Transport Package. He advised that funding from Transport for London had been allocated to consult, design and implement the scheme and sought the Committee's approval to ring fence Section 106 (S106) developer contributions to be used for the Wallington Integrated Transport Package.

The Wallington Integrated Transport Package is the first stage of the implementation of the Council's "Enabling Smarter Travel Choices: Sustainable Transport Policy and Action Plan", the objective of which was to make walking, cycling and public transport the mode of choice for local trips in the borough.

Councillor Hall advised that £1.5 million had been allocated for Wallington. Malcolm Barker had confirmed that the £20,000 Section 106 monies identified in Appendix A, ref 8544, could also be used for public realm projects to: part fund the consultant's fees for the Elm's Pond project; meet the revenue costs for the third and fourth year of the Wallington hanging baskets project; and the revenue costs associated with the repair and maintenance of the lamps to be reinstated outside Wallington Old Town Hall. Councillor Leach requested that hanging baskets be sponsored and that Orchard Hill pay for the lamps.

Resolved: (i) To form a Steering Group to work closely with the Project Team and local interest groups in the development of the Wallington Integrated Transport Package and that Councillors Hall (Chair), Glithero and Wallis, Robert Brown, Richard Sammons and Ward Councillors be nominated to sit on the Steering Group.

(ii) To agree the consultation and design process put forward to develop and implement the Wallington Integrated Transport Package.

(iii) To agree the release of £20,000 Section 106 (ref 8544) monies to fund the revenue cost of the public realm hanging baskets project in Wallington, part fund the consultant's fees for the Elms Pond project and to meet the revenue costs associated with the reinstatement of the lamps at Wallington Old Town Hall, if Orchard Hill could not fund these.

(iv) To note the amount of Section 106 monies available for transport improvements in Wallington as detailed in Appendix A of the report minus ref 8544 and that this be allocated in principle for the implementation of Wallington Integrated Transport Package and seek release of this at a future date for implementing the package in 2010/11.

(v) That authority be delegated to the Executive Head of Planning and Transportation in consultation with the Chair and Ward Councillors to agree, and if necessary modify, details to address any further issues that may arise from ongoing consultation on the above scheme.

(vi) That The Executive be asked to agree a permanent funding stream for hanging baskets at major town centres.

Councillor Leach dissented on the request to the Executive and the use of S106 to fund the lamps at Wallington Old Town Hall.

Councillor Glithero dissented on the funding of lamps at Wallington Old Town Hall.

Officer's Comments

The Executive Head of Planning & Transportation advises that the Council does not have a budget to fund hanging baskets. In Sutton Town Centre the baskets are funded by the Town Centre Partnership, a group that includes local retailers, businesses, the Council and other partners. Local Committees should consider approaching local retailers and businesses to seek funding for baskets.

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*****/09 Public Realm Projects - St Mary's Field security/locking gates**

Residents living near the park advised that people were climbing over the boundary fence, which was now broken in places, and were gaining access through the gates late at night to engage in activities they did not want to be seen doing from the road. Often there was anti-social behaviour in the park including the drinking of alcohol, loud noise late at night and the finding of a knife in a front garden. They requested that the Council repair or replace the fence. Some residents noted that locking the gates may not solve the problem but suggested it may help.

PCs Mike, Vincent and Jowell from The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) concurred with the locking of the gates. Bill Wyatt, Assistant Parks Manager and the Police advised that, if the gates were locked, they needed to be locked at dusk and unlocked by 8am. A local resident, Debbie Williams, had agreed to take this on. Wallington Police could keep a spare key. Concern was expressed on health and safety and the legality of a resident locking the gates.

Mr Wyatt advised the Police used to lock park gates but now the majority of gates were unlocked with the Civic Security Team locking only a few agreed gates. He advised that there was a policy for locking gates and that Safer Sutton Parks Team could make representations to The Executive if they felt there was a specific need to lock a gate.

Members comments included: the gates should be locked, which would give the authorities greater powers to deal with the behaviour. If residents locked the gates, there should be at least 2 people; there should be more substantial fencing and spiky bushes around the site, perhaps paid for out of public realm monies; that it was the Council's job to lock park gates not residents; and why did the SNT not lock the gates.

Resolved: (i) That The Executive be asked to investigate and clarify whose responsibility it is to lock park gates and that St Mary's Field, Bute Road, Wallington be locked due to its particular location being closely surrounded by residential dwellings.

(ii) To note the agreement of the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

(iii) That the situation be monitored after locking the gates and officers investigate use of public realm monies for more substantial fencing and appropriate planting, if deemed necessary.

(iv) To note the Committee's thanks to residents and the police.

Councillor Leach declared a personal interest in so far as he lived in St Mary's Court.

Councillor Hall dissented on providing more substantial fencing and appropriate planting.

Officer's Comments

The Executive Head of Street Scene Services reports that the policy governing the locking of parks was approved by the (then) Strategy Committee in September 2005 and contains the following:

Policy 3 - Review of locking arrangements for a park

- 1 A review of locking arrangements for a park will be carried out by the Parks Service and Sutton Safer Partnership Service when:

- a. A residents group or other group of residents request a change by writing to the Council.
 - b. The Safer Sutton Partnership recommends a review to address specific security issues.
 - c. The Lead or Ward Councillors request a review due to specific issues within a park.
- 2 In addition the Parks Police and Parks Service will periodically jointly review security arrangements for each park and make appropriate recommendations to the relevant Area Committee and then onto Strategy Committee as required to meet the needs of park users and neighbouring residents and the Council.

Policy 4 - Permanent arrangements for securing Parks during the hours of darkness

- 1 Permanent arrangements for locking of a park will only be made to address specific issues when other measures to address anti-social behaviour and security issues have proved to be ineffective. Temporary locking will have been tried for a period of at least three months and found to be helpful in dealing with the issues for which permanent locking is being considered.

If the above policies have been followed and The Executive are minded to approve the locking of St Mary's Field, the Executive Head of Street Scene Services would have no objection.

The Head of Safer Sutton Partnership Services reports that: The Safer Parks team has been tasked with increased patrols and the SNT Focus desk is monitoring the number of calls and incidents that have been reported. The early feedback to the Problem Solving Meeting was that there didn't appear to be a significant problem, however, the problem solving, research and intelligence gathering is still ongoing.

The SNT is looking into the issues raised by residents, to try and engage and identify those young people who may be causing problems in the park, looking at the physical and environmental issues and increasing police presence to capture intelligence and information.

There is no perceived benefit, however, of locking the park gates whilst the perimeter fencing is insecure. The SNT would also undertake a full crime prevention survey, demand analysis and a problem profile before looking at this as an option.

If required Civic Security can provide a locking service for a short period to deal with specific problems.